

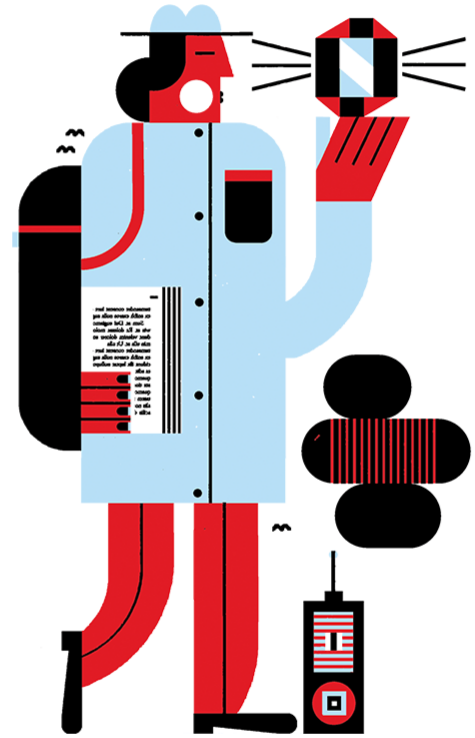


NSERC Update CAP Congress 2023

Presented by: Catherine Harrison

June 21, 2023

1. NSERC News



Tri-agency EDI Action Plan

Objective 1: Fair access to Tri-agency research support

- 1.1 **Comprehensive data** is available to help identify EDI related barriers and inform decision-making in granting agency funding programs
- 1.2 **All policies, plans, programs and processes** related to allocating granting agency support are **equitable and inclusive**, and mitigate bias against researchers from underrepresented groups
- 1.3 **Diverse participants** are included in peer review/selection committee and advisory/governance board decision making.
- 1.4 **EDI considerations are integral to criteria used to assess excellence** of researchers, research design and practices, and approaches to team-based research and training.

[Available online](#)

NSERC News

Tri-agency EDI Action Plan

Objective 2: Equitable participation in the research ecosystem

- 2.1 **Tri-agency** helps drive systemic and research culture change within Canada's post-secondary system.
- 2.2 **The number of researchers from underrepresented groups** entering, participating and remaining in the research ecosystem is **more representative of the Canadian population.**

[Available online](#)

NSERC News

NSERC webpage for equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI)

True to its commitment to supporting research excellence, NSERC has launched an [Equity, diversity and inclusion](#) webpage to help the research community to easily access information on NSERC's EDI-related actions, programs and policies.

The new EDI hub includes information on:

- EDI policies related to the **Review process** and **Career interruptions**;
- **Grants and awards** that address barriers and biases experienced by underrepresented groups;
- concrete **Actions** NSERC is taking to support EDI;
- **Data** collected and used by NSERC to support EDI goals; and
- **Resources** to assist NSE researchers with integrating EDI considerations in their work.

NSERC News

Promotion of broader and fairer application assessments

- NSERC has posted a link to the DORA and Luxembourg National Research Foundation's video – [Broad, balanced and responsible: a practical guide for research evaluators](#). French translation was carried out by NSERC.
 - The 5-min video contains 6 practical tips for fostering a more holistic evaluation process.

Balanced, broad, and responsible: A practical guide for research evaluators



Indigenous Research

- Tri-Agency Reference Group for the Appropriate Review of Indigenous Research
 - NSERC Definition of Indigenous Research
 - Letters of Support from Indigenous Organizations
 - Guiding principles for the review of Indigenous Research
 - NSERC secretarial support beginning April 2023
- Indigenous Scholars Awards and Supplements (ISAS) pilot launched in September 2022, NSERC and SSHRC CGS-M awards of \$17,500 with \$5,000 supplement
- CREATE
- NSERC Indigenous Student Ambassadors (NISA) – 7 awards
- Discovery Horizons made 16 awards, with 25% involving Indigenous Research

Tri-Agency Research Data Management (RDM) Policy



Institutional Strategies

Post-secondary institutions and research hospitals eligible to administer CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC funds are required to publish an RDM strategy.

