

MANDATORY SCIENTIFIC PEER REVIEW

Lessons Learned in Year One

INSTITUTIONAL GOAL: INCREASE OVERALL FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING

Identified Need:

- Improve quality of NIH proposals

Proposed Solution:

- Mandatory Scientific Peer Review process for all PI's submitting Federal grants



UNEXPECTED CONSEQUENCES:

1. Administrative Overload:
EXCESSIVE
2. PI's Reaction:
STRONGLY NEGATIVE

EARLY OUTCOME: GRANT QUALITY IS IMPROVING

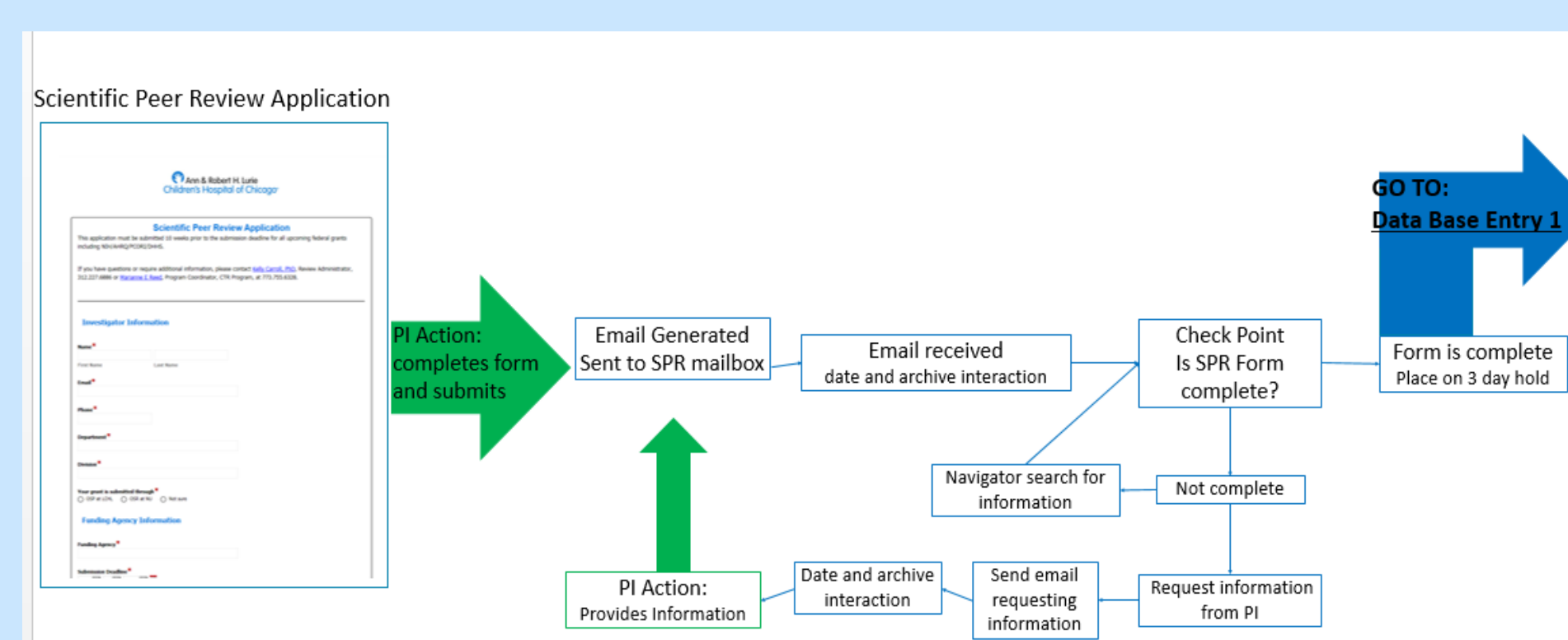
Status	F '16	W '17	S '17
Submitted	16	12	18
Not Discussed	8 (50%)	4 (33%)	5 (27%)

Cautionary Tales: Lessons Learned in Year One



Caution Point #1

ISSUE: HEAVY OPERATIONAL LOAD ON A SINGLE ADMINISTRATOR



FIXES -

Short term fixes:

Software solution or additional staff

- Pro: immediate relief, no changes in process needed
- Con: cost; doesn't address any potential inefficiencies in the underlying process

Longer term fixes:

Examples

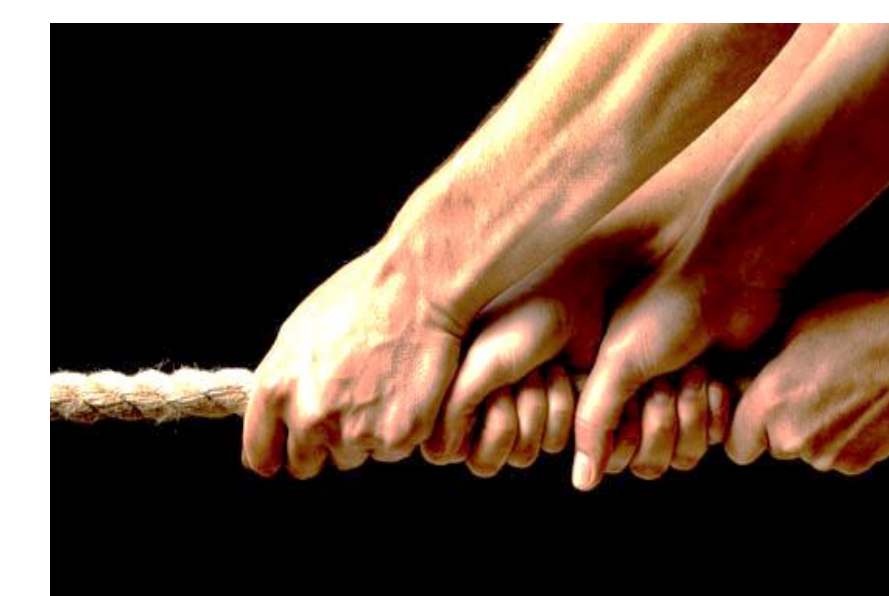
- Evaluate actions that have little return on compliance and engagement. Goal → Eliminate these actions
- Identify "no value added" actions in the process. Goal → Eliminate "no value added" actions.

Take Home Points

SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION RELIES ON:



LEADERSHIP SUPPORT



SHARED RESOLVE



DISSEMINATION PLAN



FEEDBACK LOOP

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Caution Point #2

ISSUE: POOR INITIAL RECEPTION BY PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

Not just a gut feeling: Documented complaints from 20 PI's. This represents ~1/3 of the consistent NIH grant submitters. The average feedback score for "helpfulness" in first round: 3 out of 5; currently up to 3.4 out of 5.

In person reports of reasons for poor reception:

- Timing: Requires earlier deadlines, concern how this might negatively impact those with history of success
- Review: PI concern over who will see their work and reviews

Action taken:

Wait and See: Leadership committed to seeing if the Scientific Peer Review program would improve the overall quality of NIH grant submissions (See Early Outcomes)

Unexpected benefits for allowing program to run:

- Office of Sponsor Programs notified earlier
- Identified need to support PI grant writing efforts:
 - Provide sample language for grants
 - Pilot use of an external grant writing service
 - Provide internal grant funding to develop pilot data and collaboration.