



ISRM Portfolio Directors' Panel Discussion

October 16, 2024

Panel Members

- Patricia Dorn, Executive Director, Rehabilitation R&D & Translation
- Amy Kilbourne, Executive Director, Health Systems Research
- Holly Krull, Acting Executive Director, Medical Health Research
- Kenute Myrie, Director, Precision Oncology Actively Managed Portfolio
- Miriam Smyth, Acting Executive Director, Brain, Behavioral and Mental Health Research
- Christopher Bever, Deputy Chief R&D Officer for ISRM (Moderator)

In 2025 ORD will celebrate its 100-year anniversary!



Record of Accomplishments:

- First R-C clinical trial
- Cardiac pacemaker
- First liver transplant
- Seattle foot
- Deka arm
- Multiple Nobel Laureates



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Preparing VA Research for the Next 100 Years

- Organizing research funding around areas of Veteran need
- Adopting a shared governance model in ORD
- Adopting NIH approach to Notices of Funding Opportunities
- Harmonizing our processes across the portfolios

Organizing Funding Around Areas of Veteran Need



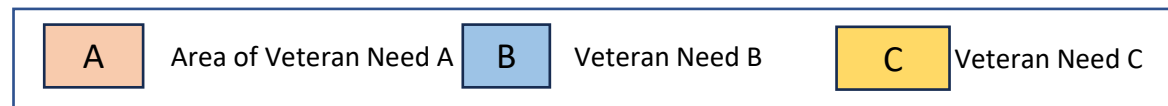
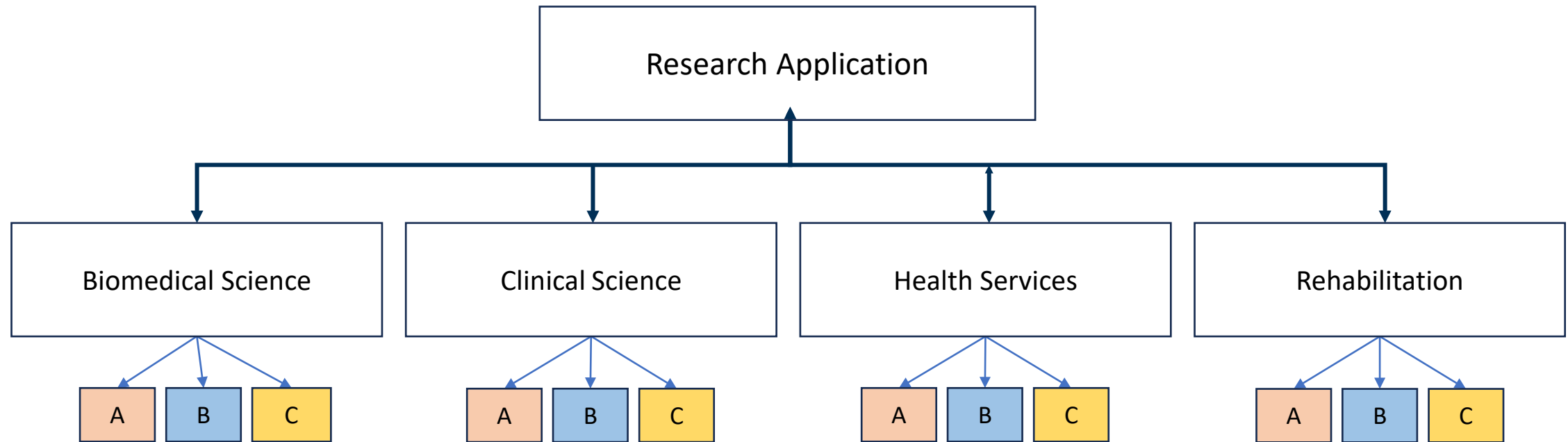
Choose **VA**

