Arts-Based Approaches in Palliative Care for Symptom Management PAR (R01)

Examples of Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Would NINR and NCCAM be interested if the arts-based approach was dance or creative writing?
A: Yes and arts-based approach could include creative writing as well as the expressive, visual arts. The choice of the arts-based approach should be well justified and investigators should provide sufficient preliminary data to indicate that the approach emits a detectable signal.

Q: Would NINR and NCCAM be interested in an application that focused on children?
A: Certainly, “children” could include all ages up to adolescents and young adults (less than 21 years of age). The sample population should be well justified by the investigators.

Q: Would NINR and NCCAM be interested in an application that focused on aging adults?
A: Certainly, a study population could be comprised of aging adults that are part of a palliative care or end-of-life program. The sample population should be well justified by the investigators.

Q: What might NINR and NCCAM envision as the appropriate sample size for a mechanistic R01?
A: Sample size depends upon the hypothesis being tested, reliability of outcomes of interest, sample population included, and other factors related to study design. We recommend that investigators consult a statistician to ensure proper power to detect an effect.

Q: Do you anticipate that successful applications will perform fMRI or other similar methods (e.g., EEG) to assess changes other than function?
A: Because fMRI or other similar methods are very expensive, and this FOA will only allow limited funds ($300,000 per year for 3 years in direct costs), it is not realistic to perform fMRI on the entire sample, although it may be possible to conduct expensive testing methods in a subsample of the population under study.

Q: Should we identify members of a Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) in the application, or does NIH staff wish to participate in the identification of the DSMB post-award?
A: Study teams can identify DSMB members in the application, but this is not required; NIH staff will reserve the right to participate in identifying DSMB members post-award. Applicants should refer to the FOA for DSMB requirements, as well as become familiar with NIH guidelines.

Q: What level of “preliminary data” would be considered appropriate for an RO1 application, given that this is an emergent field of study?
A: Applicants are reminded that this FOA is not geared toward R03 or R21 applications, nor is it intended for pilot or feasibility studies. Preliminary data are an essential part of the R01 research grant application. Although this is a new field, the application should nonetheless include a combination of hypotheses based upon a sound conceptual model, a solid framework of background literature to substantiate the hypotheses, and convincing preliminary data to demonstrate strong scientific promise.

Q: Could a proposed study include a hospice care setting?
A: Yes, arts-based interventions could be used in hospice in all settings, such as nursing homes, hospice centers, or home care in which individuals are cared for who have serious, chronic illness across the lifespan.

Q: Can new or early stage investigators apply?
A: Yes, as long as they meet the NIH definition for new or early stage investigators. Applicants are encouraged to refer to the NIH guidelines. Regardless of career stage, applicants should include all required elements of the application.

Q: Do you encourage interdisciplinary teams?
A: Yes, particularly if an investigator thinks she/he lacks the appropriate training to carry out all aspects of the proposed study. Interdisciplinary / transdisciplinary teams would be encouraged.

Q: Would you encourage investigators to request designation of a particular institute or center?
A: Yes, but keep in mind that NIH staff will reserve the right to identify the appropriate home for each application.