

Integrative Organismal Systems Preliminary Proposal Pilot



MPS AC Meeting
April 4, 2014



**Directorate for Biological Sciences
(BIO)**

Emerging Frontiers (EF)

**Division of
Biological
Infrastructure
(DBI)**

**Human
Resources**

**Research
Resources**

**Division of
Environmental
Biology
(DEB)**

**Population &
Community Ecology**

**Ecosystem
Science**

**Evolutionary
Processes**

**Systematics &
Biodiversity
Science**

**Division of
Integrative
Organismal Systems
(IOS)**

**Behavioral
Systems**

**Developmental
Systems**

Neural Systems

**Physiological &
Structural Systems**

**Plant Genome
Research Program**

**Division of Molecular
and Cellular
Biosciences
(MCB)**

**Cellular Dynamics
& Function**

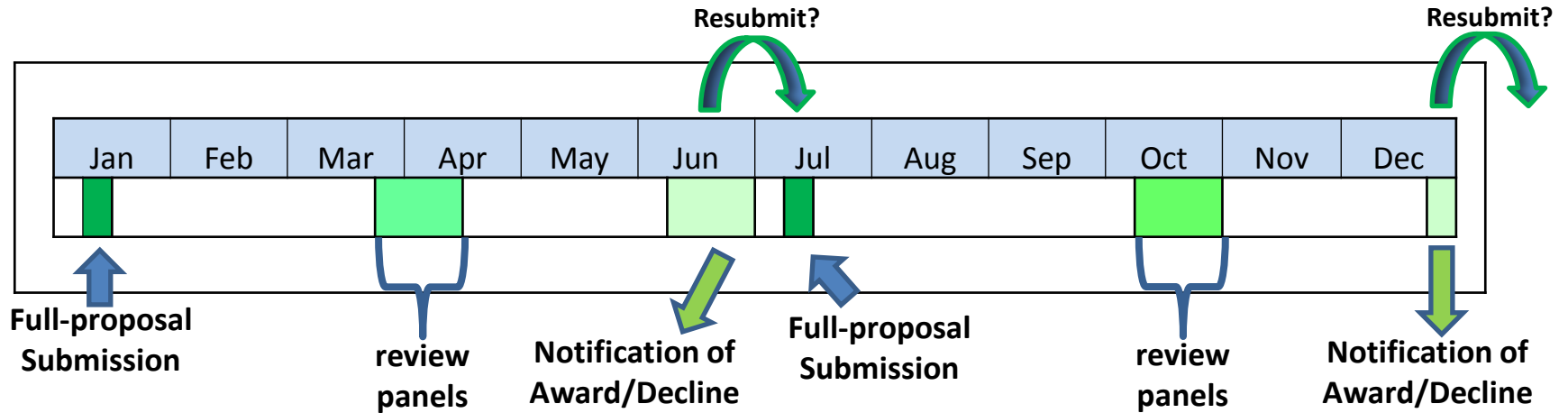
Genetic Mechanisms

Molecular Biophysics

