

Update on NDPA Applications

The NIH Director's Pioneer Award (NDPA) is a daring new concept in the NIH funding portfolio that seeks to identify and fund exceptionally creative investigators to develop and test groundbreaking ideas that will make seminal contributions to biomedical science. The program received approximately 1300 nominations, from which about 250 nominees were selected as applicants. We are excited about the caliber of and creativity expressed in the nomination packages.

Nominees ranged across nearly all areas of the physical, behavioral and biomedical sciences. They included junior, mid-career and senior scientists, and they represented large, medium and small organizations in all parts of the country.

Applicants were notified in May 2004 and the application process will close on Monday, June 21, 2004 at 5PM, Eastern Daylight Time. For more information concerning the NDPA evaluation process, please review the document at <http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/highrisk/initiatives/pioneer/evaluationprocess.aspx>.

The names of evaluators for the nomination and application phases will be released on the Pioneer Website (<http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/highrisk/initiatives/pioneer/index.aspx>) at a later date.

Our **Schedule for the Announcement of Awards for FY 2004** is as follows (Please note that these dates are subject to change.):

Application Evaluation Period	June 25 through July 23, 2004
Finalist Notification	August 2 through August 5, 2004
Interview Process	August 31 through September 2, 2004
Review by NIH Advisory Committee to the Director	September 3 through 10, 2004
Announcement of Awards	September 20, 2004

We thank you for your continued support as we work to expand and improve the NIH Director's Pioneer Award Program.