

News From the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)¹

WHAT CAN NIH GRANTEES DO TO INCREASE THE PUBLIC'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE INSTITUTES' ROLES IN SUPPORTING BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH?

Keeping contact with your program director for your grant is always a good idea. Grantees routinely report their progress in annual non-competing scientific progress reports. But contact at other times of year is also important, both for us to learn about your research and for you to learn about new programs or impending changes at the NIH.

Our Institute director has given this question some thought and recently sent a letter to all NIGMS principal investigators. He urged them to highlight their NIGMS support, and to bring their research results of pivotal importance to the attention of NIGMS staff as soon as they become available. His letter is reprinted below:

Dear National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) Principal Investigator:

I am writing to ask you to help raise awareness of NIH's role in supporting research advances made by grant recipients. Greater recognition of this role will enhance the American public's appreciation of the scope and impact of NIH support. By taking the actions described below, you will also be responding to a Congressional directive that grantees "acknowledge NIH's funding contribution when they publicize their research findings."

- Acknowledge NIGMS' full or partial support of your research in journal articles, oral or poster presentations, news releases, interviews with reporters, and other communications. The citation in scientific publications should include, whenever possible, the grant number and the name of the source of support, in this case the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health. A graphic image that you can use in your presentations to cite NIGMS support of your research is located on the NIGMS World Wide Web home page at <http://www.nih.gov/nigms/gifs/attrib.gif>.

- Alert the NIGMS program director who manages your grant if you are about to announce or publish a major finding, especially if your institution is planning a news release or if you have other reasons

to expect media coverage of your work. The program director's name, telephone number, and e-mail address are on your Notice of Grant Award. If you do not know your program director's name or telephone number, call the NIGMS Public Information Office at (301) 496-7301 or send an e-mail message to pub_info@gml.nigms.nih.gov. The head of this office is Ms. Ann Dieffenbach.

- Give your program director's name and telephone number to reporters who ask you to suggest scientists who could comment on your research. Please let your program director know if you do so and provide him or her with copies of your article(s) in press.

- Ask your institution's public information officer to contact the NIGMS Public Information Office so that they can coordinate efforts to publicize important research progress. In addition to writing a news release when appropriate, NIGMS may highlight such progress in feature stories, reports or testimony to Congress, and "research briefs" on our World Wide Web home page. We will, of course, honor any embargoes on journal articles.

Thank you for doing your part to show the American people how taxpayer dollars allocated to NIH are yielding significant biomedical research advances.

Sincerely yours,

Marvin Cassman, Ph.D.
Director
National Institute of General Medical Sciences

It is in your best interests to have your research work and its significance available and accessible to a wide variety of people. Best wishes for success in your research efforts.

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¹ Future topics for this column: program project grants at the NIGMS, exploratory studies for high risk/high impact, and your suggestions.

² Send comments on this column to: longr@gml.nigms.nih.gov.