



## 2012 Competition Statistics Discovery Grants Program

This report includes tables and figures that provide summary information on the 2012 Discovery Grants competition. More detailed statistics are also included in this document.

<b>SECTION 1 – FISCAL YEAR STATISTICS .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Figure 1: Expenditures in the Discovery Grants Program Elements, 1998-99 to 2012-13*</i> .....	3
<i>Figure 2: Number of Grants Funded through Individual and Team Discovery Grants (including those in Subatomic Physics) and Subatomic Physics Projects, 1998-99 to 2012-13*</i> .....	3
<i>Figure 3: Average Grant for Individual and Team Discovery Grants (including those in Subatomic Physics) and Subatomic Physics Projects, 1998-99 to 2012-13*</i> .....	4
<b>SECTION 2 – COMPETITION STATISTICS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>Table 1. Overall Comparative Statistics – 2012 Discovery Grants Competition<sup>1</sup></i> .....	5
<i>Figure 4. Distribution of Grant Levels to Successful Applicants, 2012 Competition</i> .....	6
<i>Figure 5. Change in Grant Level, 2012 Competition</i> .....	6
<i>Figure 6. Percentage Change in Grant Level, 2012 Competition</i> .....	7
<i>Figure 7. Success Rate<sup>1</sup> by Category of Individual Applicants, Competition Years 2002-12</i> .....	7
<i>Table 2. Number of Applications and Awards by Category of Applicants, 2002-12</i> .....	8
<i>Table 3. Discovery Grants<sup>1</sup> Competition Results by University, 2012 Competition</i> .....	9
<i>Table 4. Statistics by University Size, 2012 Competition</i> .....	10
<i>Table 5. Success Rate by Category of Applicants and University Size, 2009-12</i> .....	10
<i>Figure 8. Distribution of Applications<sup>1</sup> by Quality Bin</i> .....	11
<i>Table 6. Number of applications<sup>1</sup> by Quality Bins by University Size, 2012 Competition</i> .....	11
<b>SECTION 3 – STATISTICS BY EVALUATION GROUP .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<i>Table 7. Success Rate, Average Grant and Total Amount Awarded by Category of Applicant for Each Evaluation Group, 2012 Competition</i> .....	12
<i>Figure 9. Distribution of the Fraction of Applications by Quality Bin for Each Evaluation Group, 2012 Competition</i> .....	14
<b>SECTION 4 – STATISTICS BY GENDER .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<i>Table 8. Proportion of Applicants by Gender and Career Stage, 2009-12 Competitions</i> .....	20
<i>Figure 10. Discovery Grant Success Rate and Average Awarded Amount by Career Stage and Gender, 2009-12 Competitions</i> .....	20
<i>Figure 11. Discovery Grant Success Rate and Average Grant by Applicant Status and Gender, 2009-12 Competitions</i> .....	21

*Figure 12. Discovery Grant Success Rate by Gender and Evaluation Group, 2009-12 Competitions . 21*