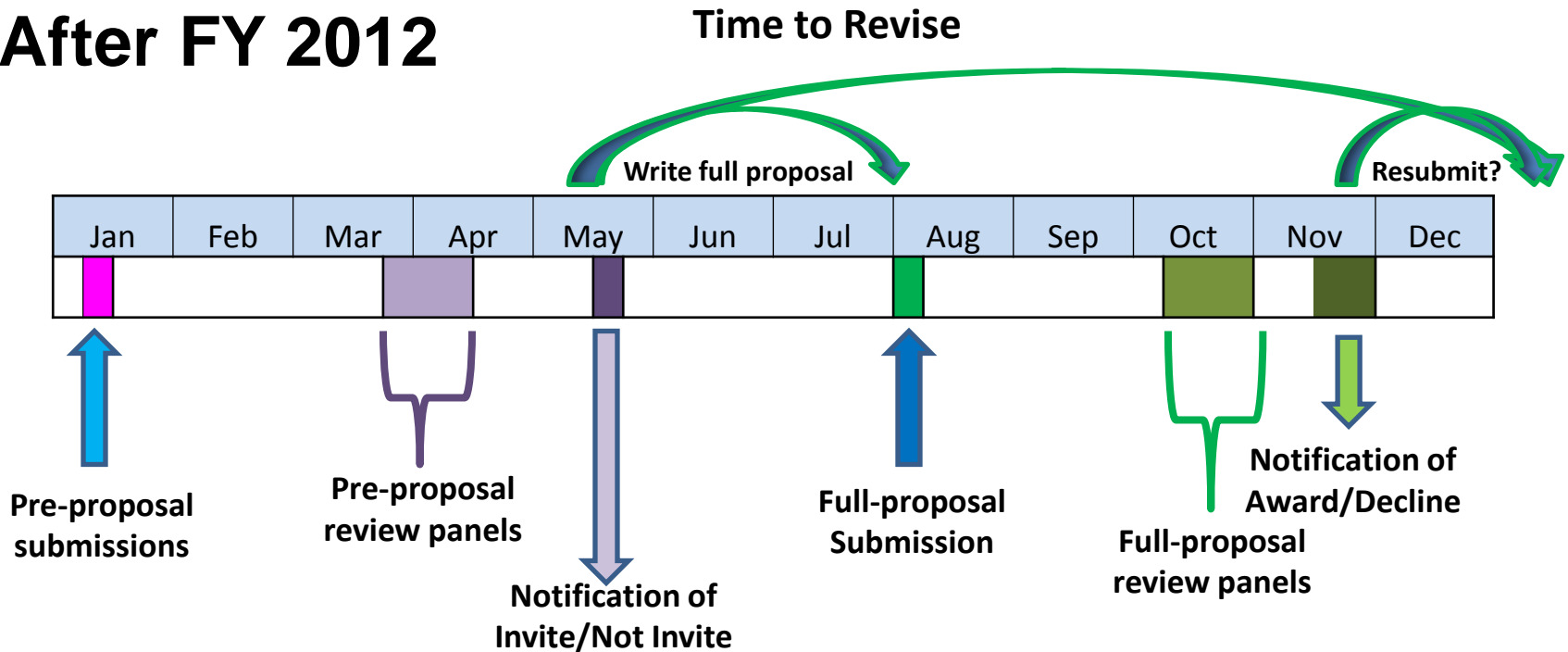
**Systems & Synthetic
Biology**

IOS Core Programs

Before FY 2012



After FY 2012



Why Were Changes Made?

- **In the Community**
 - PIs writing more and more proposals to get funded
 - Reviewers being asked to provide more and more *ad hoc* and panel reviews
- **At NSF**
 - Budgets flat or decreasing
 - Staffing flat
 - Increasing number of proposal submissions
 - Decreasing funding rates
 - Harder to find panel and *ad hoc* reviewers

Anticipated Benefits

- **Benefits to PIs**

- Shorter format so less time invested up front
- Feedback early in project development
- Higher success rates for invited full proposals

- **Benefits to the Community**

- Fewer *ad-hoc* review requests since only used for full proposals
- Higher quality reviews of full proposals