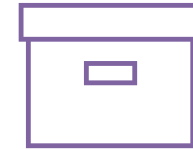
Over 120 strategies were received by the agencies by the deadline of March 1, 2023



Data Management Plans (DMPs)

Certain funding opportunities will require DMPs to be submitted at time of application. NSERC's upcoming pilot:

***Subatomic Physics
Discovery Grants –
Individual and Project***



Data Deposit

Grant recipients will be required to deposit into a digital repository all digital research data, metadata and code that directly support the research conclusions in journal publications and pre-prints that arise from agency-supported research.

In the planning stage

Data Management Plan Pilot in Subatomic Physics

- Data Management Plans (DMPs) will be piloted in the Subatomic Physics Discovery Grants – Individual and Project for competition 2024 (to launch in summer 2023)
- Over the past year, NSERC has engaged with the Subatomic Physics community and international funders
- Strategic decisions that will guide the pilot:
 - 2-page limit for free form DMPs or a file size limit for DMPs produced with DMP Assistant
 - DMPs will not be formally evaluated but reviewers will be asked to comment on DMPs
- Broader implementation of the DMP requirement will be informed by continued engagement with the research community, CIHR, SSHRC and the Digital Research Alliance of Canada

New Measures to Enhance Research Security

The February 2023 [tri-ministerial statement](#) on protecting Canada's research requested **new measures**:

- *“Research grant applications proposing to conduct research in a sensitive research area will not be funded if any of the researchers working on the project are affiliated with a university, research institute or laboratory connected to military, national defence or state security entities of foreign state actors that pose a risk to Canada’s national security.”*

Clear guidance will be provided by the Government of Canada in the coming months to ensure that the research community can appropriately comply with these new measures once they are implemented.

The Government of Canada, granting agencies, and research community have a **shared responsibility** to:

- Protect the integrity of our research ecosystem and to safeguard it from activities that undermine its principles of openness, transparency, merit, academic freedom, and reciprocity; and,
- Ensure that research security measures (new and existing) do not lead to discrimination against or profiling of any member of the community.

RGS Program Updates

Discovery Research Program Modernization

Objectives



Fund research excellence with grants that allow researchers to maintain basic research programs



Simplify the grant application process and reduce the burden.



Develop new ways of communicating the value of investments made in basic research.

RGS Program Updates

What We've Heard

Funding levels

- Discovery Grants should better support HQP and at minimum cover the costs of hiring one student
- Average grant needs to be higher to counter inflation and rising cost of research
- Discovery Research requires more investment for Canadians remain competitive internationally

Simplifying

- Reducing the burden of peer review is important; however should be balanced with maintaining high quality of decision making
- Maintaining flexibility of research programs is key

Funding distribution

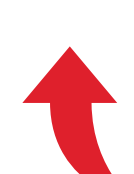
- Maintaining equitable access to funding for underrepresented groups is a priority
- Maintaining support for research at small institutions is important
- Researchers need more support in early stages of their careers



Grants

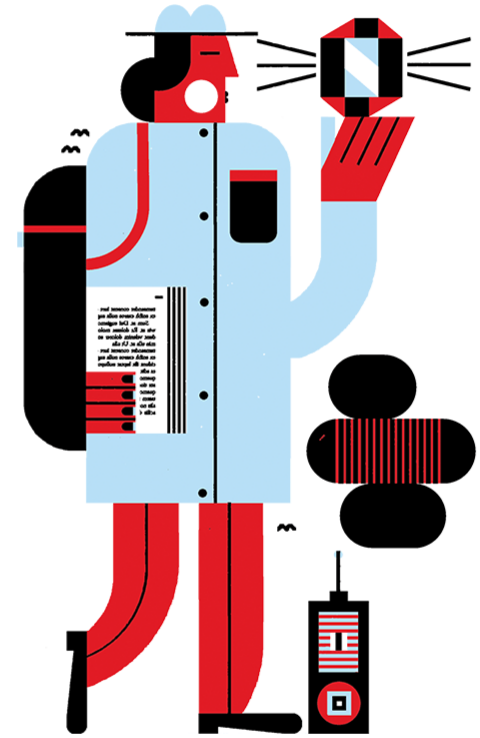


Burden



Equity

2. 2023 Discovery Grants Results – Overview



Thank You!