**SECTION 5 – SURVEY OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS ..... 22**

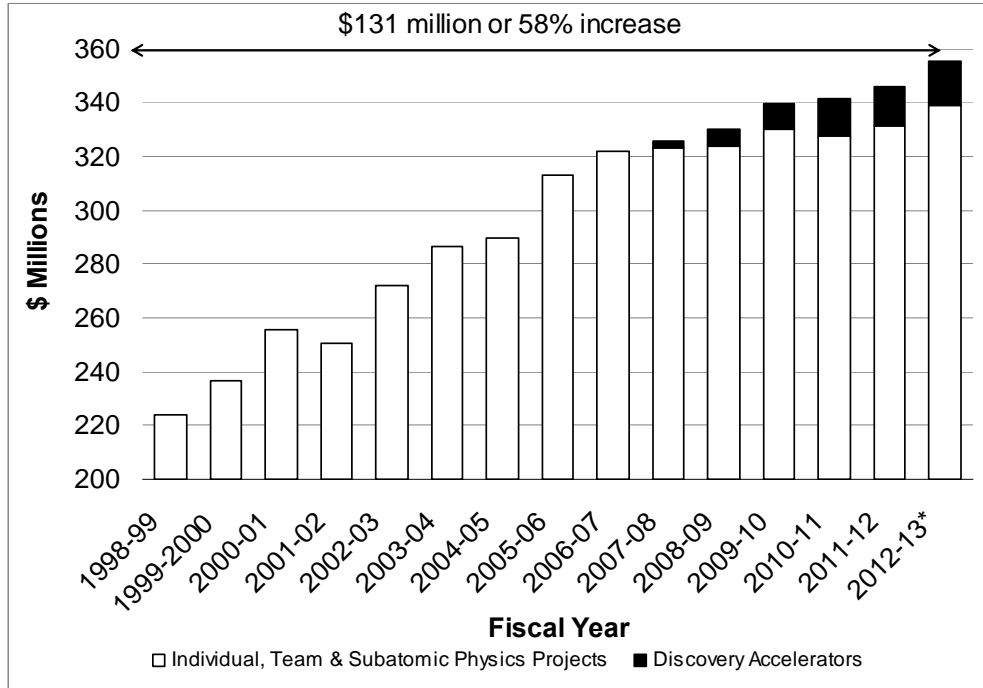
*Figure 13. Grades Assigned to the Pre-CY2009 (old) and CY2010 (new) Peer Review Systems by Members Completing their Three-Year Terms..... 23*

*Figure 14. Change in Grade Assigned to Pre CY2009 Peer Review Process Versus the CY2010 Peer Review Process by Members Completing their Three-Year Terms ..... 23*

## SECTION 1 – FISCAL YEAR STATISTICS

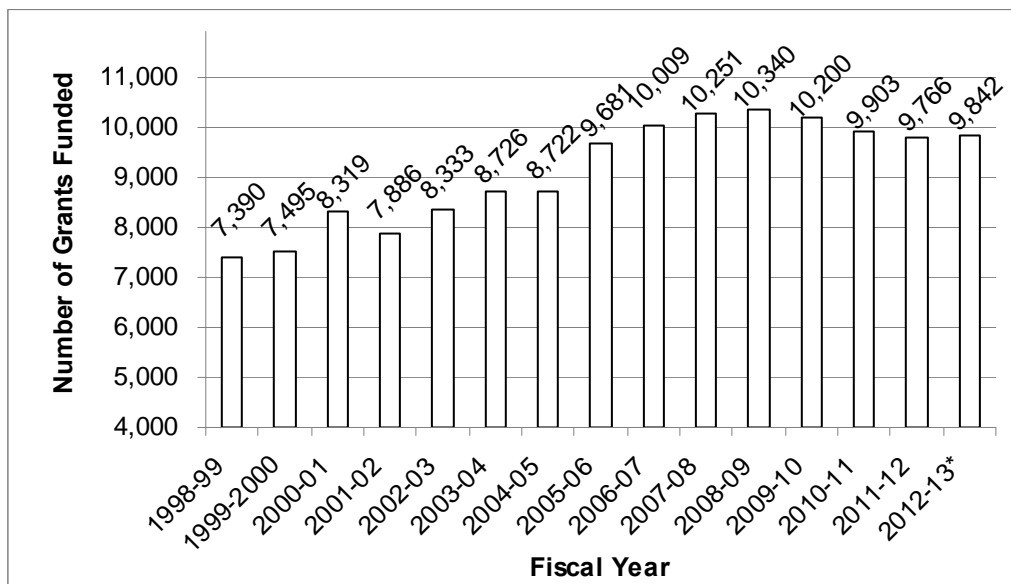
This section present data on a fiscal year basis and is inclusive of ongoing installments.

