

January 30, 2025

Dear Fellow Scientists,

The uncertainty and chaos of the past few days, with granting agency “freezes” and “unfreezes” under our new administration, have understandably led to fear and concern throughout the scientific community regarding the future of grant funding. As scientists, we are trained to apply a logical, evidence-based approach to every situation we face. However, the events of the past few days clearly defy any logical interpretation.

Having been involved in scientific research for over 30 years, and having worked with thousands of scientists navigating dozens of federal agencies through challenging and chaotic circumstances, I offer the following suggestions to the scientific community facing the current situation:

1. **Recognize that disruption yields opportunity.**

While uncertainty is unsettling, periods of disruption often create advantages for those who stay the course. During the market downturn of 2008, I led R&D for the only company in the Research Triangle that expanded its facilities through 2009. We did this by staying the course, being opportunistic, and securing non-dilutive funding when capital markets were dry. Similarly, scientists who persist in applying for federal funding will be at an advantage over those who panic. When others withdraw or delay proposals out of fear, the applicant pool shrinks—improving the chances of success for those who move forward.

2. **Have a safety net for unforeseen circumstances.**

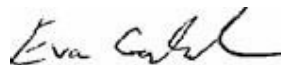
Whether we face uncertainty due to political circumstances such as administrative transitions or government shutdowns or due to natural disasters or other situations beyond our control, it is a good reminder to have a cushion available for unanticipated situations. Earlier this week, when the NIH Payment Management System was down, clients who had proactively managed their reimbursements were well-positioned to use reserve funds until the system came back online. By maintaining a financial cushion, organizations can better weather disruptions and maintain stability.

3. **Diversify your funding strategies.**

Scientists who rely on a single grant mechanism or funding source are less able to adapt when unexpected events occur. Grant mechanisms can be eliminated or added at any time, and market conditions and corporate strategies can change rapidly. NIH funding actually increased to record levels under the prior Trump administration, and scientists who had proposals pending during the funding increases stood to benefit. We find that innovators who employ multiple concurrent strategic pathways to securing funding are more likely to be successful.

As scientists, we are known for our resilience, creativity, and perseverance. By leveraging these strengths, we can navigate challenges and emerge even stronger. I encourage our scientific community to stay the course, continue to seek new opportunities to fund your groundbreaking technologies. Please know that you have EGC’s unwavering commitment in supporting you as you advance scientific knowledge and create a lasting impact on the world.

Best,



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