

SUMMARY STATEMENT
(Privileged Communication)

Release Date: 07/24/2014

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Application Number: 2 R13 HD036244-17

Principal Investigator

BIRD, IAN M PHD

Applicant Organization: UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Review Group: CHHD-A
Pediatrics Subcommittee

Meeting Date: 06/19/2014
Council: OCT 2014
Requested Start: 07/01/2014

RFA/PA: PA13-347
PCC: PPB -RH
Dual PCC: I5C
Dual IC(s): AI, HL

Project Title: Perinatal Research Society Annual Meeting

SRG Action: Impact Score: 16 Percentile: 3 #

Next Steps: Visit http://grants.nih.gov/grants/next_steps.htm

Human Subjects: 10-No human subjects involved

Animal Subjects: 10-No live vertebrate animals involved for competing appl.

Project Year	Direct Costs Requested	Estimated Total Cost
17	11,000	11,000
18	11,000	11,000
19	11,000	11,000
20	11,000	11,000
21	11,000	11,000
TOTAL	55,000	55,000

ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET NOTE: The budget shown is the requested budget and has not been adjusted to reflect any recommendations made by reviewers. If an award is planned, the costs will be calculated by Institute grants management staff based on the recommendations outlined below in the **COMMITTEE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS** section.

RESUME AND SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: This is a R13 application from Dr. Ian Bird requesting funds for Perinatal Research Society Annual Meeting. Among the strengths of the application are a commitment to support young investigators in the perinatal field, the multi-disciplinary nature of the program, the implied program's effectiveness based on the histories of many of the Society leaders, and impressive inclusion and diversity data. The innovation is primarily in its multi-disciplinary approach. Specific short- and long-term outcome objectives and data would be helpful. Overall, strengths of this application outweighed its weaknesses.

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): The Perinatal Research Society (PRS) consists of pediatricians, obstetricians, and basic scientists who are the nation's leaders in all aspects of perinatal research and have a wealth of experience in NIH funding and trainee mentoring. The overall purpose of the PRS annual meeting is twofold, 1) to provide productive interchange between scientists of different disciplines sharing a common research interest in perinatal biology, and 2) to encourage development and collaboration opportunities for Young Investigators (YI's) to build careers in perinatal research. The PRS annual meeting provides many important career development opportunities through its design. The YI program begins at a premeeting Workshop in which intensive one-on-one mentoring/teaching by senior PRS members leads to tangible progress in the YIs developing and expressing their own research ideas. However, it is in the Main Meeting that they become integrated with the society membership as a whole. The program itself presents the latest advances in the field but also provides the opportunity for some YI's to present their research ideas. Beyond the speaker program all YI's are constantly encouraged to network with the many established and indeed prominent researchers who have excelled at building successful careers. The intentional programmatic acknowledgement of and presentations by YI's within the Main Meeting, combined with many informal and formal interaction opportunities in a relaxed retreat-like setting contributes to YI professional development and creates opportunities to develop individual collaborations and mentoring relationships with senior colleagues. This is critical to future research career success. We seek funding to support a lectureship as part of the Main Meeting program, but also predominantly to support Young Investigators (YI) attendance and participation in the Main Meeting. The need for this kind of opportunity for early career development is significant because of the times in which we live. Many YI's are giving up their goal of a career in perinatal research. We believe this combined approach of premeeting Workshop and then Main Meeting attendance and further mentoring is unique, and we will track outcomes norms over the next five years to see if they exceed NIH norms.

PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE: The Perinatal Research Society (PRS) membership consists of pediatricians, obstetricians, and basic scientists who are actively engaged in perinatal research. The overall purpose of PRS is two-fold, 1) to provide productive interchange between scientists of different disciplines sharing a common research interest in perinatal biology, and 2) to encourage development and collaboration opportunities for Young Investigators (YI's) to build careers in perinatal research. The annual meeting of the Perinatal Research Society (PRS) establishes a forum in which research at the cutting edge of perinatal medicine and developmental biology can be shared by leading investigators in the three disciplines. Each year the PRS YI Program also invites YI's (those trainees who are transitioning to independent careers, such as Postdoctoral Fellows through Junior Faculty) to join these national leaders in the field. As they consciously learn of new developments they also are given the opportunity to formally and informally discuss their own ideas. These combined activities provide a unique learning experience that would likely not be found at any other scientific function. We seek funding to continue to support a lectureship as part of aim 1 but mostly to support YI attendance and participation in the annual meeting of the Perinatal Research Society (PRS). In this way we can create collaborations and mentoring relationships that can become ongoing and are critical to YI's future research career success.

CRITIQUE NOTE: The sections that follow are the essentially unedited, verbatim comments of the

reviewers assigned to this application. They are provided to illustrate the range of opinions expressed. The application was discussed and scored by all reviewers present. The attached commentaries may not necessarily reflect the position of the reviewers at the close of group discussion, nor the final majority opinion of the group. The Resume and Summary of Discussion, however, is the authoritative representation of the final outcome of the group discussion.

CRITIQUE 1:

Significance: 2
Investigator(s): 1
Innovation: 3
Approach: 2
Environment: 1

Overall Impact:

This is a R13 application from a highly accomplished PI requesting renewal of the current conference award to support the Perinatal Research Society (PRS) Annual Meeting. Requested funds will support travel funds (registration and room & board) for 9 young investigators to attend the Perinatal Research Society's (PRS) Annual Meetings and to support the NICHD keynote lectureship at the meeting. Young investigators are chosen through an application and recommendation process with good efforts made by the Society to recruit women and under-represented minorities. This is a highly valuable meeting for Young Investigators as it provides low key opportunities for interaction and communication with senior investigators. Society members are leaders in the field with an excellent track record in research, funding, publication, and mentorship and have shown outstanding dedication to mentoring trainees and junior faculty through this program as well as the additional PRS Young Investigator Grants Workshop that precedes the main meeting (supported by a separate R13). Young investigator attendees gain experience in presentation skills, collaboration, and career development through the current proposal. Given the length of funding of the current R13, longer term data on the accomplishments of previous attendees would provide further strength to the application and the ongoing program as it is currently designed. The application's strengths greatly outweigh any negligible weaknesses.

1. Significance:

Strengths

- Given the current funding climate and demands to generate revenue through clinical efforts, trainees and young investigators are often moving away from careers following a clinician-scientist path
- Programs in grant writing and mentorship are essential to maintain enthusiasm and motivation for young investigators to continue to be a part of perinatal research
- The proposed work seeks to encourage collaboration and mentorship by supporting travel to the Perinatal Research Society Annual Meeting and ensure interaction between young and senior investigators in a low-key, unpretentious environment with the additional benefit of exposure to cutting-edge scientific presentations.

Weaknesses

- none

2. Investigator(s):

Strengths

- PI and other Society Council members are responsible for the Young Investigator program, all of whom are highly accomplished investigators in perinatal medicine and have a long-standing track record of mentorship

Weaknesses

- none

3. Innovation:

Strengths

- no particularly innovative strategies proposed but a conference as proposed does not necessarily allow for significant innovative opportunities

Weaknesses

- Although the young investigator program appears to be successful and has the potential for significant impact, there are not really any truly innovative approaches such as ongoing e-mentoring or coaching, grant review prep, maintenance of a database of all young investigators, etc.
- Consider increased advertising of the society

4. Approach:

Strengths

- Outstanding constellation of successful investigators in perinatal medicine dedicated pushing perinatal medicine research while also supporting young faculty development
- Main meeting components for young investigators complement grant writing pre-meeting workshop
- Funds support young investigator travel and NICHD keynote speaker travel, which is extremely reasonable
- Meeting itinerary/schedule is conducive to adequate interaction and networking for young investigators with seasoned faculty including common meals

Weaknesses

- No real plan as to how objective data will be prospectively collected to track success of young investigator program, e.g. rate of successful funding obtained, promotions, publications, future membership in the society, attendance to future meetings, etc.

