

Dear NIGMSESI MIRA grantee:

Congratulations on receiving your NIGMSESI MIRA grant award. This message offers some tips and reminders that we hope you will find useful. Keep in mind that all [NIH policies](#) apply as usual, but the ESI MIRA award has some important differences from other award types. ESI MIRA grants are intended to support **research in an investigator's laboratory that falls within the mission of NIGMS**.

The goal of the MIRA program is to increase the efficiency of NIGMS funding by providing investigators with greater funding stability and research flexibility, thereby enhancing scientific productivity and opportunities for important breakthroughs. Your summary statement is likely to contain comments and suggestions that could be helpful in improving your ESI MIRA research program. Although the MIRA allows flexibility to follow important new research directions as opportunities arise, **any new research directions must remain within the NIGMS mission**. Contact your NIGMS program director if you have questions about your research plans. It is important to note:

- **ESI MIRA annual progress reports are due 45 days before the next budget year:** Awardees will be required to submit the [Research Performance Progress Report \(RPPR\)](#) annually. Your program director reads these RPPRs carefully and uses them to assess whether your ESI MIRA grant is programmatically remaining within the NIGMS mission. The grants management specialist checks progress reports for other awards accepted which might overlap or could affect your effort commitment. Refer to the Reporting section under Section VI. Award Administration Information in the [ESI MIRA FOA](#) for MIRA-specific RPPR instructions.
- **ESI MIRA allows you to flexibly pursue new directions, but prior approval from NIH is still needed for the following ([NIH prior approval requirements](#)) changes:**
 - A change from the approved use of vertebrate animals or involvement of human subjects, substitution of one animal for other, select agents or human embryonic stem cells;
 - Change in status of the PI or senior/key personnel named in the Notice of Award;
 - Change in grantee organization or organization status;
 - Addition of a foreign component if not included in the original application, including a significant new foreign collaboration ([see NOT-OD-19-114 for more information](#));
 - Additional no cost-extensions requested beyond a first no-cost extension, or late notification of an initial no-cost extension; and
 - Any other deviation from Notice of Award terms and conditions
- **Availability of Supplements to ESI MIRA:** MIRA grantees are eligible for certain administrative and diversity supplements. Please refer to the [NIGMS Supplements pages](#) for current information. From time-to-time NIGMS offers supplements for equipment, people, and/or special biomedical research or disease areas. Follow the [NIGMS Feedback Loop Blog](#) and the [NIH Guide to Grants and Contracts](#) for announcements of interest.
- **Acknowledging NIH/NIGMS support for your ESI MIRA:** Your MIRA research should support distinct projects of your choosing which you will describe in your progress report. **MIRA is not the same as undesignated support.** The program should be distinct from that supported by your other research grants, so that your attribution of grant support can be accurate. Acknowledge [NIH/NIGMS'](#) support of your research in journal articles, oral or poster presentations, news releases, interviews with reporters and other communications. If you have more than one NIH award, you should only cite the grant that supported the research described in the publication. This applies even in cases where one of the authors on the article or laboratory staff works on multiple projects or is paid through multiple grants, or when equipment used was purchased on a different grant. Inappropriate acknowledgment of multiple awards may be taken as an indicator of scientific overlap among the cited projects.

As always, the Notice of Award (NoA) has important information about your ESI MIRA grant, including the project and budget period start and end dates, the awarded dollar amount, and specific terms and conditions of the award. Additionally, the NoA also has current contact information about your NIGMS program official and NIGMS grants management staff. Ask your institution's authorized organizational representative (AOR) or contact the NIGMS staff members with any questions specific to your ESI MIRA award.

In summary, welcome to NIGMS, and once again congratulations for receiving your ESI MIRA award. Following are some useful websites that link to NIGMS and NIH information and policies.

Useful Websites:

- [NIGMS Home Page](#)
- [NIGMS MIRA Webpage](#)
- [NIGMS ESI MIRA FAQs](#)
- [NIGMS Attribution of Support](#)
- [NIH Policy on Acknowledging Federal Funding](#)
- [NIH Grants Information](#) (with links to funding opportunities and grants policy)
- [NIH Public Access Policy](#)
- [NIH "Welcome Wagon" Letter--Information for Staff at Your Institution](#)
- [NIH Grants Policy Statement on Prior Approvals](#)
- [Research Performance Progress Report \(RPPR\) Instructions](#)
- [NIGMS Feedback Loop Blog](#)