**Figure 1: Expenditures in the Discovery Grants Program Elements, 1998-99 to 2012-13\***



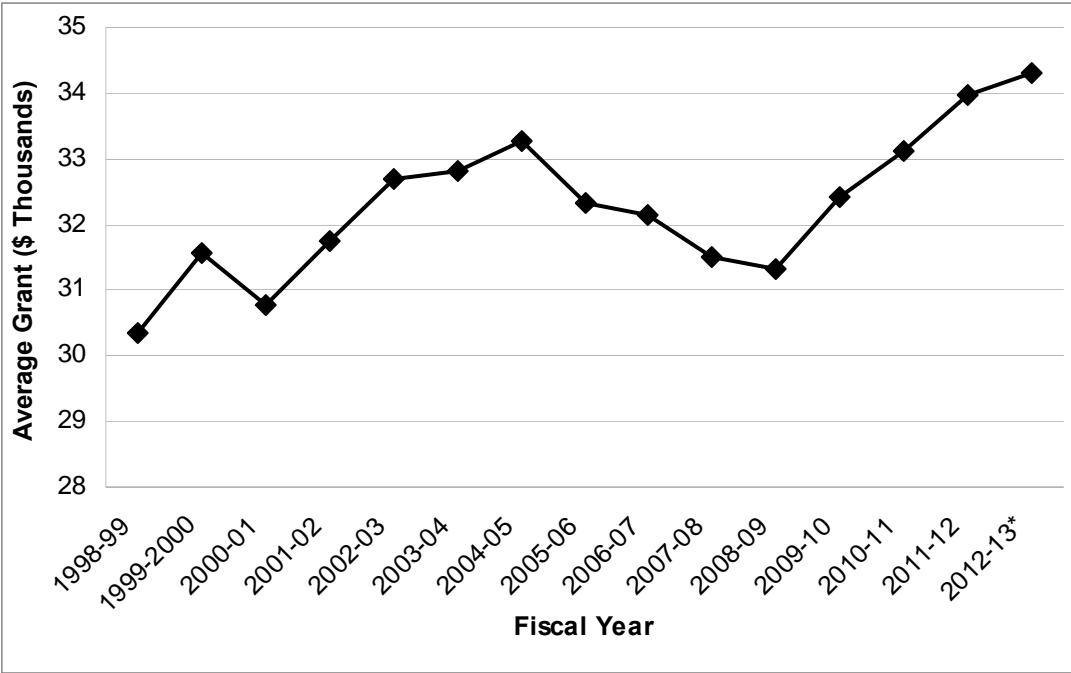
\*Projected Expenditures for 2012-13

**Figure 2: Number of Grants Funded through Individual and Team Discovery Grants (including those in Subatomic Physics) and Subatomic Physics Projects, 1998-99 to 2012-13\***



\*Projected Numbers of Grants for 2012-13

**Figure 3: Average Grant for Individual and Team Discovery Grants (including those in Subatomic Physics) and Subatomic Physics Projects, 1998-99 to 2012-13\***



\*Projected Average for 2012-13

## SECTION 2 – COMPETITION STATISTICS

The total awarded amount for the 2012 DG competition was \$67.5 millions. The number of DG applications in 2012 was 3,477. Going into the competition, there were 1,874 renewal applicants who held grants of, on average, \$30,139; after the competition, there are 2,161 funded researchers, at an average grant level of \$31,244.

NSERC continued to put a strong emphasis on giving early career researchers (ECR) a chance to demonstrate their potential and exceeded the minimum target success rate of 50 percent recommended in the [International Review](#) of the DG Program. In *Budget 2011*, NSERC was allocated additional funding "to support outstanding research in the natural sciences and engineering fields, such as the Strategy for Partnerships and Innovation (SPI)." NSERC is devoting half of this money to enhance the DGs of ECRs in the form of supplements to their grants. These supplements, of a value of up to \$5,000 per year, are included in the awarded amount and reflected in the following statistics.