Almost 4,000 Discovery Research Program Applications received

420+ Evaluation Group (EG) Members

700+ internal reviewers

6,000+ external reviewers

I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who participated in the Discovery Research Programs' peer review process this year. This includes NSERC's flagship program, Discovery Grants, as well as Subatomic Physics grants, Ship Time grants, Northern Research Supplements, Discovery Horizons grants, and Research Tools and Instruments grants.

...

Undeniably, you play a crucial role in making discovery research in Canada possible. Thank you for your commitment and contributions.

– Marc Fortin, NSERC Vice-President, Research Grants and Scholarships

2023 Discovery Grants Results - Overview

Discovery Grants Competition 2023

Special thanks to the Physics EG / SAPES members and chairs:

- Group Chair: **Kristin Poduska**
- Section Chairs for Physics: **Laura Filion, David Fleming, Christopher Homes, Duncan O'Dell, Marcin Sawicki**
- Section Chairs for SAPES: **Ingo Wiedenhoever and Alison Lister**
- Members of Physics EG: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/committees-comites/Physics-Physique_eng.asp
- Members of SAPES: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/committees-comites/SubatomicPhysics-PhysiqueSubatomique_eng.asp

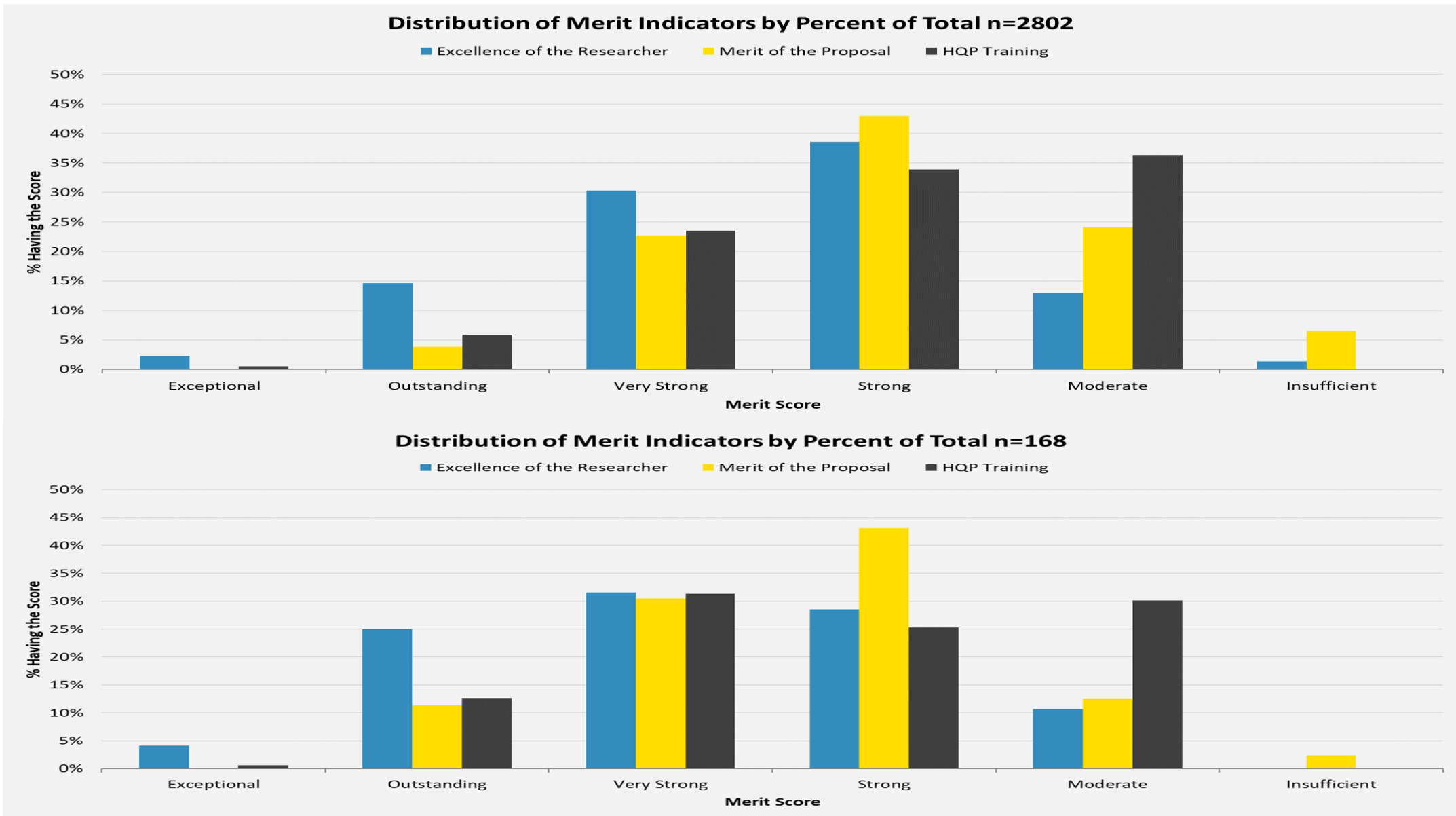
2023 Discovery Grants Results – Overview

