

PCORI's Merit Review Process

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Merit Review Officer

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Welcome!



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Merit Review Officer



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Session Objectives

- Introduce PCORI Merit Reviewers
 - Who are the reviewers?
- Outline the Merit Review process
 - What happens to applications after submission?
 - How do the reviewers evaluate applications?



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Goal of PCORI Merit Review

To identify applications that have the strongest potential to improve patient outcomes



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Building an Inclusive Merit Review

- Panels include scientists, patients, and other stakeholders to bring diverse perspectives to the review process.
- Each application is assigned to 2 scientists, 1 patient, and 1 other stakeholder.
- Chair facilitates discussion and promotes a culture of mutual respect and understanding among reviewer types



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Reviewer Eligibility

- Scientists
 - Advanced degree in health or research-related field
 - Relevant peer-reviewed publications
 - Active research program in a relevant field of study
- Chairs
 - National reputation in research area
 - Demonstrated leadership experience



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Reviewer Eligibility

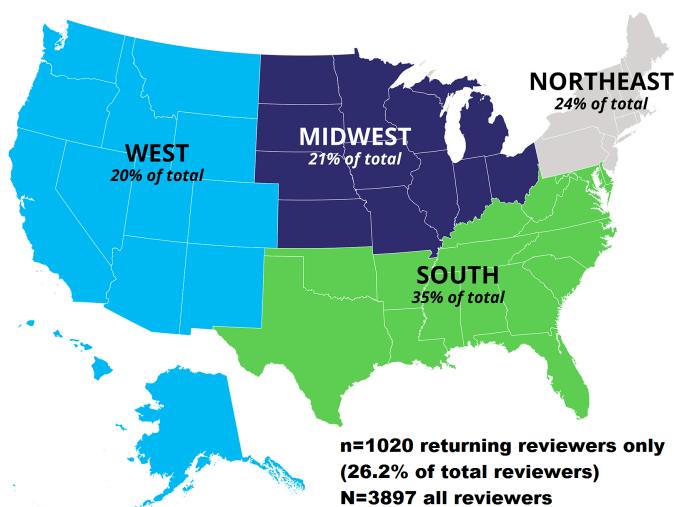
- Stakeholders
 - Contribute a unique healthcare system perspective
- Patients
 - Patient advocates
 - Caregivers
- Excluded
 - Board of Governors
 - Selection Committee members
 - Applicants