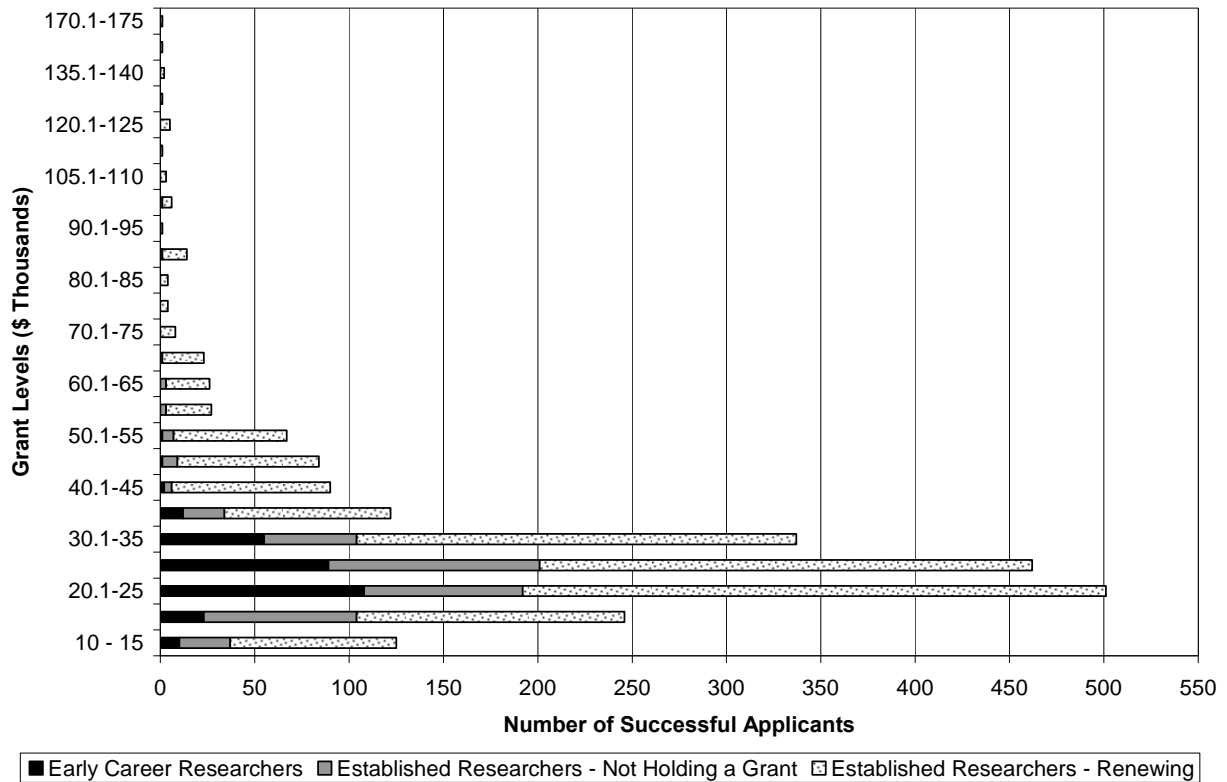
**Table 1. Overall Comparative Statistics – 2012 Discovery Grants Competition<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Data<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Success Rate</b>	<b>Average Grant</b>
Early Career Researchers (ECR)	62%	\$26,740
Established Researchers (ER)		
Renewing their grant (ER-R)	78%	\$33,354
Not Holding a Grant <sup>2</sup> (ER-NHG)	36%	\$26,964

1. Includes Discovery and Subatomic Physics (Individual and Team) Grants, but excludes the Subatomic Physics Projects. It can not therefore be compared with data presented in Figure 3.

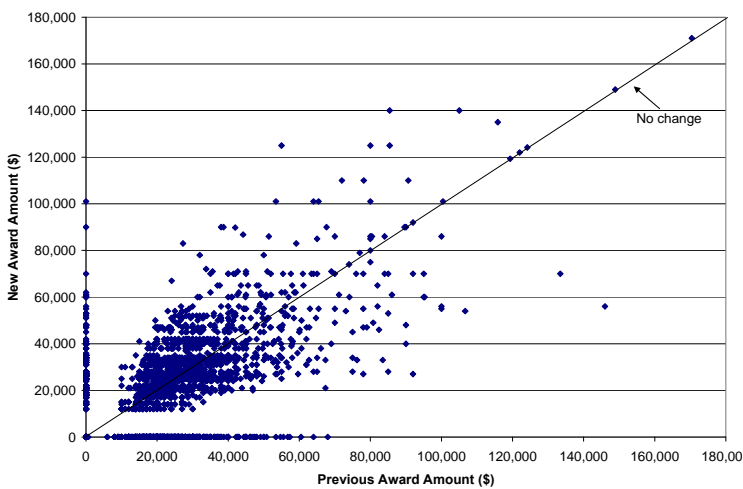
2. Includes returning established unfunded applicants and experienced researchers submitting a first application

