

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Delay on Minerva award decisions

Date: Mon, 18 Mar 2013 16:50:44 +0000

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Dear current and potential Minerva researchers,

As you may know, there is a lot of fiscal uncertainty in Washington right now. I write to alert you that this uncertain budget situation could impact the Minerva program, though we will work to mitigate effects as much as possible.

First and foremost, it is *\*possible though unlikely\** that current Minerva awards will be affected. Please continue to keep your government program manager informed of current expenditures and funding status so that we appropriately support this important work when the situation is clearer.

Secondly, though the final BAA anticipated notifications by March 15, *\*no award decisions can be made until a federal budget is approved\** for the current fiscal year

October 2012-September 2013

. This will

hopefully happen by the end of this month but it's possible the decision will be further delayed. That said, as we determine which proposals are our top finalists for potential funding, *\*we will let PIs know as soon as possible\** if their proposal is not one of those finalists.

Finally, depending on the final budget, it is possible that we might not be able to make any new awards or start new research based on the recent solicitation. This would be a great disappointment to the Minerva program, and I hope will not be the case. Again, as we have more information I will let you know.

I understand the frustration these funding uncertainties must cause you, especially as you plan now for the summer and year ahead. On behalf of my colleagues, I thank you ahead of time for your patience and understanding during this difficult time. If you have additional questions or concerns, please let me know."

Respectfully,

- Erin

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Erin Fitzgerald, Ph.D

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