



National Science Board Task Force on Administrative Burdens

Federal Demonstration Partnership Meeting

**Dr. Lisa Nichols
January 6, 2014**





Task Force on Administrative Burdens

December 2012

Charge

To examine the administrative burden imposed on federally supported researchers at U.S. colleges, universities, and non-profit institutions and offer recommendations where appropriate on relieving the administrative workload.





Task Force on Administrative Burdens

Dr. Arthur Bienenstock, *Chair*

Dr. Bonnie Bassler

Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier

Dr. Alan Leshner

Dr. Carl Lineberger

Dr. Diane Souvaine

Liaisons: Dr. Lisa Nichols and Dr. John Veysey

Executive Secretary: Mr. Jeremy Leffler





Activities: Speakers

- FDP Faculty Workload Survey results and current and planned initiatives
- Activities of the Research Business Models Working Group
- Accreditors perspective on IACUC and IRB administrative burden





Information Collection

- Request for Information March 2013
- Roundtable discussions April-May 2013
- Analysis of findings completed August 2013





Top Reported Burdens

- Financial management
- Grant proposals and submission
- Progress and other reporting
- Human subject research and IRBs
- Effort reporting
- Animal subject research and IACUCs





RFI Report: Outreach

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
and the NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

NSF Board, Director, and Policy staff; NIH Office of
Extramural Research; Office of Science and
Technology Policy; RBM; and FDP

Council on Government Relations; Association of
American Universities; Association of Public and
Land-Grant Universities

Cross-cutting Themes

- Legislative and regulatory burden
- Need for greater harmonization
- Burden due to audit and oversight
- Variable institutional support





Respondent Recommendations on Harmonization

Interagency Working Group with stakeholder representation to prioritize areas in need of harmonization



Financial Management

- Budget preparation
 - Simple budget at proposal
- Financial tracking and reporting
 - Reducing the frequency of reports; consistent policies for audit
- Purchasing
 - Justifications only for larger purchases
- Travel
 - Use of per diem allowances





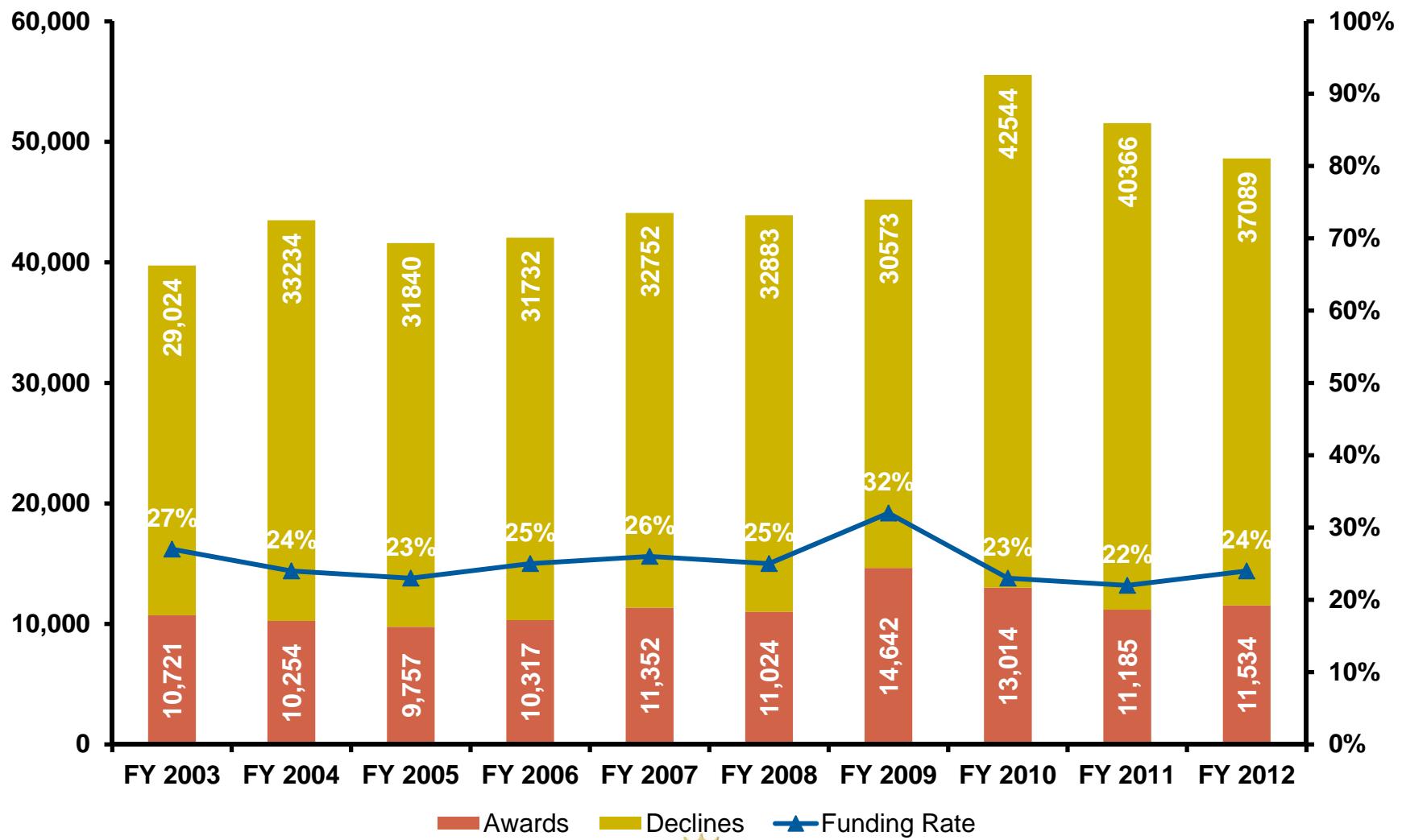
Grant Proposals and Submission

- Low success rates
- Supplemental materials
 - Preliminary proposals; broadening just-in-time
- Grant submission systems
 - Standardization; centralized database for biosketches, CVs, and other documents





Awards, Declines and Funding Rates



Progress and Other Reporting

- Frequency
 - Reducing frequency
- Research Performance Progress Report
 - Reducing scope; eliminating agency-specific requirements
- Additional reporting requirements
 - Limiting additional requirements



Human Subject Research and IRBs

- Increasingly complex requirements without perceived meaningful benefit to participants
 - Support for select ANPRM proposed changes
- Failure to properly calibrate requirements to risk
- Redundant review
 - Eliminating requirements that lead to redundant review
- Audit/oversight extending beyond the regulations



Effort Reporting

- Time-consuming
- Lacking merit
- Support for elimination or reform



Animal Research and IACUCs

- Escalating regulations
 - A single set of guidelines; harmonizing requirements; exempt and expedited review categories
- Redundant review
- Audit and liability/institutional burden
- Annual and three-year review
- Animal usage
- Regulating through guidance

Other Areas of Reported Burden

- Personnel management
- Financial conflict of interest
- Subcontracts
- Training
- Lab safety and security





NSF-Specific Comments

- Broader impacts
- Reporting and oversight for large grants and centers
 - Reduce requirements
- Detailed budgets
 - Simple or no budget at initial proposal





Timeline for Completion

Teleconference January 30, 2014

Publication anticipated late March/Early April 2014





Contact Information

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