



Singapore Healthcare
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Improving Funding Success – Implementation of a Grant Pre-review Process

John COE, San Ling SI-HOE, Iris Sze Jia SOH,
Yi Mei TAN, Muhammad Farid Bin ALIAS
SingHealth Office of Research



Introduction

AIM

- Boost SingHealth researchers' chances of winning national grants
- Replace institutional with external review processes; lessen burden on institutions & avoid duplication of efforts.
- Enhance SingHealth Research reputation by consistently submitting high quality applications.

KEY PROCESS

SingHealth investigators are encouraged to have their **applications expertly reviewed prior to submission** to a national funding agency, via a **structured Pre-Review Process** supported by the SingHealth Office of Research (OoR) and the Academic Medicine Research Institute (AMRI) to improve their success and safeguard SingHealth's research reputation.



Methodology

APPLICABILITY

Mandatory for:

- CSA and TA (NMRC) applicants
- First time applicants for competitive national grants
- Applicants who have not received competitive national funds

Voluntary for:

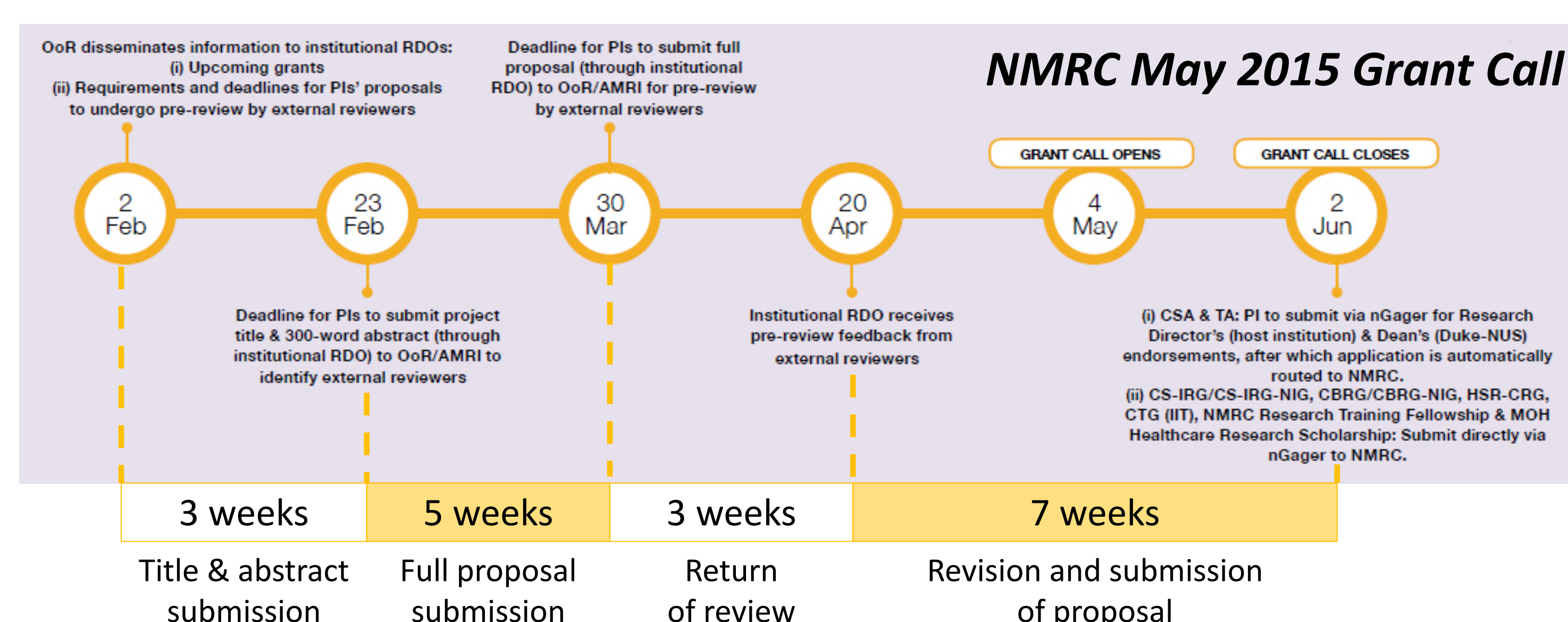
- Applicants who have been awarded competitive national funds

SUPPORT

- By institutional Research Directors and Development Offices working with centralised OoR/AMRI (jointly known as TCR Hub)
- Via integrated system of emails, bulletins, publicity material, meetings and administrative assistance

TIMELINE

Winning proposals take time and effort to develop.
Process is triggered 18 weeks before the close of a grant call.



Results

7 cycles have been conducted with 135 applications pre-reviewed to date.

The effectiveness of this process is gauged from the first 5 cycles where results are known (May 12 - May 14).

