

## **Fellow & Resident Research Funds**

### **Application Scoring System and Procedure**

The scoring system for the Fellow and Resident Research Funds is based on the [NIH grant application scoring system](#). This system was designed to encourage reliable scoring of applications. Individuals invited to review applications are required to recuse themselves if they have a conflict of interest in reviewing an application.

The system uses a 9-point scale (whole numbers only) for both overall impact scores and individual review criteria scores. Reviewers are encouraged to start with an average score of 5 and use the full range of the rating scale, increasing or decreasing scores based on the merit of the application. A score of 5 is a good, medium-impact application; 1 is exceptional and 9 is poor.

Strength of Application	Score	Descriptor
High	1	Exceptional
	2	Outstanding
	3	Excellent
Medium	4	Very Good
	5	Good
	6	Satisfactory
Low	7	Fair
	8	Marginal
	9	Poor

**The only required score for a Fellow or Resident Research Fund review is the overall impact score.** Overall impact, for a research project, is the project's likelihood to have an influence on the proposed field of research and, in the case of these awards, on the applicant's career. The overall impact score is an independent, standalone score determined by the reviewer's overall assessment of the application based on all strengths and weaknesses. The overall impact score is not the sum or average of any other scores. This system enables one major strength to outweigh many minor and correctable weaknesses.

Reviewers may choose to provide additional scores for the individual review criteria used for the Fellow and Resident Research Funds. The individual criteria, in order of importance, are:

- Investigator
  - Does the investigator's background suggest s/he will be able to successfully accomplish the stated aims?
  - Will accomplishing this research project enhance the applicant's career development?
- Approach
- Significance to Child Health
- Innovation

Optional scores for individual review criteria may inform the reviewer's overall impact score, but they are not summed, averaged or otherwise used to generate any type of overall score. Only the independent overall impact score is used to rank applications.

Reviewers are asked to provide overall comments on the application and also are strongly encouraged to comment on the specific strengths and weaknesses of each individual review criterion. These detailed comments are particularly helpful for junior investigators and are highly valued by all applicants for helping them improve their approach to research.