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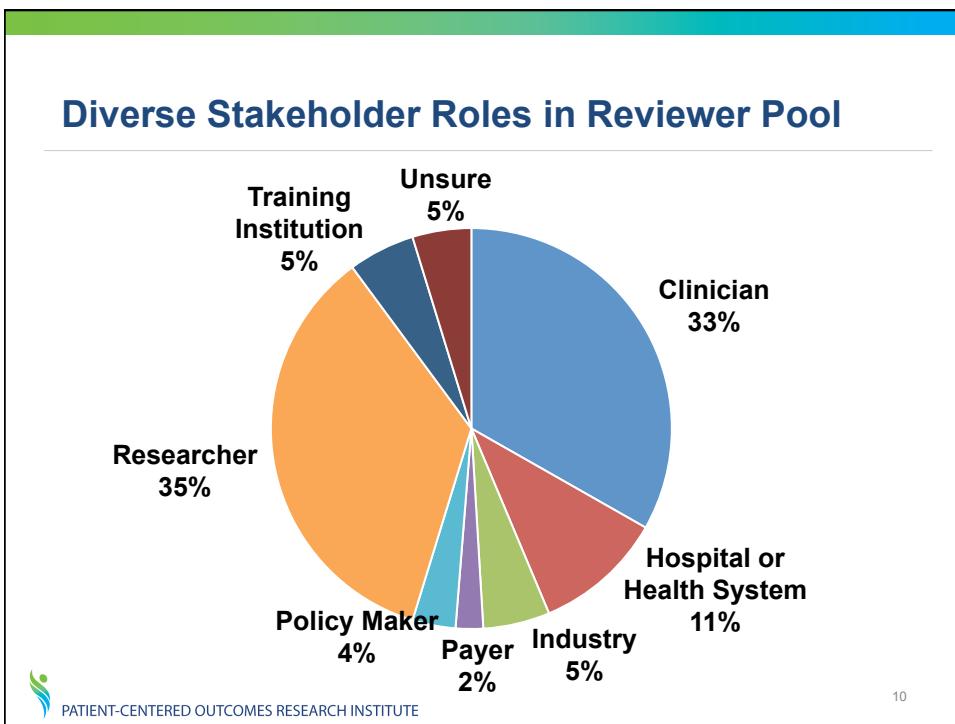
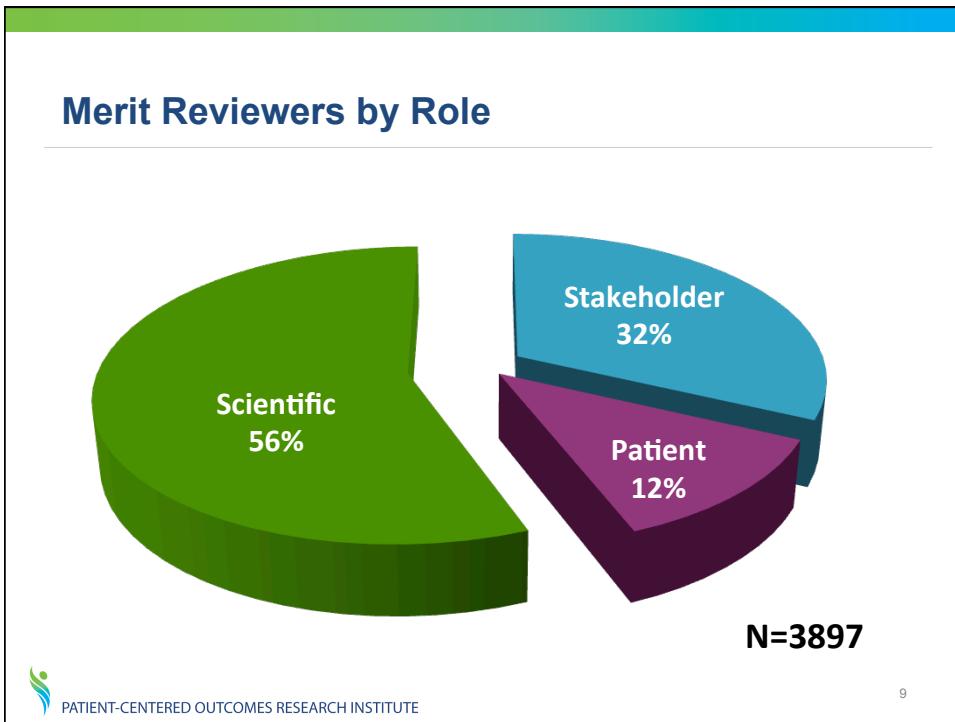
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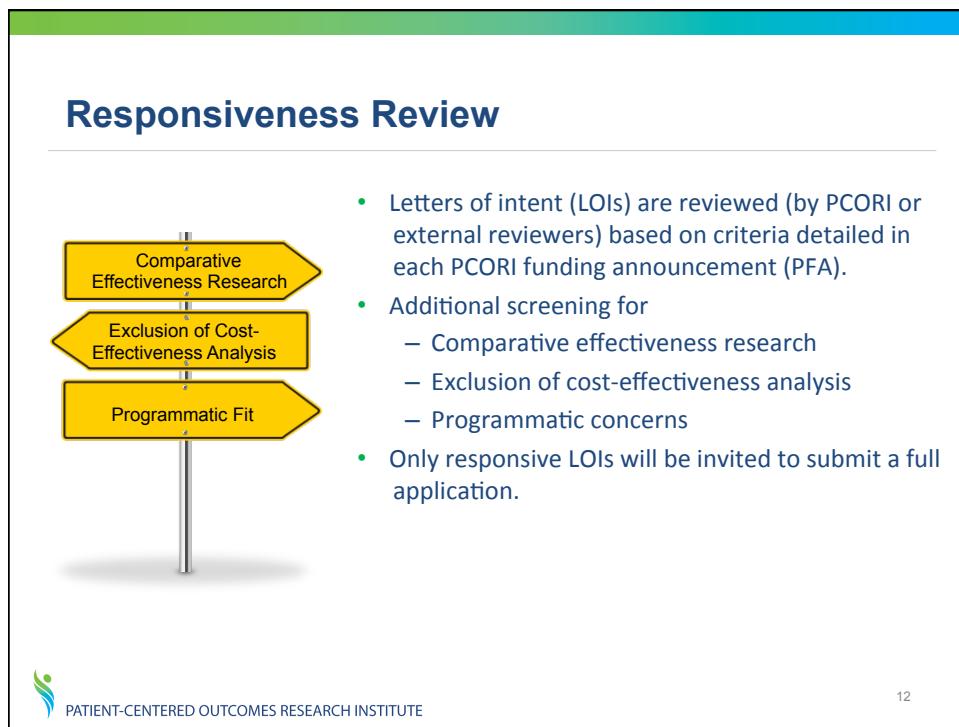
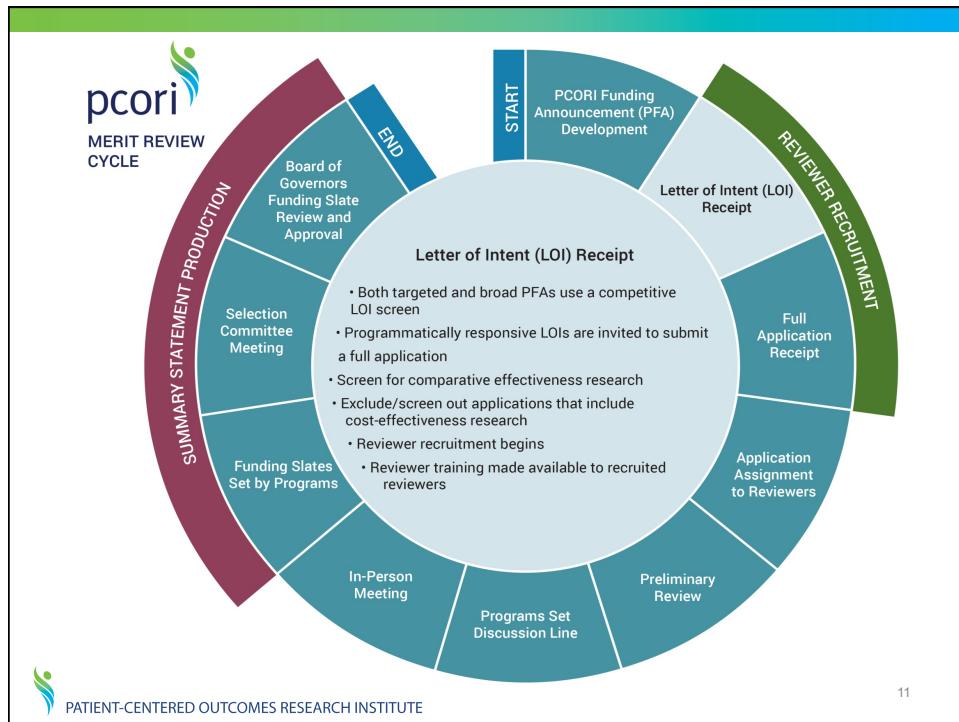
Where Do Our Reviewers Come From?



