Letter to the Editor

NIH Peer Review Reform

The editorial “NIH Peer Review Reform—Change We Need, or Lipstick on a Pig?” (1) could not have better exposed the problems of grant peer review and, more importantly, the irreparable harm to innovation and wasting away of potentially good research from scientists who have or will simply give up. The frustration from rejection of work that many well-trained and experienced scientists have had to endure throughout their careers is painful. There is undoubtedly a snowball effect on the stifling of scientific growth and development when mentorship of young bright minds is diminished.

Your editorial has been circulating among many of my colleagues, who applaud your initiative. We all hope, as you do, not only that your comments will be heard by the appropriate authorities and committees but that prompt governmental action will follow. The discouragement of innovation built into the current system is recognized by the NIH, but recognition without change is meaningless. This issue directly impacts the future of our nation.

REFERENCE


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