- Figure 1 shows results for the cumulative total of these 5 cycles
 - (i) For **ALL** grant types, 22 of 49 pre-reviewed applications submitted to the funding agency were successful, giving an overall success rate of **45%** (refer to blue bar in red box)
 - (ii) This is compared to a **20%** success rate in non pre-reviewed applications (46 of 225 - refer to orange bar in red box).
- Figure 2 shows the trend in success rates of the different grant types over the individual cycles.

SUCCESS RATES

Pre-reviewed vs Non Pre-reviewed grants

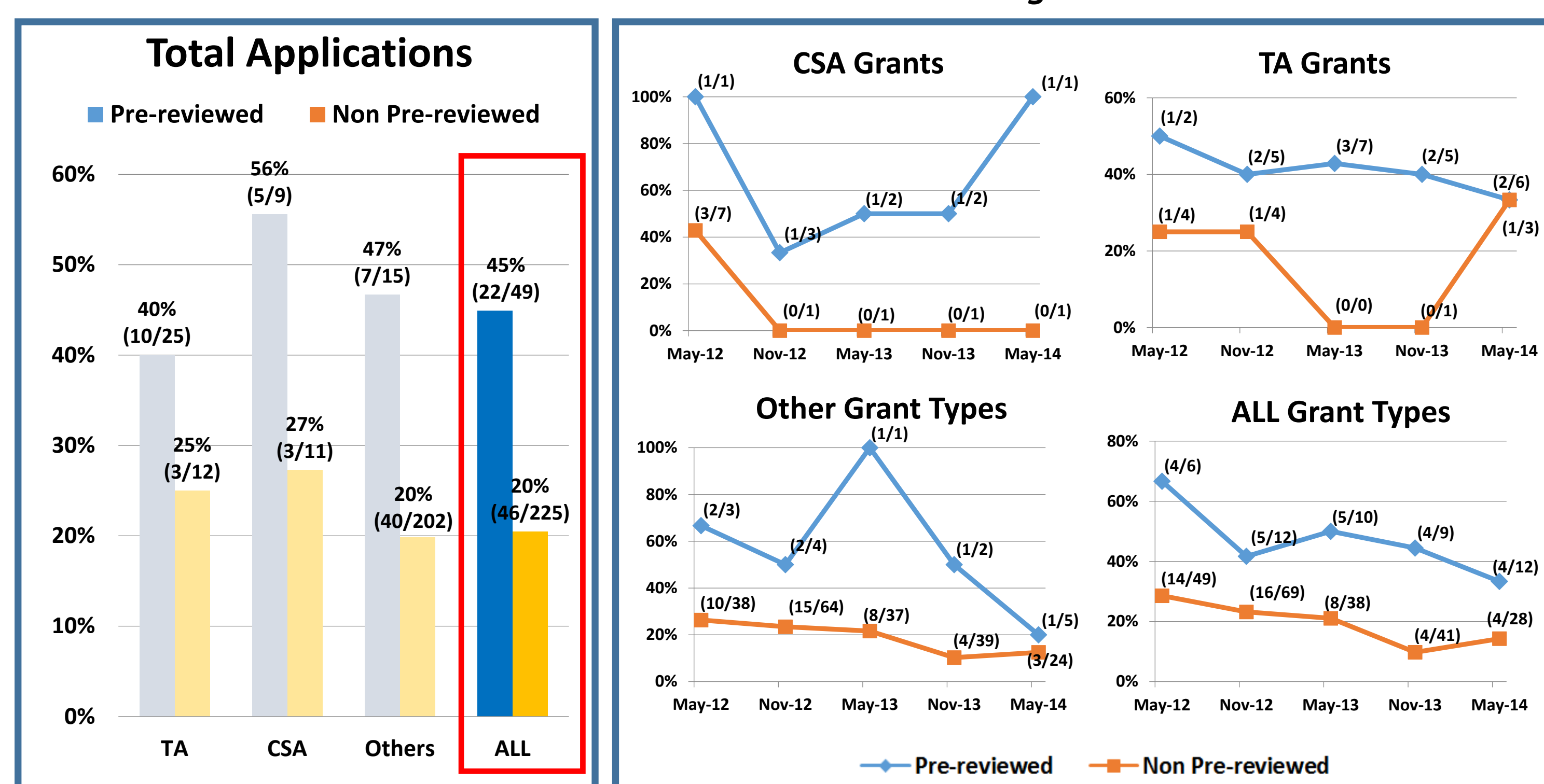


Figure 1: Cumulative results of 5 cycles

Figure 2: Success rate of different grant types over individual cycles

Conclusion

Although results are derived from a fairly small sample size, the grant pre-review process appears to improve the success rate of National grant applicants by two-fold.

Abbreviations:

TCR Hub - SingHealth Translational & Clinical Research Hub | CSA - Clinician Scientist Award | TA - Transition Award | NMRC - National Medical Research Council | CS - Clinician Scientist | IRG - Individual Research Grant | NIG - New Investigator Grant | CBRG - Cooperative Basic Research Grant | HSR-CRG - Health Services Research Competitive Research Grant | CD-PHRG - Communicable Diseases - Public Health Research Grant