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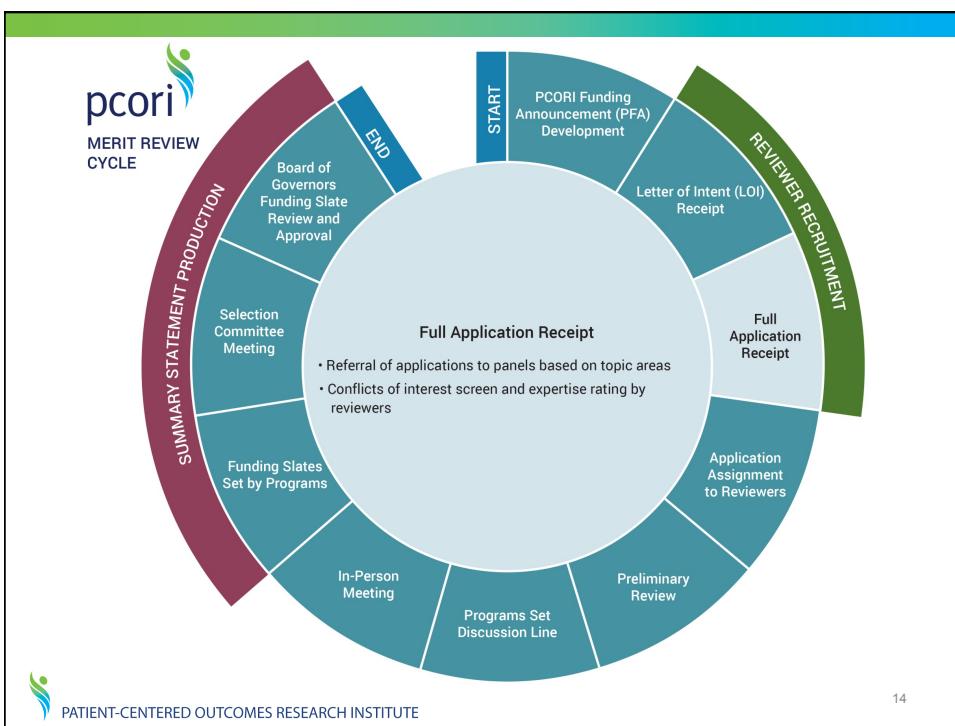
Recruiting Reviewers