5. Environment:

Strengths

- Excellent & appropriate for proposed objectives

Weaknesses

- None

Appropriate Representation:

- Acceptable

Protections for Human Subjects

Generally Not Applicable

Inclusion of Women, Minorities and Children:

Generally Not Applicable

Vertebrate Animals:

Generally Not Applicable

Biohazards:

Generally Not Applicable

Renewal:

- successful and appropriate spending during previous award cycle

Provision of Family Care Facilities:

- Acceptable

Applications from Foreign Organizations:

- Not Applicable (No Foreign Organizations)

Select Agents:

- Not Applicable (No Select Agents)

Budget and Period of Support:

Recommend as Requested.

CRITIQUE 2:

Significance: 2

Investigator(s): 1

Innovation: 2
Approach: 1
Environment: 1

Overall Impact:

This application has all of the components needed to make it attractive and to engender some level of confidence that the support requested for the Perinatal Research Society (PRS) meeting will have a significant positive impact particularly on young investigators associated with the society. Therefore, the application is viewed very favorably.

1. Significance:

Strengths

- Positive aspects in this proposal that contribute to its significance include:
- The focus on support of young investigators who wish to attend the conference
- 2) The plans for a pre-meeting where young investigators will receive assistance in writing grant proposals
- 3) The apparent commitment for inclusion of women and minorities in the society and in leadership roles of the society.
- 4) The opportunity for the development of strong relationships among the young investigators and senior members of the society because of the retreat format used for the meeting and the relatively small number of attendees.

Weaknesses

- Weaknesses include some redundancy in the application and a relative lack of information regarding topics and speakers included in previous meetings. However, it is noted that the plan for the 2014 meeting including speakers and topics is provided.

2. Investigator(s):

Strengths

- The investigators appear highly suited for arranging and participating in the activities associated with the meeting. The principal investigator is well-funded and has a significant history in training young investigators. The letter from the past president is a model of what one should write when requesting support of this type. The president elect is a well-known investigator also.

Weaknesses

- No significant weaknesses were noted.

3. Innovation:

Strengths

- The innovative nature of this proposal arises from the complete focus on support for young investigators and the emphasis at the meeting on such individuals. Another novel feature is the proposed monitoring of the career progress of young investigators who are attendees.

Weaknesses

- No significant weaknesses were noted.

4. Approach:

Strengths

- As noted earlier the strength of the approach is the pre meeting where young investigators become engaged in a practice grant writing session and then the opportunity to obtain feedback regarding their proposals at the major meeting. This should go a long way toward helping junior investigators develop significant grant writing skills.

Weaknesses

- No significant weaknesses were noted.

5. Environment:

Strengths

- The environment appears appropriate and has apparently been used on a regular basis by the PRS for its meeting.

Weaknesses

- No significant weaknesses were noted.

Appropriate Representation:

Acceptable

- There is fairly extensive information provided regarding women and minority representation. The society seems to be doing a good job in striving for diversity.

Protections for Human Subjects

Generally Not Applicable

Inclusion of Women, Minorities and Children:

Generally Not Applicable

Vertebrate Animals:

Generally Not Applicable

Biohazards:

Generally Not Applicable

Renewal:

- Meetings of the PRS have been supported by R13 awards in the past.

Provision of Family Care Facilities:

Acceptable

- A brief comment is made indicating child care will be available

Applications from Foreign Organizations:

- Not Applicable (No Foreign Organizations)

Select Agents:

- Not Applicable (No Select Agents)

Budget and Period of Support:

Recommend as Requested.

