Welcome to this overview of the Internet Assisted Review module, known as IAR.

Research grants are considered for funding by NIH and its partner agencies based upon the peer review of applications conducted by experts in the related fields.

The Internet Assisted Review system, IAR, provides reviewers with the means to electronically view grant applications, submit critiques, and score the applications they are reviewing, as well as perform other review related activities.

Before reviewing the applications in detail, reviewers need to attend to policy procedures. IAR is the place to sign a confidentiality agreement. This is used to indicate whether they are or are not a federally registered lobbyist. Federally registered lobbyists cannot serve on a review panel and are denied access to meeting information. Non-lobbyists need to complete the form in order to be granted access to the meeting materials.

Also, within IAR, reviewers certify their employment status, and indicate if they have any Conflicts of Interests with the applications they are reviewing, or the other reviewers, and sign the COI statement.

While in the IAR system, reviewers can access their Personal Profile to take care of the personal information related to the review process, such as ensuring a proper email address is on file to receive review related correspondence; or signing up for reviewer reimbursements.

IAR is accessed via eRA Commons. Reviewers must have a Commons account to use IAR. Once logged in, reviewers click the Internet Assisted Review (IAR) button on the main screen. Or they can click on the Main Menu icon, in the upper left corner, and select Internet Assisted Review from the menu option. Note that reviewers cannot access applications in IAR until they are invited to a meeting by the scientific review officer, SRO.

If a reviewer already has an account as a principal investigator, PI, they are assigned the IAR role when they are invited to the meeting.

If the reviewer is new to eRA Commons, the meeting invitation walks them through the process of setting up a new account.

If the person has previously served as a reviewer, they can use their existing eRA Commons account that already has the IAR role assigned to it.

Reviewers review the grant applications for scientific and technical merit, write a critique on each and score the applications. The critique is uploaded into IAR as a Word document and the numerical score is entered at that time. Some meetings use an online critique screen, where review criteria for the applications are conveniently available on the screen and the critique and scores are entered online.

We realize that this is a lot of information to absorb, so we have several resources to help you along the way. If you need technical assistance with IAR, please contact your SRO, or the eRA Service Desk.

Resources
- Information for Reviewers
  https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/review.htm
- Videos for Reviewers
  - Navigating Internet Assisted Review (IAR)
    https://era.nih.gov/era-training/era-videos.htm#reviewers
  - IAR Virtual Meeting Videos
    https://era.nih.gov/era-training/era-videos.htm#IARvirtualmeeting
- eRA Service Desk
  https://www.era.nih.gov/need-help

We very much appreciate your service as a reviewer. This concludes this overview of the Internet Assisted Review module, IAR. Thank you for watching.