Team Science Awards

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MRA Portfolio

$ Commitments

- Team Awards ($52M)
- Individual Awards ($26M)

Number of Awards

- Team Awards (60)
- Individual Awards (136)
MRA Team Science Awards

• Multidisciplinary collaboration between **two or more established PIs** plus a **Young Investigator*** with complementary expertise that offers the possibility for **synergistic** advances.

• Typically **$800,000-$1 million** total over 3 years

• Periodic “Special Opportunities” with different/more specific requirements

*within 4 years of first faculty appointment
A 2013 Team

*L to R: C. Betolotto (INSERM), R. Ballotti (INSERM), M. Soengas (CNIO), S. Proulx (ETH Zurich, Detmar Lab), H. Peinado (CNIO), S. Kobold (LMU Munich, Endres Lab)*
Benefits and Challenges

- Benefits of teams:
  - Collaboration
  - Multidisciplinary science
  - Build the field

- Challenges of teams:
  - Financial risk: Large investment over short timeline
  - Administrative
  - Leadership

Cumulative # of new PIs and new institutions awarded by MRA
Synergy v. Additivity

• Performance
  – Quantitative output
    • Follow-on funding
    • Publications
  – Impact on field
Matchmaking

- Team composition restricted/specifed in RFP
- Post-review matchmaking (“arranged marriage”)

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Recommendations

• Demonstrate “team-ness” in applications
• 3 year award duration
• 60 day timeframe for sub-awards
• Avoid post-review matchmaking