- Targeted recruitment of reviewers and panel Chair following based on topic areas of accepted LOIs
- Reviewers invited based on expertise/perspective



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Application Assignments

Application assignments based on

Expertise

Consideration of COI

All panel reviewers have training

Web Based Training

Program-led Webinars

About 6 applications per reviewer

Patient and Other Stakeholder reviewers receive additional training

Approximately 4 weeks to review assigned applications

Mentor program supplements training

Additional training aids such as Methodology 101



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Mentor Program

Provides patient and other stakeholder reviewers the support they need to

Complete written critiques that are informative for applicants and program staff

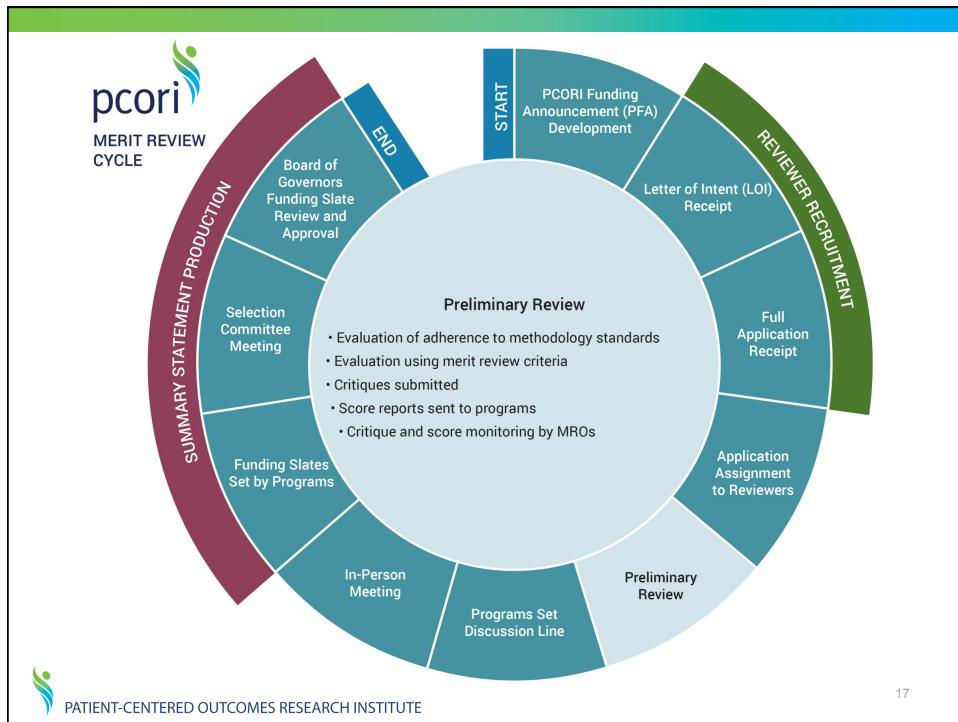
Participate effectively at the panel meeting