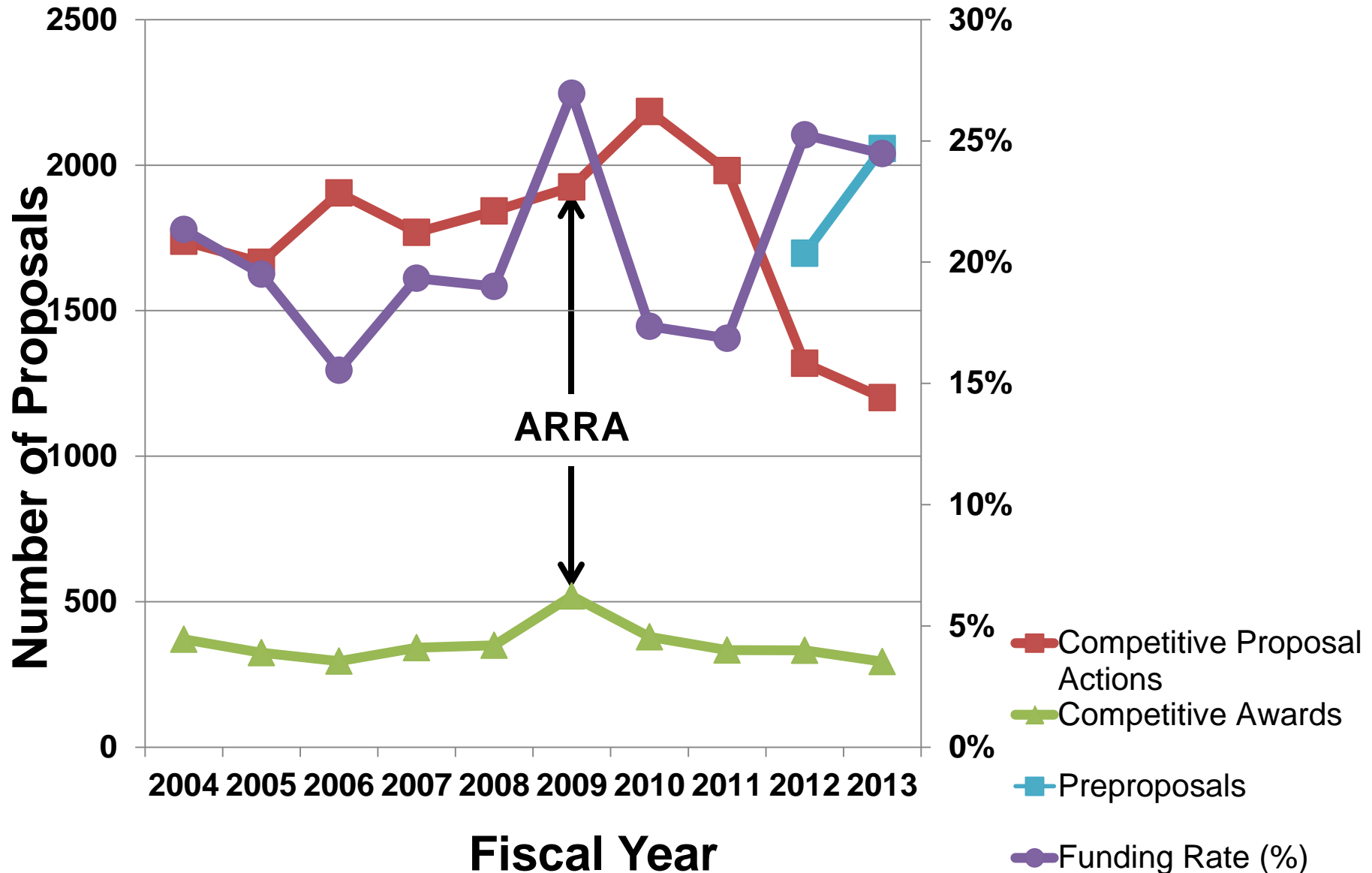
- **Benefits to NSF**

- More manageable workflow
- Higher panelist/*ad hoc* review return

Potential Concerns

- Potential negative impacts of a once-a-year proposal deadline
 - System will be flooded with pre-proposals
 - No chance to submit twice per year
- Potential negative impacts on groups of concern
- Potential negative impacts on quality of proposals and merit review process
- Timing of submissions

Proposal Load & Success Rates



Groups of Concern

- Beginning investigators, underrepresented minorities, women, Minority Serving Institutions, underrepresented minorities and EPSCoR states were not negatively impacted by the change at the invite stage
- The overall funding rate of these groups in the award portfolio remains unchanged although sample sizes are small