Overall DG – Results by Applicant Category

	Early Career Researcher (ECR)	Established Researchers (ER)			Total
		Not Holding a Grant (ER-NHG)	Returning (ER-R)	All Established Researchers	
# of applications	868	517	1,417	1,934	2,802
# of awards	475	136	1,024	1,160	1,635
Success Rate	55%	26%	72%	60%	58%
Average Grant (yearly)	\$34,644	\$46,305	\$49,635	\$49,245	\$45,003

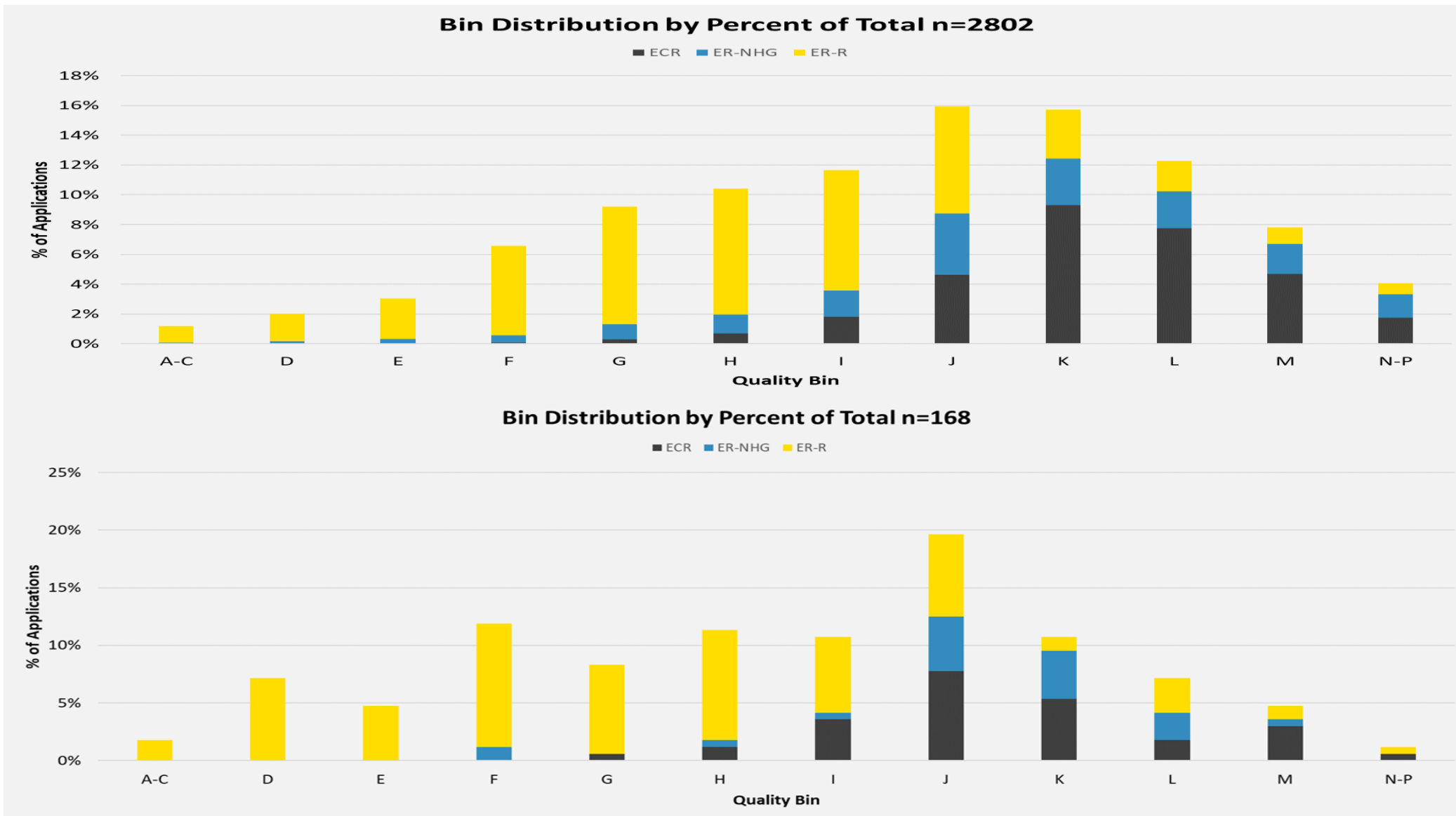
* Results presented are not official

2023 Discovery Grants Results for all EGs (top) vs Physics (bot.)



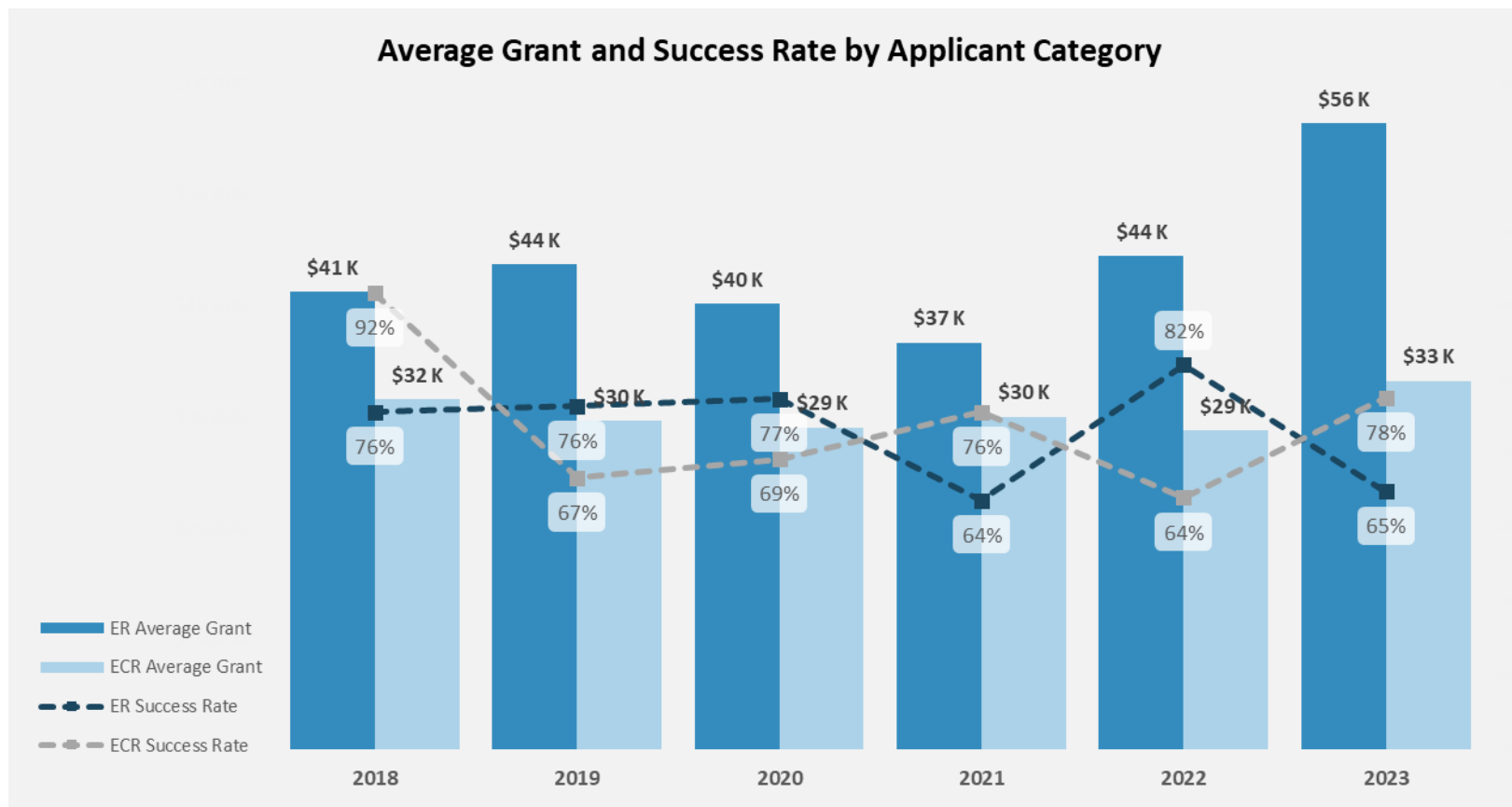
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2023 Discovery Grants Results by Applicant Category – All EGs (top) vs Physics (bot.)