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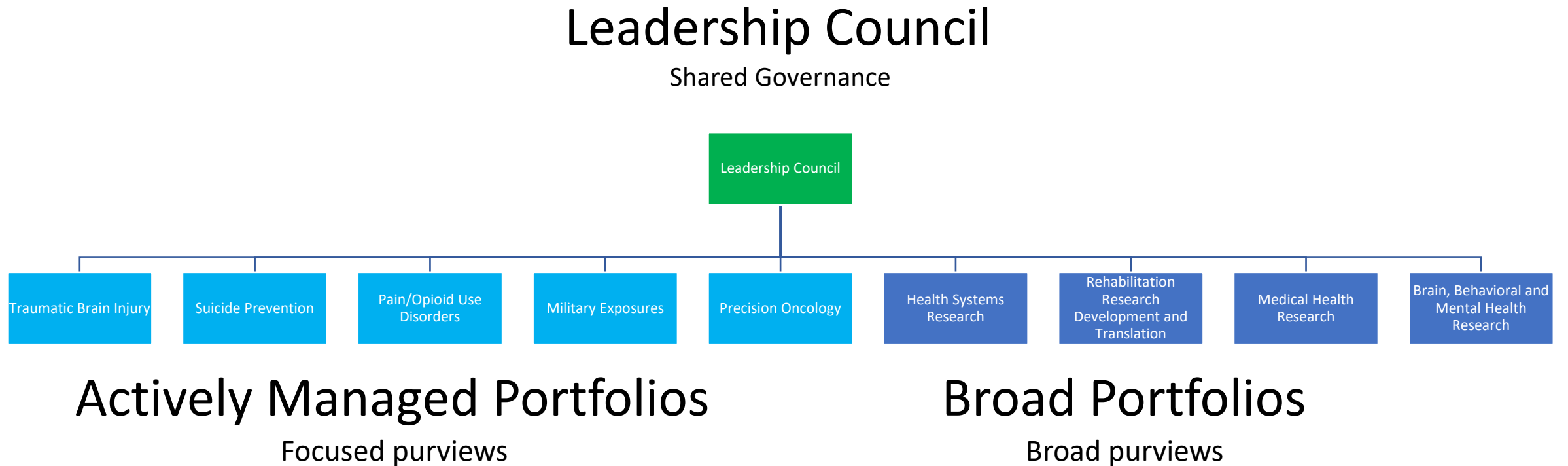
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How the service-based structure addressed Veteran needs



