



Funding for Early Stage Investigators: Needs and Opportunities



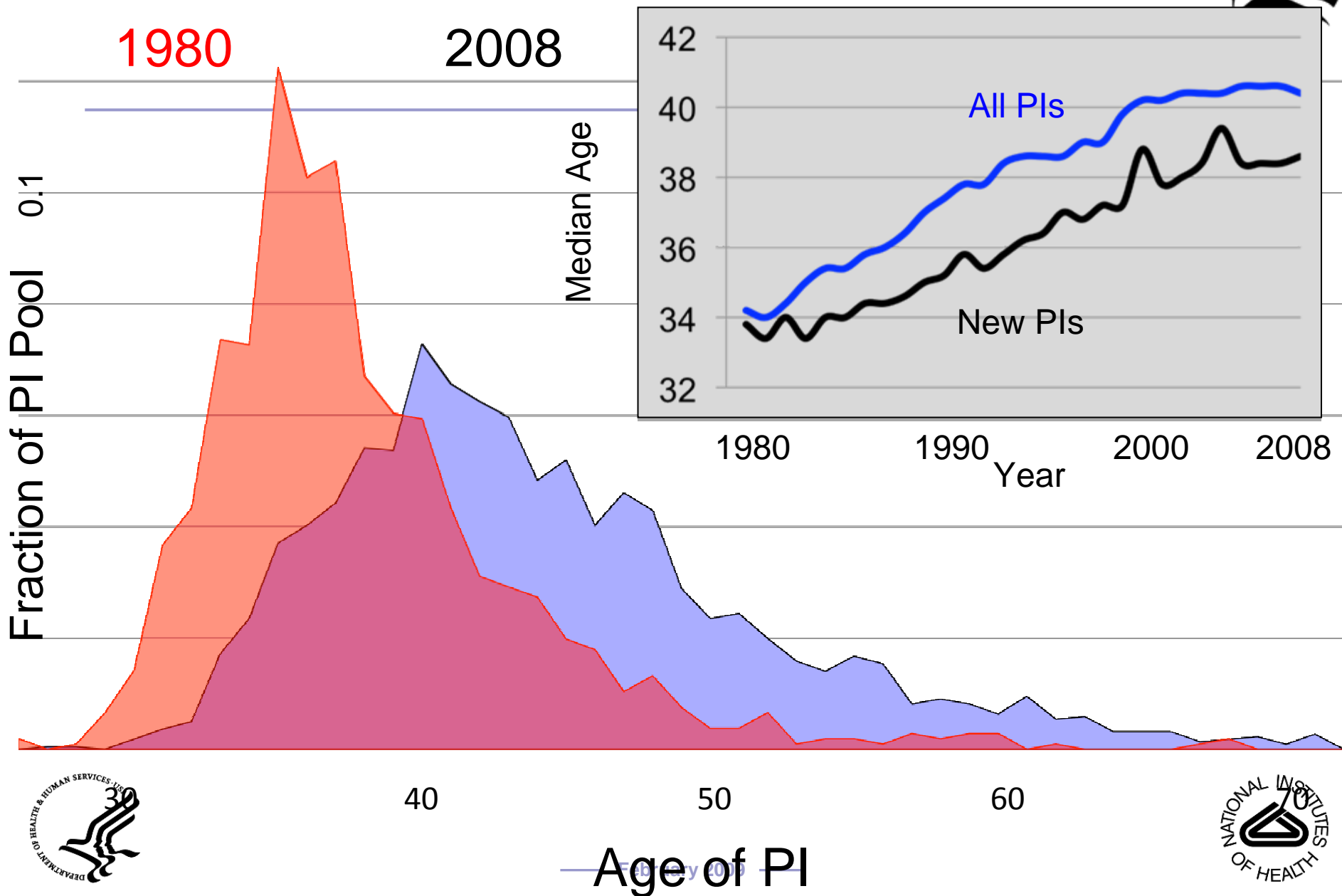
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The Need for Support for Early Stage Investigators

- Early stage investigators require substantial funding to launch their independent careers and make exciting contributions to science
- Many standard peer review processes tend to be conservative, favoring a high likelihood of success over innovation
- Substantial preliminary results are often needed for a successful application





The NIH Director's New Innovator Award



- Designed to encourage and support early stage investigators (within 10 years of doctorate) to do innovative research
- Launched February 2007
- 14 awards budgeted



The NIH Director's New Innovator Award



- **>2000 applications received in 2007!**
- 30 awards funded in a range of biomedical research areas in 2007
- 31 awards funded in 2008
- Competition for 2009 ongoing



The NIH Director's New Innovator Award

- Letter to Science Magazine

“Unfortunately...Dr. Jeremy Berg perpetuates the myth that “early career types are historically the ones who come up with the most innovative ideas”...The **available empirical evidence suggests that middle-aged scientists are more apt... to make revolutionary discoveries.**”

- K. Brad Wray, State University of New York





The NIH Director's New Innovator Award

- Data from Wray's references
- Key scientists from Thomas Kuhn's "The Structure of Scientific Revolutions:
Average age 37.4 years
- Collection of Nobel Laureates:
Average age 38.7 years
- New Innovators: Average age 37!





Other Early Stage Investigator Programs

- NSF CAREER Award Program
- DOD Young Investigator Programs
- DOE Outstanding Junior Investigator Programs
- NASA New Investigator Program