* Results presented are not official

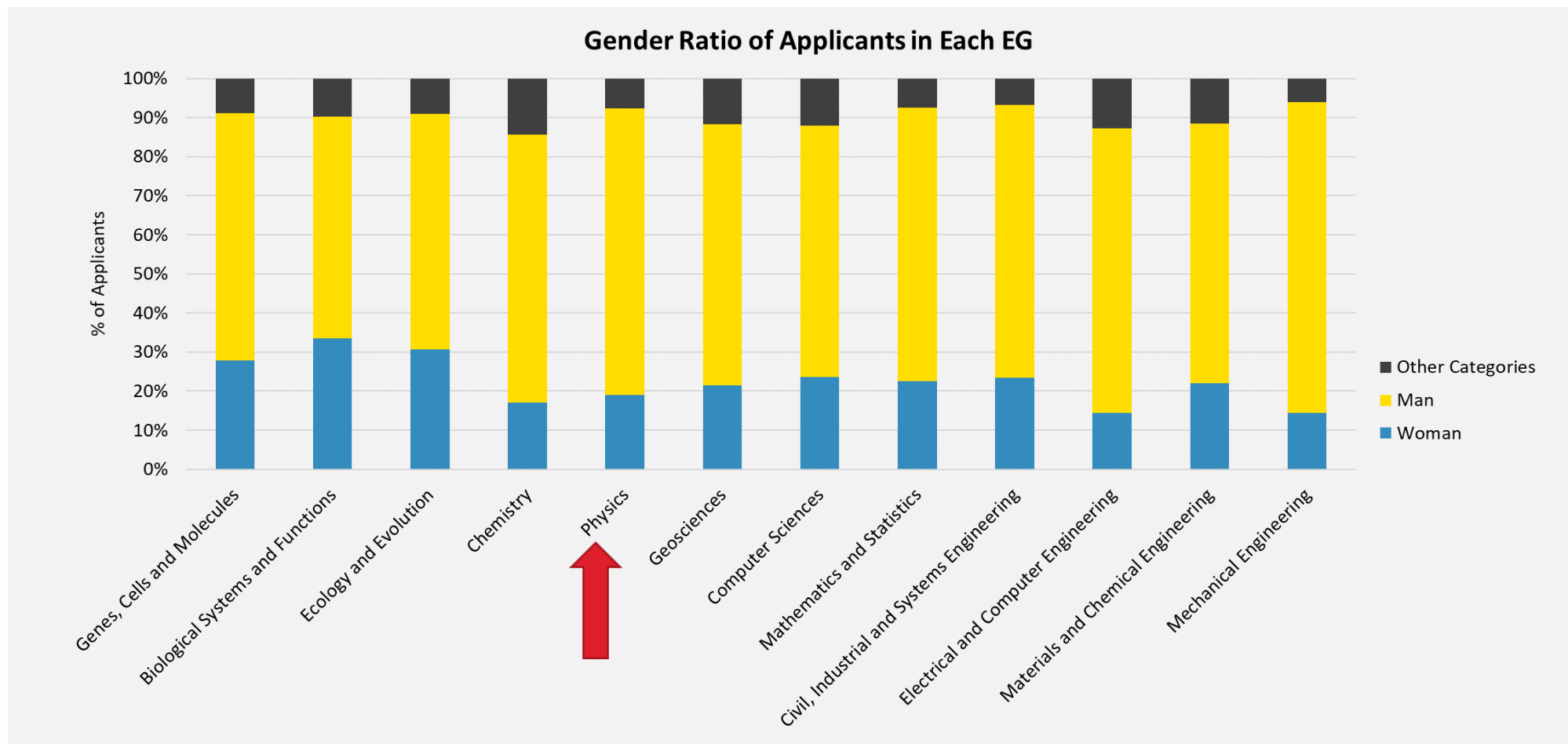
EG1505 – Physics



* Results presented are not official

2023 Discovery Grants Results – Overview

Overall DG – Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)



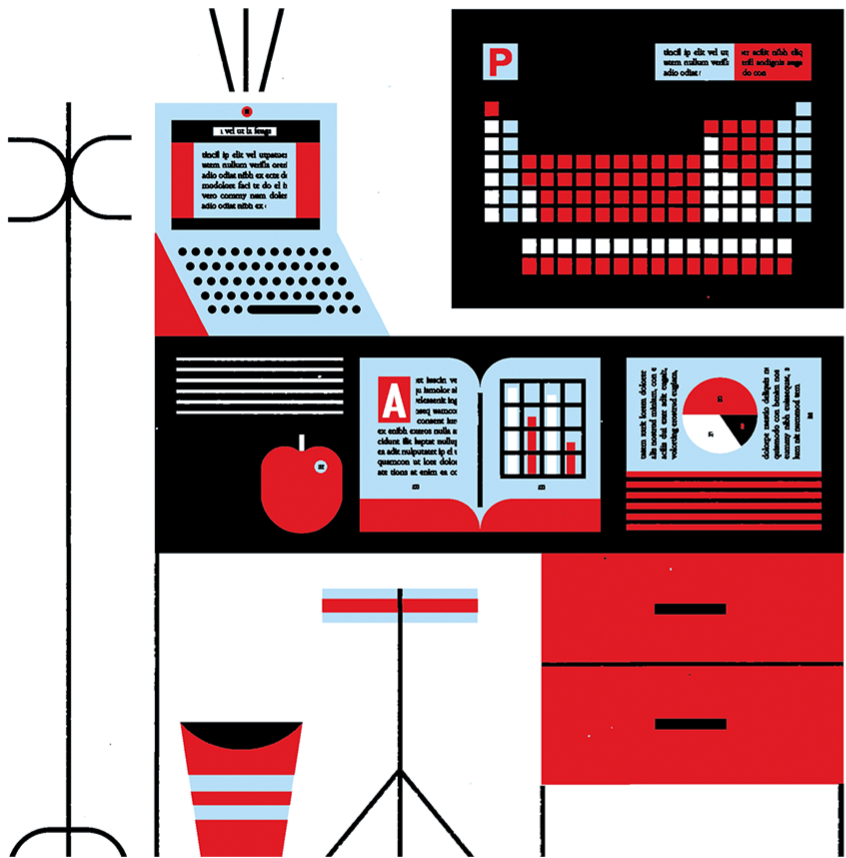
* Results presented are not official

2023 Discovery Grants Results – Overview

Overall DG – Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

		Women	Men	Other Categories
Early Career Researchers (ECR)	Number of Awards	318	507	43
	Success rate	55%	55%	49%
Established Researchers Returning (ER-R)	Number of Awards	241	996	179
	Success rate	76%	71%	73%
Established Researchers Not Holding a Grant (ER-NHG)	Number of Awards	106	359	52
	Success rate	31%	25%	23%

* Results presented are not official



Questions?

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