This partial drawing of ORD's structure is for illustration purposes only

The New Structure and Shared Governance



Scientific Review Groups have been assigned to the Broad Portfolios

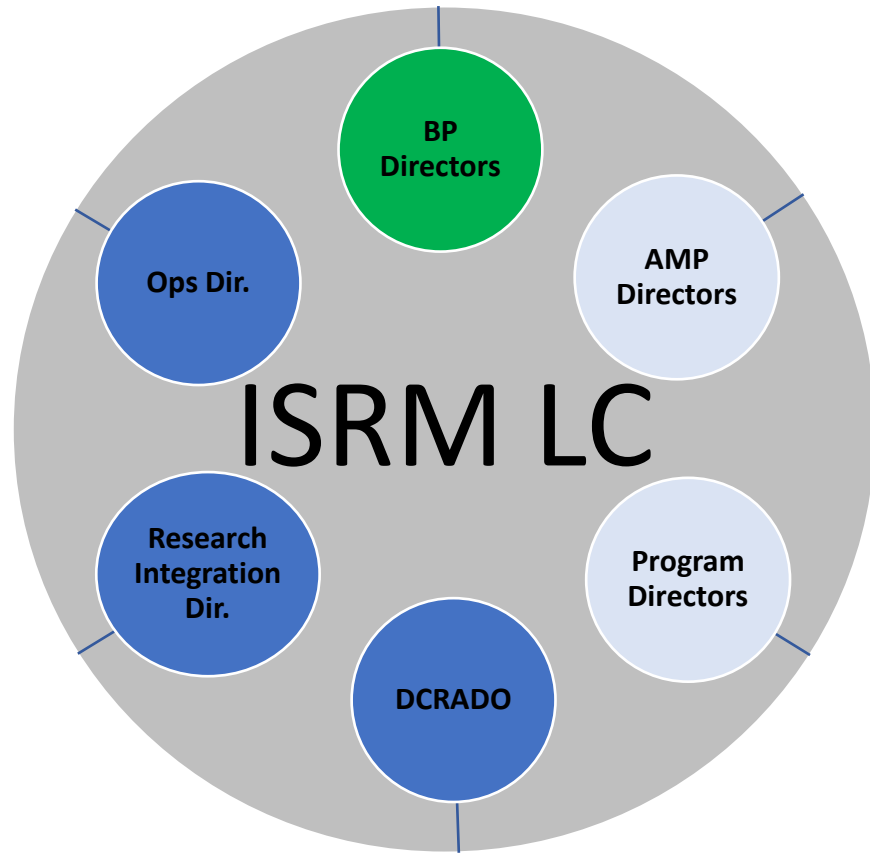
Brain, Behavioral & Mental Health	Health Systems Research	Medical Health	Rehabilitation R&D & Translation
<p>HSR4: Mental and Behavioral Health</p> <p>MHBA: Preclinical Mental Health</p> <p>MHBC: Clinical Mental Health</p> <p>MHBP: PTSD</p> <p>NURA: Substance Abuse</p> <p>NURB: Peripheral Neuropathy & Epilepsy</p> <p>NURC: SCI & TBI</p> <p>NURD: Alzheimer’s Disease, Dementia, Aging Brain, Neurodegeneration and Cognitive Dysfunction</p> <p>NURE: Movement Disorders, Parkinson’s, Huntington’s, ALS, Dystonia, Neurodegeneration</p> <p>NURF: Sensory Dysfunction</p> <p>NURR: Sleep</p> <p>NURP: Pain</p> <p>RRD1/B: Brain Health</p> <p>RRD4: Behavioral Health & Social Reintegration</p>	<p>HSR1: Health Care & Clinical Management</p> <p>HSR2: Behavioral, Social & Cultural Determinants of Health</p> <p>HSR3: Health Care Informatics</p> <p>HSR5: Health Care System Organization & Delivery and Women’s Health</p> <p>HSR6: Long Term Care & Aging & Support Services</p> <p>HSR7: Special Emphasis Topics</p> <p>HSR8: QUERI</p> <p>HQ5, HQ8: QUERI</p>	<p>CARA/B: Cardiology</p> <p>CAMM: Cellular & Molecular Medicine, Geroscience</p> <p>ENDA: Endocrinology,</p> <p>ENDB: Frailty, musculoskeletal health</p> <p>GAST: Gastroenterology</p> <p>HEMA: Hematology</p> <p>IMMA: Immunology</p> <p>INFA/B: Infectious Diseases</p> <p>NEPH: Nephrology</p> <p>ONCA/B/C/D/E: Oncology</p> <p>PULM: Pulmonology</p> <p>SPLD: GW</p> <p>SURG: Surgery</p>	<p>RRDA: Spinal Cord Injuries/Disorders & Neuropathic Pain</p> <p>RRD0: Regenerative Rehabilitation Medicine</p> <p>RRD2: Musculoskeletal Health & Injury</p> <p>RRD3: Sensory Systems & Communications Disorders</p> <p>RRD5: Rehabilitation Engineering & Prosthetics/Orthotics</p> <p>RRD6: Chronic Medical Conditions & Aging</p> <p>RRD7: Research Career Scientist</p> <p>RRD8: Career Development Program- Panel 1</p> <p>RRD9: Career Development Program – Panel 2</p> <p>RRDC: Centers/REAPs</p>

