

OMB#: 0925-0740 Expiration date: September/2025

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As part of the registration form, participants (individuals or teams) will be asked to submit basic contact information including their job title/position and to certify their compliance with the prize rules and eligibility:

NIH Challenge Participant Registration and Consent Form

Section 1:

I am registering for this Challenge as a(n):

☐ **INDIVIDUAL** (i.e. on behalf of myself). If you checked this box, you must complete Section 2.

☐ **TEAM** (i.e. on behalf of a group of individuals). If you checked this box, you must complete Section 3.

Section 2 (INDIVIDUAL):

If you are registering for this Challenge as an INDIVIDUAL^A (i.e., on your OWN behalf and NOT on behalf of a TEAM or an ENTITY), provide your name and contact information as follows:

First Name: Middle Initial: Last Name:
Phone Number: Email: Country:
Job Title/Position: Organization/Affiliation:

Additionally, complete the following certification:

☐ I have read and understand the official eligibility criteria, rules, and requirements of the Challenge as stated in the *Announcement of Requirements and Registration for the NINDS Early-Career Rigor Champion Prize*. I agree that to participate in the Challenge, I must comply with the official eligibility criteria, rules, and requirements and that my participation in this Challenge constitutes my full and unconditional agreement to abide by them.

☐ I meet the definition of an early-career researcher as defined under the "Rules" tab.

☐ I am eligible to win a cash prize as defined^A (if not checked, you may still be considered for a non-monetary Honorable Mention).

Signature

Print Name

Date

^ATo be eligible to win a monetary prize under this Challenge, a Participant registering on behalf of themselves (i.e. as an INDIVIDUAL) must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States. Non-U.S. citizens and non-permanent residents are not eligible to win a monetary prize (in whole or in part).

Section 3 (TEAM):

If you are registering for this Challenge on behalf of a TEAM (i.e., you and all members are participating on your own behalf and NOT on behalf of an ENTITY), provide the following information about the TEAM LEAD^B:

First Name: Middle Initial: Last Name:
Phone Number: Email: Country:
Job Title/Position: Organization/Affiliation:

Also, provide the name(s) and contact information for each additional member of the TEAM:

1. Name: Email:
Job Title/Position: Organization/Affiliation:
2. Name: Email:
Job Title/Position: Organization/Affiliation:

Additionally, the TEAM LEAD and EACH TEAM MEMBER must complete the following certification:

☐ Every listed Team Member has read and understood the official eligibility criteria, rules, and requirements of the Challenge as stated in the *Announcement of Requirements and Registration for the NINDS Early-Career Rigor Champion Prize*. We agree that to participate in the Challenge, we must comply with the official eligibility criteria, rules, and requirements and that our participation in this Challenge constitutes my full and unconditional agreement to abide by them.

☐ Every listed Team Member meets the definition of an early-career researcher as defined under the “Rules” tab.

☐ The designated Team Lead is eligible to win a cash prize as defined^B (if not checked, this submission may still be considered for a non-monetary Honorable Mention).

<input type="text"/> Signature	<input type="text"/> Print Name	<input type="text"/> Date
<input type="text"/> Signature	<input type="text"/> Print Name	<input type="text"/> Date
<input type="text"/> Signature	<input type="text"/> Print Name	<input type="text"/> Date

^BTo be eligible to win a monetary prize under this Challenge, the Team Lead registering on behalf of a group of individuals (i.e. as a TEAM) must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States. However, non-U.S. citizens and non-permanent residents can participate as a member of a TEAM that otherwise satisfies the eligibility criteria. Non-U.S. citizens and non-permanent residents are not eligible to win a monetary prize (in whole or in part). Their participation as part of a winning TEAM, if applicable, may be recognized when the results are announced.

As part of the submission entry, participants will be asked to:

How to enter

Registration and Submission Process:

Participants must register and submit their entry, including the signed Participant Registration and Consent form, on the <https://www.challenge.gov> Challenge Portal following submission requirements described below. If applying as a Team, each participating Team is required to designate an eligible Team Lead who will register and submit on behalf of the Team members. The Team Lead is responsible for all communications with the Challenge sponsors and, in the event of winning a cash prize, will be paid the prize in full. You may download the Participant Registration and Consent form from the Resources tab for this Challenge. Uploads must be in PDF format.

The completed registration form and all submission materials must be submitted to the Challenge.gov portal by 11:59 PM Eastern time on May 2nd, 2025.