Enjoy participating in the PCORI Merit Review process



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Critique Review by MROs and Mentors

- All reviewers write a critique for each of their assigned applications and provide criterion scores and overall scores
- All reviewers will receive feedback on written critiques from Mentors and Merit Review Officers who review critiques as panel members complete them
 - Clarifies goals of PFA and content of critiques
 - Helps reviewers express their unique perspective in a manner that is actionable by the applicant
 - Ensures fair and consistent review



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Merit Review Criteria		Patient and Other Stakeholder Reviewers	Scientist Reviewers
	Criterion #1: Impact of the condition on the health of individuals and population		✓
	Criterion #2: Potential for the study to improve healthcare and outcomes	✓	✓
	Criterion #3: Technical merit		✓
	Criterion #4: Patient-centeredness	✓	✓
	Criterion #5: Patient and other stakeholder engagement	✓	✓

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We Require Patient-Centeredness and Patient and Other Stakeholder Engagement	
Patient-Centeredness	Patient and Other Stakeholder Engagement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the project aim to answer questions or examine outcomes that matter to patients within the context of patient preferences? • Research questions and outcomes should reflect what is important to patients and caregivers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients are partners in research, not just “subjects” • Active and meaningful engagement between scientists, patients, and other stakeholders • Community, patient, and caregiver involvement already in existence or a well-thought out plan throughout the project

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Additional Considerations

Adherence to
Methodology
Standards

Human
Subjects
Protections



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Scoring Range

A score of 1 indicates an exceptionally strong application.