Winter – Summer Cycle Scientific Review Groups

Brain, Behavioral & Mental Health	Health Systems Research	Medical Health	Rehabilitation R&D & Translation
HSR4: Mental and Behavioral Health	HSR1: Health Care & Clinical Management	CARA/B: Cardiology	RRDA: Spinal Cord Injuries/Disorders & Neuropathic Pain
MHBA: Preclinical Mental Health	HSR2: Behavioral, Social & Cultural Determinants of Health	CAMM: Cellular & Molecular Medicine, Geroscience	RRD0: Regenerative Rehabilitation Medicine
MHBC: Clinical Mental Health	HSR3: Health Care Informatics	ENDA: Endocrinology,	RRD2: Musculoskeletal Health & Injury
MHBP: PTSD	HSR5: Health Care System Organization & Delivery and Women's Health	ENDB: Frailty, musculoskeletal health	RRD3: Sensory Systems & Communications Disorders
NURA: Substance Abuse	HSR6: Long Term Care & Aging & Support Services	GAST: Gastroenterology	RRD5: Rehabilitation Engineering & Prosthetics/Orthotics
NURB: Peripheral Neuropathy & Epilepsy	HSR7: Special Emphasis Topics	HEMA: Hematology	RRD6: Chronic Medical Conditions & Aging
NURC: SCI & TBI	HSR8: QUERI	IMMA: Immunology	RRD7: Research Career Scientist
NURD: Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia, Aging Brain, Neurodegeneration and Cognitive Dysfunction	HQ5, HQ8: QUERI	INFA/B: Infectious Diseases	RRD8: Career Development Program- Panel 1
NURE: Movement Disorders, Parkinson's, Huntington's, ALS, Dystonia, Neurodegeneration		NEPH: Nephrology	RRD9: Career Development Program – Panel 2
NURF: Sensory Dysfunction		ONCA/B/C/D/E: Oncology	RRDC: Centers/REAPs
NURR: Sleep		PULM: Pulmonology	
NURP: Pain		SPLD: GW	
RRD1/B: Brain Health		SURG: Surgery	
RRD4: Behavioral Health & Social Reintegration			

ORD Shared Governance Model

ISRM Leadership Council



- **Structure:**

- DCRADO, Director of Research Integration, Director of Operations Portfolio Directors, Program Directors are voting members

- **Functions:**

- Oversight of portfolio activities
- Promoting cross-portfolio communications
- Communication with ORD leadership

Portfolio Funding Process

- The budget for each portfolio is determined by the ISRM Leadership Council at the beginning of each fiscal year.
 - Value of projects from end of the prior fiscal year
 - +
 - Additional specific funding provided in ORD budget
- The ISRM LC has the authority to transfer funds between portfolios during the fiscal year if required.

Project Funding Process

- Applications for funding will be reviewed in either the standing scientific review groups or the special review groups.
- Portfolios will hold funding ranking meetings for each review cycle.
- Ranked lists with funding recommendations will be submitted for approval to the Leadership Council.

Adopting NIH Approach to NOFOs



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New Cross-Portfolio RFAs Posted 9/3

RFAs

Career Development Award 1 (IK1)

Career Development Award 2 (IK2)

Research Career Scientist (IK6)

Pilot Research (I21)

Parent Merit Review – Clinical Trials (I01)

Parent Merit Review – Non-Clinical Trials (I01)

CORE (I50)

Pre-Applications

Pre-Application – Career Development Award (IK1/IK2)

Pre-Application – Research Career Scientist (IK6)

Pre-Application – Pilot (I21)

Pre-Application – Parent Merit Clinical Trial (I01)

Pre-Application – Parent Merit Non-Clinical Trials (I01)

Pre-Application – CORE (I50)

Portfolio Notices of Special Interest Posted 9/3

Based upon Portfolio purviews

Brain, Behavior, and Mental Health Broad Portfolio

Health Systems Broad Portfolio

Medical Health Broad Portfolio

Rehabilitation Broad Portfolio

Military Exposure Actively Managed Portfolio

Pain / Opioid Use Actively Managed Portfolio

Precision Oncology Actively Managed Portfolio

Suicide Prevention Actively Managed Portfolio

Traumatic Brain Injury Actively Managed Portfolio

Gulf War

Critical Research Areas/Cross Portfolio

Women's Health

Durability of Rehabilitation Interventions for Veterans

Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma

Studies on Lethal Means Safety Approaches to Suicide Prevention

Harmonizing Processes Across the Portfolios



New Review Timeline

	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Site waivers for 2 nd new NCI slot	N/A	10/15	N/A	4/15
CT, CDA, TT Pre-apps due	8/1 (W24: 10/1)	11/1	2/1	5/1
MVP data use apps due	10/1	1/1	4/1	7/1
Other Research Pre-apps due	11/1	2/1	5/1	8/1
DTTW deadline for full apps	12/8	3/8	6/8	9/8
eRA closes to full apps	12/10	3/10	6/10	9/10

