

New NSF policy on limiting PIs to a single proposal per fiscal year makes sense

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Heather L. Eisthen et al. wrote an article entitled “New NSF policy will stifle innovation” (1). The new NSF policy on limiting PIs to a single proposal per fiscal year causes biological research (1). From the past, we have learned several lessons from the large government investments to supercomputers around 1990 (2) and biotechnology (3). Instead of the special large government support to the specific research areas, the fund should be shared with many researchers (4). The new NSF policy can support sharing with many researchers. If the proposed researches are attractive, the researchers should seek for the support from industry and/or from alternative finance (5). The government role in research funding has been changing.

References:

1. Heather L. Eisthen et al., New NSF policy will stifle innovation, *Science* 19 Oct 2018: Vol. 362, Issue 6412, pp. 297-298
2. John Markoff, Thinking Machines To File for Bankruptcy, *The New York Times* August 16, 1994
3. Sascha Karberg, Biotech's Perfect Storm, *Cell* Volume 138, Issue 3, p413–415, 7 August 2009
4. <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/356/6334/123/tab-e-letters>
5. <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/361/6402/538/tab-e-letters>