

Tips for P01 Applicants

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P01 Preparation Points to Consider

NCI Funded P01 and R01 Grant Applications 2012-2017						
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Fuded P01	137	130	115	105	101	96
Fuded R01	3860	3678	3505	3327	3259	3308
P01 Success Rate	22%	20%	20%	22%	20%	19%
NCI Budget	\$4.947 B	\$4.743 B	\$4.896 B	\$4.979 B	\$5.189 B	\$5.659 B

- **Grants are highly competitive**

- Senior PIs
- Record of Successful Funding

- **Review is extremely rigorous**

- Done by NCI special emphasis panel

- **Don't rush applications**

- Preliminary data is complete
- IRB and IACUC approvals are obtained
- Inter-Institutional logistics and agreements are worked out
- All points from NCI staff and P01 advisory groups have been addressed

Prior to First NCI Contact:

(~18 months prior to submission)



Outline the Idea for the P01 Program:

- **Is the topic of interest to NCI?**
 - **Why is it significant?**
 - **Does it address specific NCI initiatives? (Bypass budget)**
- **What new advances are pursued?**
 - **Conceptual or technologically driven?**
- **Are all needed personnel & resources available?**
 - **What function will cores fulfill?**

Ready to Contact NCI Program Staff:

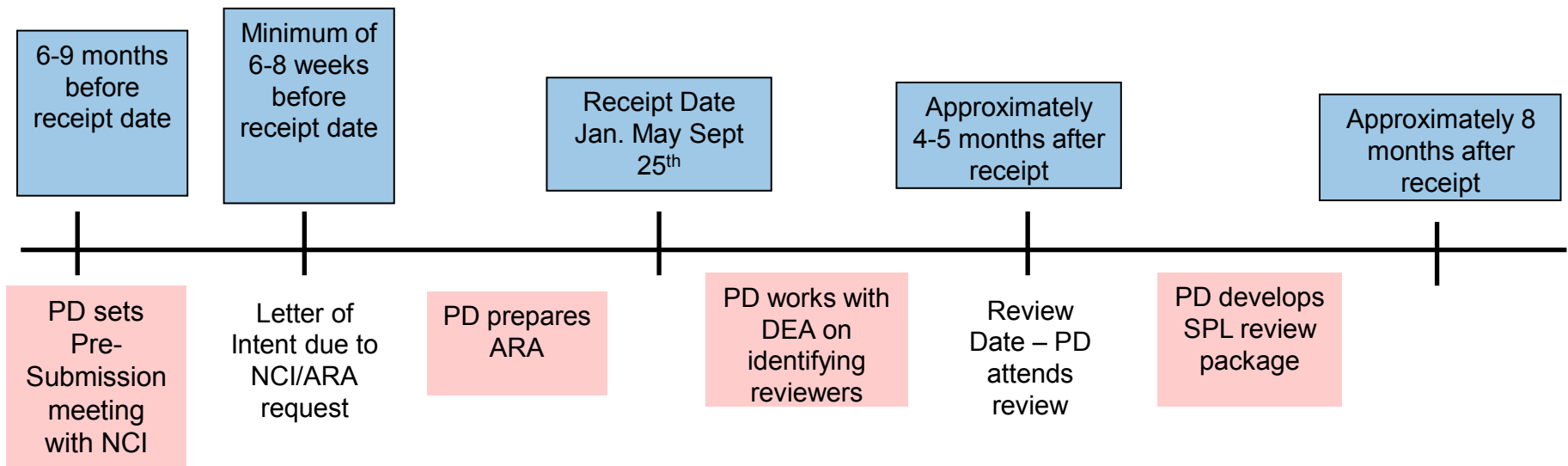
(~9 months from submission)

Outline the Idea for the P01 Program:

- Is the topic of interest to NCI?
-  ▪ Why is it significant? – What new evidence do you have that is key to addressing knowledge gaps for your topic?
- Does it address specific NCI initiatives? (Bypass budget)
- What new advances are pursued?
 - Conceptual or technologically driven?
- Are all needed personnel & resources available?
-  ▪ Request a Pre-submission Meeting to Present:
 - Topic
 - Investigators
 - Research plan

P01 Submission Timeline:

- Schedule a pre-submission conference with NCI Program staff:



NCI Pre-Submission Conference:

- **Attended by NCI Program and Review staff, Project and Core Leaders of the P01 (about 2-3 hours)**
- **Clearly State Overall Program Objectives and Goals (What & Why?)**
- **Investigators & Performance Sites (Who & Where?)**
 - **Tip:** send your CVs and current grant status of the investigators to the Program Director, so NCI can get to know the group.
- **Anticipated submission date & estimated costs (When?)**
- **Description of Individual Program Projects and Cores (How?):**
 - Project 1: Title and PI
 - Project 2: Title and PI
 - Project 3: Title and PI
 - Core A, B, C
- **Projects should be robust enough to stand on their own**