Pre-application due dates and pre-application notification to investigators for the current winter cycle slightly differ by RFA

Career Development 1 &2, Research including Clinical Trials, and Tech Transfer Key Dates:

9/3: 7 RFAs and NOSIs posted

10/1: Pre-applications for relevant scientific review groups (SRGs)* due

11/1: Investigators notified of the status of their pre-application (accepted, rejected, or assigned to a new SRG or Portfolio)

12/8: Final date to submit full application

March 2025: Summary scores and statements released to investigators

Research Career Scientist, Pilot Award, Research not including Clinical Trials, and CORE RFAs Key Dates:

9/3: 7 RFAs and NOSIs posted

11/1: Pre-applications for relevant scientific review groups (SRGs)* due

11/22: Investigators notified of the status of their pre-application (accepted, rejected, or assigned to a new SRG or Portfolio)

12/8: Final date to submit full application

March 2025: Summary scores and statements released to investigators

*A listing of winter cycle SRGs are located in the Appendix

RFA for Merit Award including an interventional clinical trial

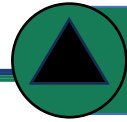
Budget Item	Limit for Single Site	Limit for Multi-VAMC Sites*
Budget Cap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •For two (2) years: \$600,000 •For three (3) years: \$900,000 •For four (4) years: \$1,200,000 	<p>For a 2-site a total:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •For two (2) years, \$600,000 •For three (3) years, \$1,125,000 •For four (4) or five (5) years, \$1,500,000 <p>For a 3 or more sites a total:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Additional \$100,000 per site per year for each additional site added to total budget cap
Duration	Up to four (4) years	Up to five (5) years

- Budget cap waivers approved by the ISRM Leadership Council

RFA for Merit Award not including an interventional clinical trial

- PI may receive funding for up to 3 Merit awards
- Non-clinician PI salary, 3/8 allowed above the cap. Any additional salary requirements must be taken from the research award.
- \$200K per year cap for up to 4 years
- Waivers approved by the ISRM Leadership Council

Takeaways on Application Review Process Revisions for Investigators



What has changed

- Funding opportunities are organized by the type of research proposed.
- Accepted Pre-Applications are required prior to any full application submission for most applications.
- Pre-applications are submitted to the cross-portfolio pre-application RFAs (I02).
- The scientific review groups review for all Portfolios (not just a single Service).
- Scored proposals will be ranked in the Portfolio funding meeting.
- The ranked applications will go to the ISRM Leadership Council which will provide oversight and final approvals.
- Funded projects will be managed by the SPM who managed the review working with the director of the Portfolio to which it was submitted.

Takeaways on Application Review Process Revisions for Investigators

What has NOT changed

- RFAs are posted and applications are submitted through Grants.gov and eRA Commons.
- ORD-wide RFAs will still support the full range of research activities and disciplines.
- The purview of scientific review groups (SRGs) and timing of SRG meetings (every 6 months).
- The Scientific Portfolio Managers who manage the SRGs have not changed.
- Review by a specific scientific review group can be requested.
- Applications not funded may be resubmitted no more than 2 times (-A1 and -A2).
- Once a decision has been made about an application, a notice of intent to fund or not to fund will be sent.
- PIs with approved applications will be required to complete just-in-time requirements.
- If funded, the SPM who managed the review of the application will manage your project.

Conclusion

- On October 1, 2024, ISRM transitioned from four Services to nine Portfolios.
- Service RFAs have been replaced by cross-portfolio RFAs and portfolio Notices of Special Interest
- Peer-review panels (SRGs) will remain the same.
- Portfolio funding recommendations will be reviewed by the ISRM Leadership Council which will have representation from all portfolios.

In 2025 ORD will celebrate its 100-year anniversary!



Preparing for the next 100 years!

- New organizational structure built around Veteran needs and designed to improve health system performance.
- New processes to accelerate innovation, speed implementation and rapidly respond to changing requirements.