

## Mock Study Section Panel Program

CPIP will establish a Mock Study Section Panel Program (MSSPP) to increase the likelihood that faculty grant proposals receive extramural funding. CPIP bases this program on successful efforts from schools within and outside of the UC system. The MSSPP builds upon and expands mentoring efforts of the departments. All tenure track faculty regardless of rank are encouraged to participate. In addition to having mentors and colleagues read your grants and provide feedback, CPIP will provide funds and an organizational structure for you to participate in a “mock study section” review with non-UCI faculty. The MSSPP also incentivizes colleagues within your department to read your proposal and provide feedback in advance of the mock study section review. Federal grant applications or large non-federal applications will generally qualify the faculty member for the MSSPP.

The MSSPP has flexibility in its structure and timeline, but contains the following core components.

- First, at least eight weeks before the proposal due date, the faculty member would develop a “Specific Aims” page (NIH), Extended Abstract, or other 1-page description of the grant proposal. The grant writer would select ~3 UCI faculty with subject matter expertise to carefully review this 1-page description. A separate UCI faculty (preferably a senior faculty member in the home department) would then moderate a 1-hr, in-person discussion of the reviewing faculty’s criticisms and suggestions. The meeting would begin with a 5-10 minute presentation “pitch” by the grant writer, followed by critique. A core component of the moderator’s function involves ensuring that the last 10-15 minutes of the meeting result in “action items,” or summary comments from each of the reviewing faculty. CPIP would compensate the UCI reviewers \$500 each in research funds.
- Second, following the internal UCI review, and under the assumption that the grant-writer proceeds with submitting the proposal, the grant writer would contact two non-UCI faculty with past experience on that grant committee’s study section (e.g., NIH, NSF, NIJ). Federal agencies routinely make these rosters publicly available. If the grant writer has no collegial connection with such faculty, senior faculty at UCI would assist with facilitating this communication. The grant writer would then send the outside faculty the full grant proposal at least six weeks in advance of the deadline. We expect the reviewing faculty to return detailed, written comments to the grant-writer within three weeks (or substitute detailed comments via a 1-hr conference call). CPIP would compensate each external reviewer at \$900 per review.

The two-stage process of internal and then external review serves two purposes. First, dissemination of a short 1-page summary to UCI faculty would assist in catching key errors while also not demanding too much review time by faculty. Second if important issues are detected at this stage, the grant writer, in consultation with UCI faculty, could then decide whether to proceed with outside faculty reviews or just revise the grant for a subsequent funding cycle.

The overall cost should not exceed \$4,000 per grant submission. Neumark and Bruckner will have oversight regarding the disbursement of funds.