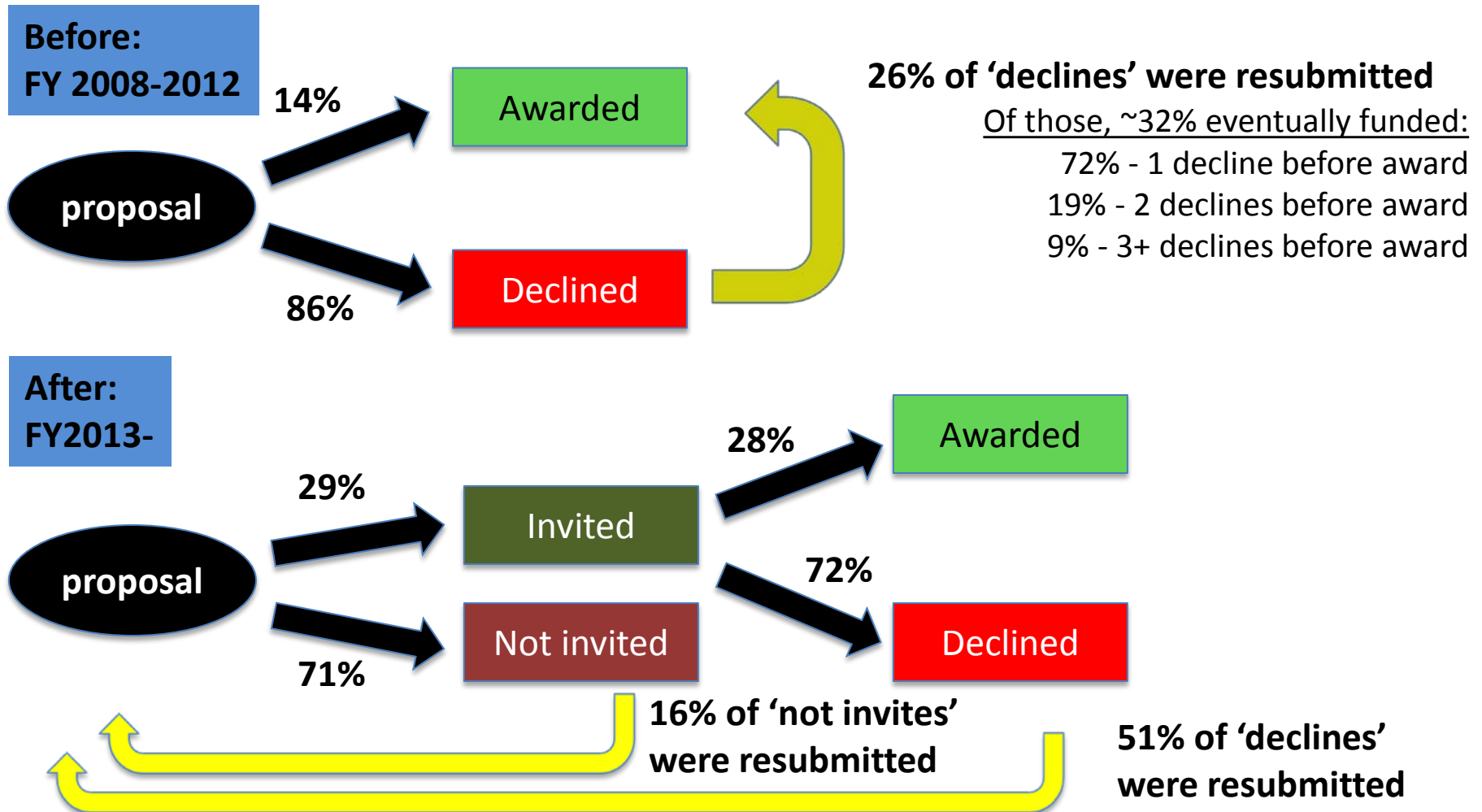
Quality of Review

- Panel survey responses are increasingly positive
 - Content of proposals adequate for review
 - The panelists feel that they are providing useful feedback
 - The top 20% of proposals have increased in quality with respect to Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts

Workload

- Most PIs are still submitting one or two proposals per year
- The majority of panelists feel that they are spending less time on proposal review than before
- IOS is requesting 25% of the number of *ad hoc* reviews requested before the change to preliminary proposals
- There has been a slight increase in *ad hoc* return rate for the core programs since the switch

Preliminary Analysis: Tracking the Fate of a Proposal



Questions?