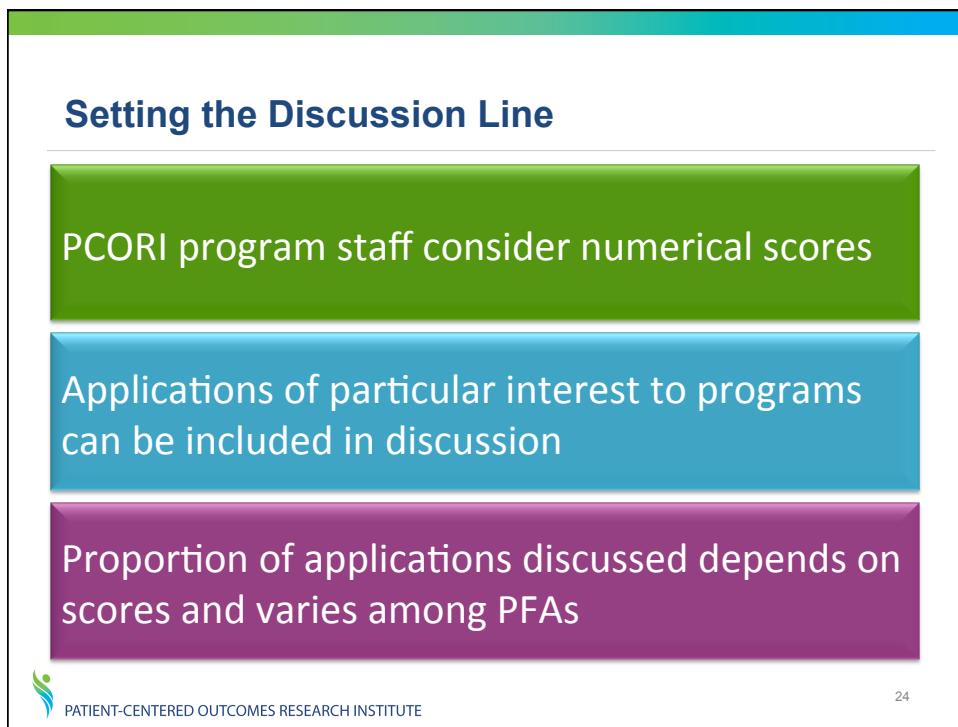
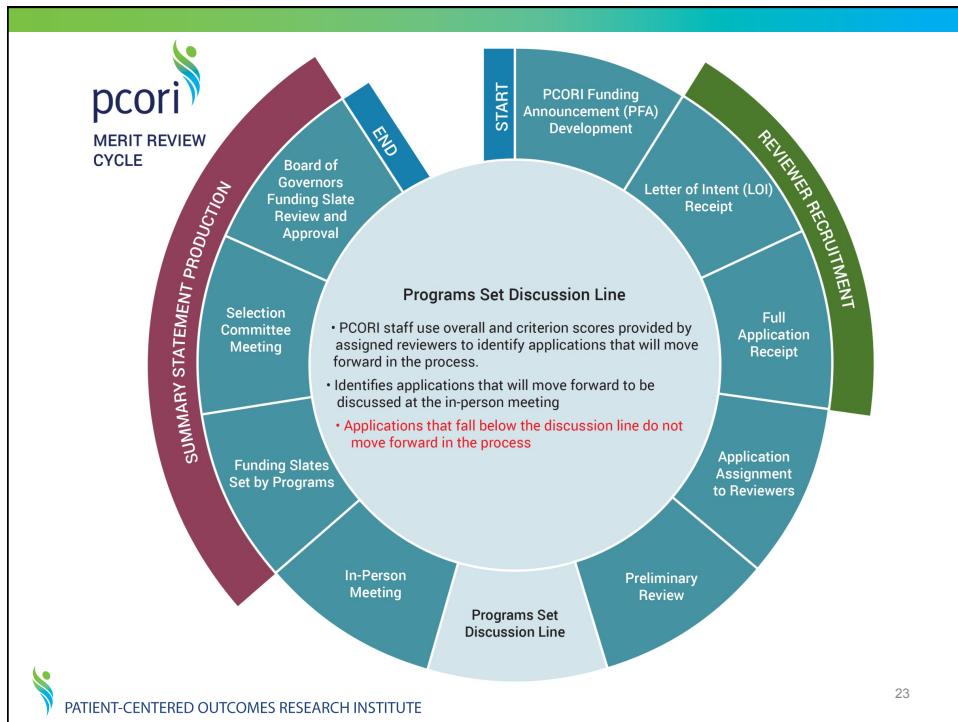
Range	Score	Descriptor	Characteristics
High	1	Exceptional	Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses
	2	Outstanding	Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses
	3	Excellent	Very strong with only some minor weaknesses
Medium	4	Very Good	Strong but with numerous minor weaknesses
	5	Good	Strong but with at least one moderate weakness
	6	Satisfactory	Some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses
Low	7	Fair	Some strengths but with at least one major weakness
	8	Marginal	A few strengths and a few major weaknesses
	9	Poor	Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses

A score of 9 indicates an application with serious and substantive weaknesses.



