



April 7, 2026

NSC Research to Impact: *Building Science Communications Program*

2026-2027 Request for Applications (RFA)

One of the goals of the Nathan Shock Centers Coordinating Center (NSC3) is to increase the visibility of the Nathan Shock Centers (NSCs) in the field of aging biology. The NSC Research to Impact: Building Science Communications Program seeks to grow the communications capacity of early stage investigators in aging biology by providing targeted training to enhance their ability to engage and effectively disseminate their work to scientific, industry, and clinical audiences, as well as to non-scientific audiences such as funders, policymakers, and elected officials and their staffs.

Program Structure

The Research to Impact: Building Science Communications Program is a six-month program for up to 10 early stage investigators (ESI, as defined [here](#) by the NIH) with an interest in science communication. The program will help participants build their knowledge, skills, and confidence to translate their research into a range of generally shorter forms and media, appropriate for diverse audiences.

The Research to Impact curriculum includes:

- **2-3 interactive, didactic learning sessions**
These sessions will be conducted via Zoom and cover core principles of strategic communications for a range of policy, regulatory, funding, or other non-research or non-scientific audiences, as well as scientific and academic audiences. Depending on the needs and interests of the participants, topics may include: formulating clear and concise messages, issue framing, and value proposition statements; using social media; crafting short briefs and presentations on complex topics; delivering effective introductions and elevator speeches; creating infographics and other data visualizations; designing engaging scientific posters and abstracts; and building a thought leadership profile.
- **One-on-one coaching with senior scientists and communications experts**
- **Office Hours virtual sessions (4-6)**
In these informal, one-hour Zoom sessions, participants can bring a range of scientific communications issues and receive feedback from senior researchers, experienced communications professionals, and their peers.
- **Capstone project**
This project would be identified by the participant and could include efforts such as:



developing/expanding a social media presence; building a media or publicity plan around soon-to-be-released research; writing an op-ed or commentary; conducting policy outreach; preparing a Ted-style or community talk; creating data visualizations or high quality graphics for use in presentations; developing a website or podcast; or similar communications-related projects.

Participants will also be invited to present their work at a session to be held at the NSC 2027 Annual Meeting.

Final program content will be shaped by results of a survey of Research to Impact cohort members conducted early in the program, to ascertain their interests and needs.

Eligibility

- Early stage investigator ([as defined by the NIH](#)) with a strong interest in science communication, and
- Affiliation with one of the eight Nathan Shock Centers or another academic or independent research institution in the United States.
- Conducting research on aging biology, geroscience, or related discipline.

Timeline

Application process opens	April 2026
Application deadline	June 30, 2026
First cohort chosen and informed Participant survey distributed to explore special interests	September 30, 2026
Kick-off and Didactic session 1	November 2026
Office Hours 1	November 2026
Didactic session 2	December 2026
Office Hours 2	January 2026
Didactic session 3	February 2026
Office Hours 3	March 2026
Office Hours 4 (if needed)	April 2027
Capstone session at NSC 2027 Annual Meeting	April 2027



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Application

Interested candidates can access the application [here](#). Please complete the application and upload the following items in PDF format: (1) Application form; (2) a Statement of Interest; (3) an NIH biosketch; and (4) a Letter of Support.

The application deadline is Tuesday, June 30, 2026 at 5pm ET and applications must be uploaded [here](#).

All questions about this RFA and its requirements can be addressed to contact@nathanshockcenters.org.