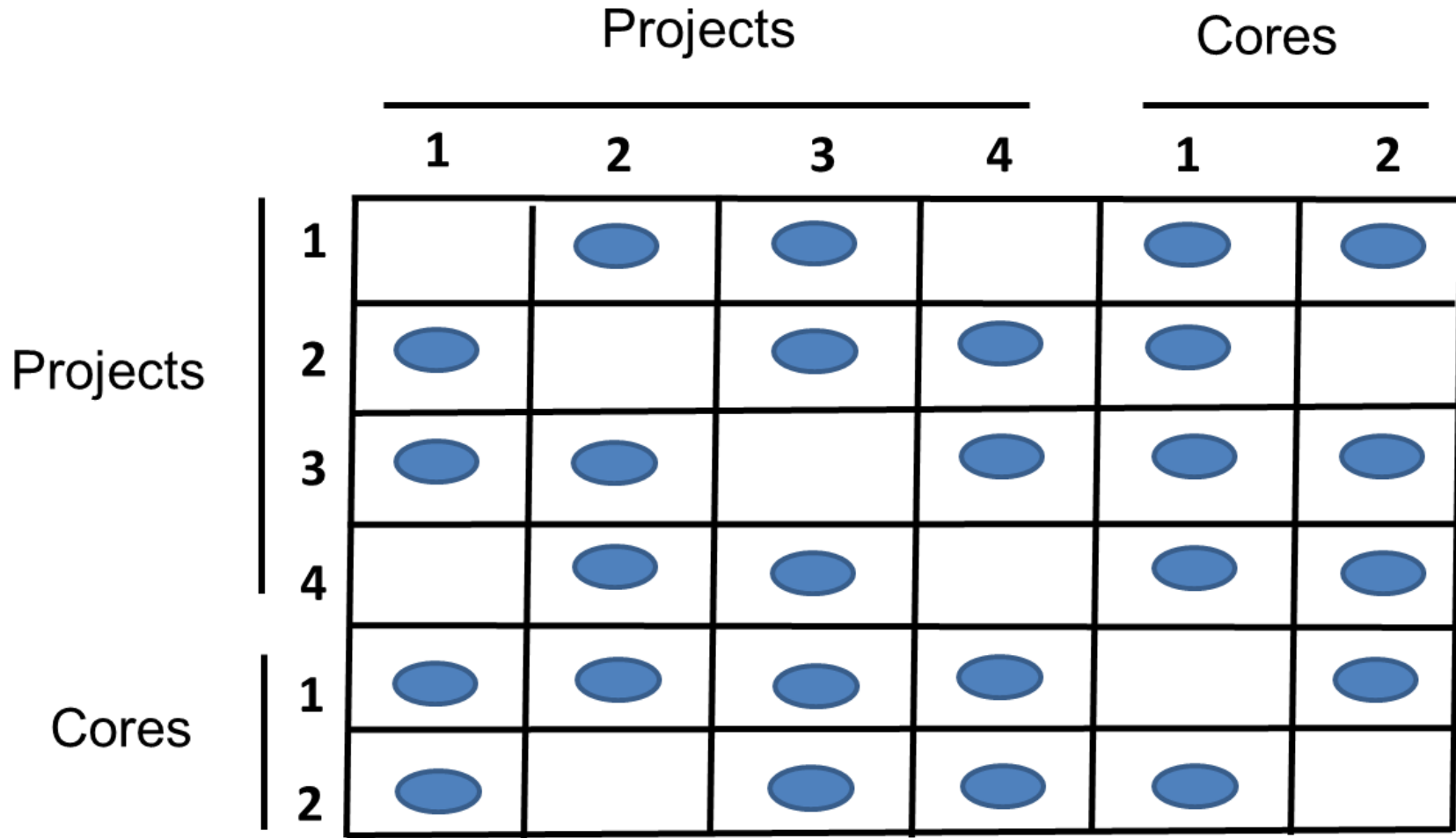
Characteristics of Successful P01 Applications:

- Program should be the PI's major research focus
- All Project and Core leaders should have their own independent funding
- Should have an advisory board from outside the Institution (people with expertise and who can provide meaningful feedback) [Tip: Don't use potential reviewers on EAB](#)
- Projects and cores should be **highly integrated, synergistic, and translational** (where appropriate)
- Projects and cores should have innovative conceptual and technical components
- Strong institutional commitment to the Program

Critical Considerations for P01 Review

- Clear common theme or “unifying” hypothesis that links the individual projects.
- Is the hypothesis statement significant to answer?
- What is the most critical piece of preliminary data that justifies that the P01 project is worth the money?
- How are the projects integrated and synergetic? (i.e. how is the sum greater than the parts?)
- Indicate existing areas of collaboration, emphasizing co-publications.
- A detailed diagram indicating how integration occurs between projects and cores is useful

Example of Integration Diagram



Cores:

- **An administrative core is required**
 - may or may not include biostatistics component
- **Other Cores may be:**
 - service oriented; or
 - scientific/developmental (e.g. help develop a new method for using archival tissue)
- **Identify each core leader's qualifications.**
- **Articulate how activities of the core will facilitate the various Program Projects.**
- **Describe whether the program establishes a new core or leverages an existing core.**

What Topics Could a Cancer Disparities P01 Cover?

Possible areas of study include:

- Cancers with higher incidence, earlier onset, or worse outcome in certain communities/groups
- Cancers that may be caused by a combination of prevalent ethnic & geographic determinants including, genetic, epigenetic, biologic, and environmental (exposure) factors.
- Poor group outcomes exacerbated by primary treatment (e.g. secondary cancers, co-morbid conditions).
- Intervention and translational research at the clinical and population levels that **identifies a population-specific drug target**
- Can focus strictly on a behavioral, basic biology, or epidemiology question, without having a translational or clinical endpoint
(Unlike SPORE)

Summary

- P01 application process is highly competitive
- Plan ahead (14-24 months is common)
- Emphasize and demonstrate synergy and integration
- Indicate significance - How will program discoveries/findings move the scientific field forward?
- **Call Your Program Director for advice!**



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