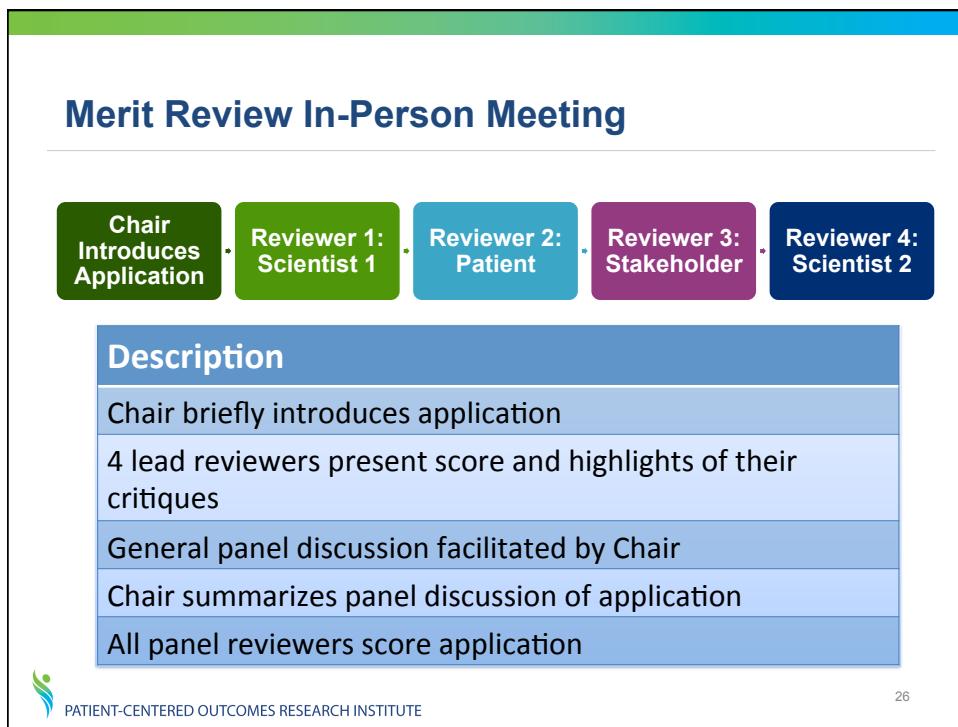
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Discussion Components

How each application addresses

- The five Merit Review criteria
- Programmatic goals as defined in the PFA

Emphasis on importance of rigorous science

- Methodological rigor in a project leads to trustworthy, patient-centered information

Resubmissions reviewed as standalone application

- Responsiveness to comments from original review are considered but not a guarantee of funding



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Strategies for Preparing a Successful Funding Application



Your application should tell the story of why the proposed study is important to all reviewers



