



Science Policy News September 2014

NIH Pilots New Biosketch Format

NIH has announced its intent to pilot a new Biosketch format. Dr. Sally Rockey, NIH's Director of Extramural Research, says the new program will emphasize "... the magnitude and significance of the scientific advances associated with a researcher's discoveries and the specific role the researcher played in those findings." NIH hopes that the new format, with an increased page limit from 4 to 5 pages, will allow researchers to describe their most significant contributions to science. Dr. Rockey hopes that this "...change will help reviewers evaluate you not by where you've published or how many times, but instead by what you've accomplished." Dr. Rockey's full comments can be viewed on her [blog](#).

ASIP is joining other societies in submitting a comment letter to NIH from FASEB. The FASEB letter incorporates several key points including concerns that customizing a researcher's most significant contributions for each grant application will increase administrative work. We are also concerned that the proposed changes may unintentionally favor established investigators as other investigators are likely to have a smaller body of work than more established investigators, and the long-term scientific impact of a new or early career investigator may be difficult to state at the time of application.

Stay tuned as NIH incorporates the input provided and releases a finalized pilot Biosketch program.