Submission Requirements:

- 1) Enter the Submission Portal via the **"Apply for this Challenge"** button at the top of the screen, between January 6th and May 2nd, 2025.
- 2) Enter a short but descriptive Title for your submission.
- 3) Enter a **Brief Description** for your Submission (no more than 500 characters). Note that this description may be shared publicly if the Submission is awarded a Prize or an Honorable Mention. Do not include any proprietary or private personal information.
- 4) We do not need a repeat of the description in the **"Description"** box, so you may enter "N/A" for this field.
- 5) In the **Upload Files** field:
 - a. Complete the **fillable PDF titled "Essays"**, which can be downloaded from the Resources tab of this Challenge. There are six prompts with corresponding fillable boxes, which are detailed below:
 - i. **Under the section titled "Significance", please answer the following (each with 1500 characters maximum, or approximately 200 words):**
 1. Describe why you chose to start this specific effort to champion rigor. Include the scientific rigor practice(s) you felt needed to change, how

broadly the rigor practice(s) relate(s) to biomedical research (including neuroscience), and why you thought the specific rigor practice(s) needed to be improved (e.g., because of known issues in your local scientific community).

2. Describe the activity (or activities) pursued in an attempt to champion rigor and how you approached this pursuit [e.g., your methods for organizing, implementing, promoting, evaluating, or otherwise participating in the activity (or activities)]. Include why you felt this approach was appropriate for addressing the rigor practice(s) you wanted to see changed and any inspiration or materials reused or adapted from other efforts.

ii. Under the section titled “Championship”, please answer the following (each with 2500 characters maximum, or approximately 350 words):

3. Describe how you (or each person, if a Team) directly contributed to conceiving, organizing, implementing, evaluating, or otherwise participating in the activity (or activities) that attempted to improve awareness or practice of scientific rigor. Include a rough timeline of these events, a description of how much time and effort they took, and clarification of how the activity (or activities) differed from normal job expectations. Additionally, describe any resources, guidance, support, or direction (e.g., approvals, time off, money, advice) that were received from relevant organizations or individuals to perform the activity (or activities) and what role you played in seeking and obtaining these resources, if applicable.
4. Describe when and why you first became interested in promoting increased attention to scientific rigor and what led to the decision to pursue the activity (or activities) described above. Additionally, describe what drives your continued involvement in these efforts (if applicable) and any barriers or other emergent situations that you faced and/or overcame (e.g., resistance from leadership, effects on your career, lack of resources). Provide any additional information or evidence related to your commitment to championing rigor that you would like to include.

iii. Under the section titled “Impact”, please answer the following (each with 1500 characters maximum, or approximately 200 words):

5. Describe who (besides you) participated in or was affected by the activity (or activities) described above. Include how broad the reach was

(e.g., class, laboratory, institution, discipline/field) and how engaged these individuals were in the activity (or activities).

6. Describe whether any individuals (besides you) expressed increased appreciation for or concrete plans to implement more rigorous scientific practices as a result of your efforts. Additionally, you may include any other important outcomes of the activity (or activities) you would like to share. Please provide qualitative or quantitative evidence of this impact (e.g., testimonials, articles, websites, data) where possible.
 - b. Provide a completed and signed **Participant Registration and Consent** form, which can be downloaded from the Resources tab of this Challenge. Each form must be signed by each Participant, including all members of a Team. The Registration and Consent form identifies the Participants and their contact information, and it includes certifications that each Participant agrees to the rules and terms of the Challenge, their eligibility to receive a monetary prize, and their career stage. Upload this document as a **signed PDF**.
 - c. **Optional:** In a **separate PDF** titled "Other", include text, hyperlinks, or images that provide direct evidence of the activities described in the Submission (1 page maximum (total), minimum font size 11, single-spaced)). For example, you may provide literature cited, links to media articles about the implementation efforts and outcomes of the activity, evaluation instruments, graphs or other data visualizations, or other material evidence of the activities and outcomes described in the Submission.
- 6) Check the box for **Acknowledgement of Rules, Terms, and Conditions** to confirm you have read all content on the Rules tab for this Challenge.
 - 7) Click the **Review and Submit** button at the bottom of the page to review the entirety of your Submission and uploaded files.
 - 8) Click the **Submit** button to enter your Submission. Only one entry per individual Participant or Team is allowed. If multiple entries are received from one submitter, the most recently received entry will move forward for eligibility confirmation.

Only fully complete Submissions that are in scope and confirmed to meet all eligibility requirements will move forward for review and judging. Submitters may be notified of the status of their Submission but may not receive additional details about the progression of their Submission through eligibility, review, judging, and winner selection.