Don't assume reviewers know something about your project that you don't address



Be clear on what is to be gained if your study is funded



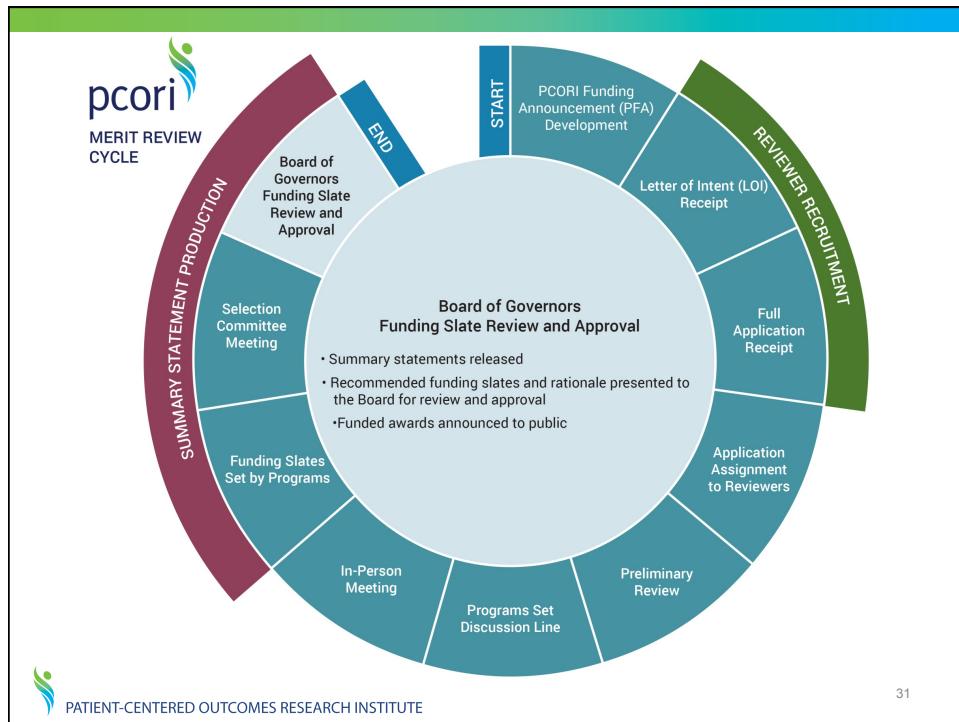
All of the guidance provided to reviewers is available at PCORI.org under **Reviewer Resources**.



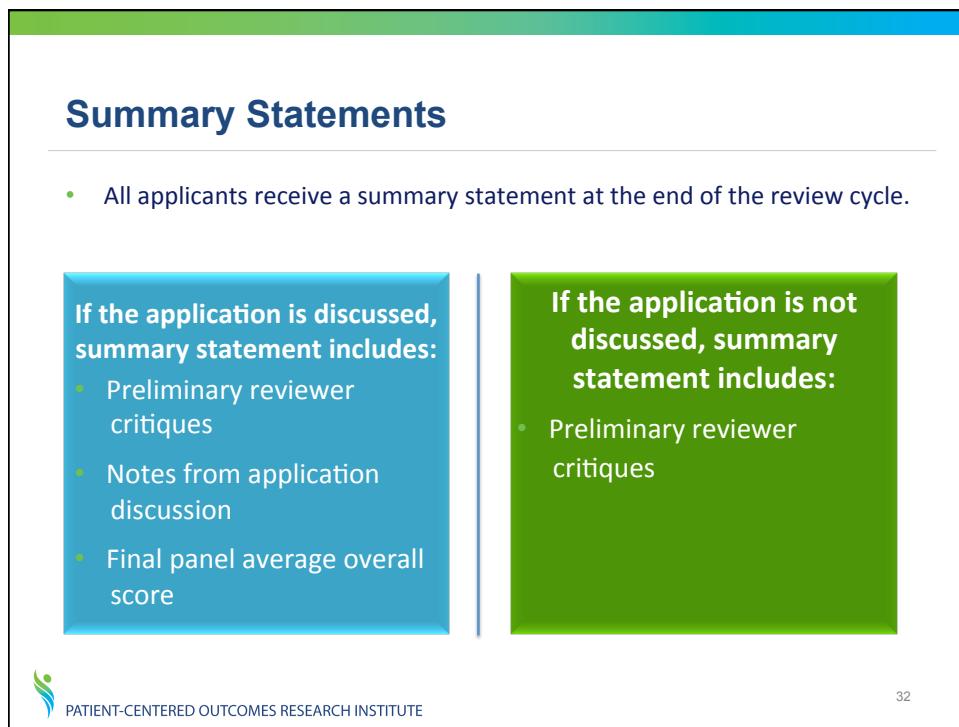
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Become a Reviewer

- PCORI review panels include scientists, patients, and other stakeholders to bring diverse perspectives to the review process.
- We continue to welcome applications to become a reviewer in all categories.



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How to Apply to be a PCORI Reviewer

Visit: www.pcori.org/content/become-reviewer

Become a Reviewer



- Qualifications
- Reviewer Expectations
- Compensation
- Training Materials



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Questions?

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Thank You!

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Merit Review Officer



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