CRITIQUE 3:

Significance: 1

Investigator(s): 1

Innovation: 3

Approach: 3

Environment: 2

Overall Impact:

This is an application from the U. Wisconsin Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology for a Year 17-21 renewal of an R13 to support the annual meeting of the Perinatal Research Society. The overall purpose of the PRS annual meeting is to provide productive interchange between scientists of different disciplines (pediatricians, obstetricians, and basic scientists) in perinatal biology, and to encourage development and collaboration opportunities for Young Investigators (YI's) to build careers in perinatal research. The program is a combination of recent advances and also provides some YI's an opportunity to present their own work. Funding is sought to support a key note speaker and YI attendance and participation (9 individuals).

1. Significance:

Strengths

- The Perinatal Research Society is an honor society composed of scientific leaders in the perinatal fields. The purpose of the program is to promote interchange among scientists, representing different disciplines, who share common research interest in perinatal biology; and to unite these leaders with promising young investigators to support their career development.

Weaknesses

- Apart from information relating to the inclusion of women and minorities, primarily anecdotal impact data is provided from previous conferences. There is a plan to track outcomes going forward, but it is not specified.

2. Investigator(s):

Strengths

- The PRS Council, including the application PI, is composed of leaders in perinatal science with records of productivity and success in obtaining grant funding. Many are graduates of the program and have track records of leadership and mentorship.
- The PI is the Council secretary-treasurer and is responsible for coordinating the annual meeting, as well as a two-day grant writing pre-meeting. He is an active recruiter for URM students and has worked with UW Madison to develop outreach programs.

3. Innovation:

Strengths

- The conference is multi-disciplinary and draws scientists from various fields- investigators who, despite their interests in perinatal investigation, might not otherwise come together.

Weaknesses

- Apart from its multi-disciplinary nature, there is not much described that could be termed innovative.

4. Approach:

Strengths

- The program brings together pediatricians, obstetricians, and basic scientists for interchange.
- The meeting format for ~100 attendees is designed for primary aim to mentor and support young investigators. The bulk of funding is directed to ensuring their ability to attend.
- The Council is composed of physicians and scientists representing different disciplines.

5. Environment:

Strengths

- This meeting has been held for 45 consecutive years. Many of the current leaders are graduates of the program.

- The meeting is held at the same venue each year, in large part because of its consistent success in supporting the conference activities and drawing participants.

Appropriate Representation:

Acceptable

- Data is provided that indicates substantial representation of women (46 and 63% in last two years) and underrepresented minorities (11 and 12% in last two years). Facility supports attendees with disabilities.

Protections for Human Subjects:

Generally Not Applicable

Inclusion of Women, Minorities and Children:

Generally Not Applicable

Vertebrate Animals:

Generally Not Applicable

Biohazards:

Generally Not Applicable

Provision of Family Care Facilities:

Unacceptable (includes no plans provided)

- Did not see reference to this.

Applications from Foreign Organizations:

- Not Applicable (No Foreign Organizations)

Select Agents:

- Not Applicable (No Select Agents)

THE FOLLOWING RESUME SECTIONS WERE PREPARED BY THE SCIENTIFIC REVIEW OFFICER TO SUMMARIZE THE OUTCOME OF DISCUSSIONS OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

**REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN, MINORITIES AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:
ACCEPTABLE**

COMMITTEE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS: The budget was recommended as requested.

Ad hoc or special section application percentiled against "Total CSR" base.

NIH has modified its policy regarding the receipt of resubmissions (amended applications). See Guide Notice NOT-OD-14-074 at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-14-074.html>. The impact/priority score is calculated after discussion of an application by averaging the overall scores (1-9) given by all voting reviewers on the committee and multiplying by 10. The criterion scores are submitted prior to the meeting by the individual reviewers assigned to an application, and are not discussed specifically at the review meeting or calculated into the overall impact score. Some applications also receive a percentile ranking. For details on the review process, see http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer_review_process.htm#scoring.

MEETING ROSTER

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June 19, 2014 - June 20, 2014

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* Temporary Member. For grant applications, temporary members may participate in the entire meeting or may review only selected applications as needed.

Consultants are required to absent themselves from the room during the review of any application if their presence would constitute or appear to constitute a conflict of interest.