**Figure 4. Distribution of Grant Levels to Successful Applicants, 2012 Competition**

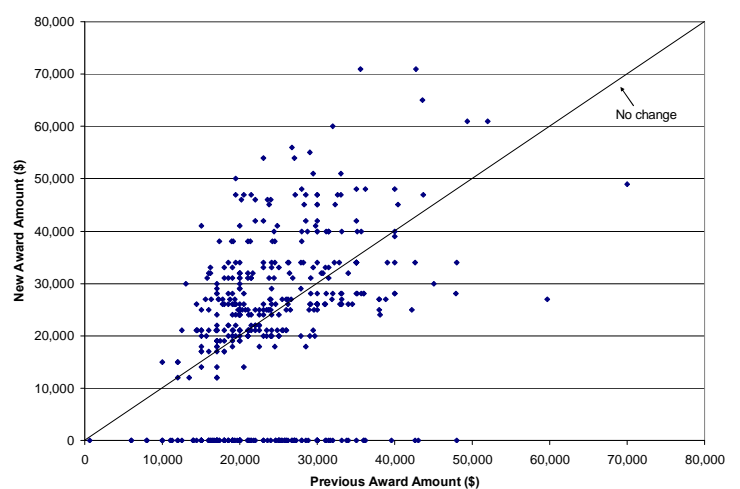


**Figure 5. Change in Grant Level, 2012 Competition**

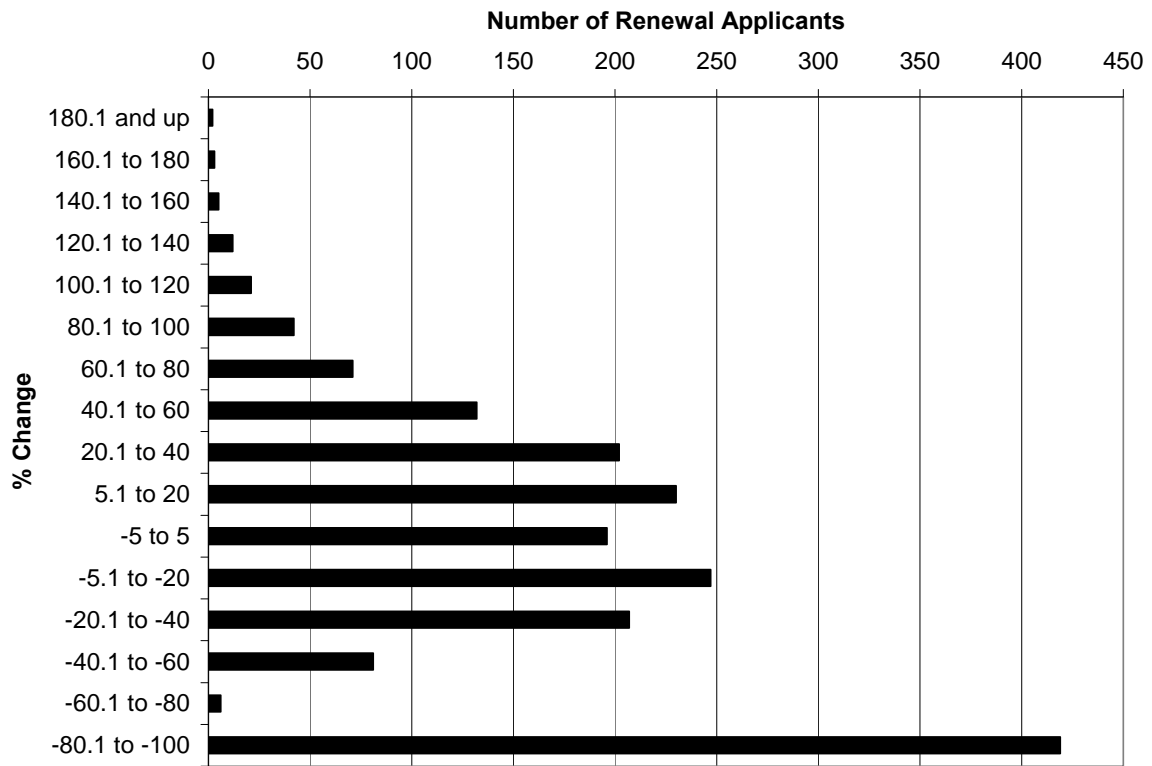
a) All Established Researchers



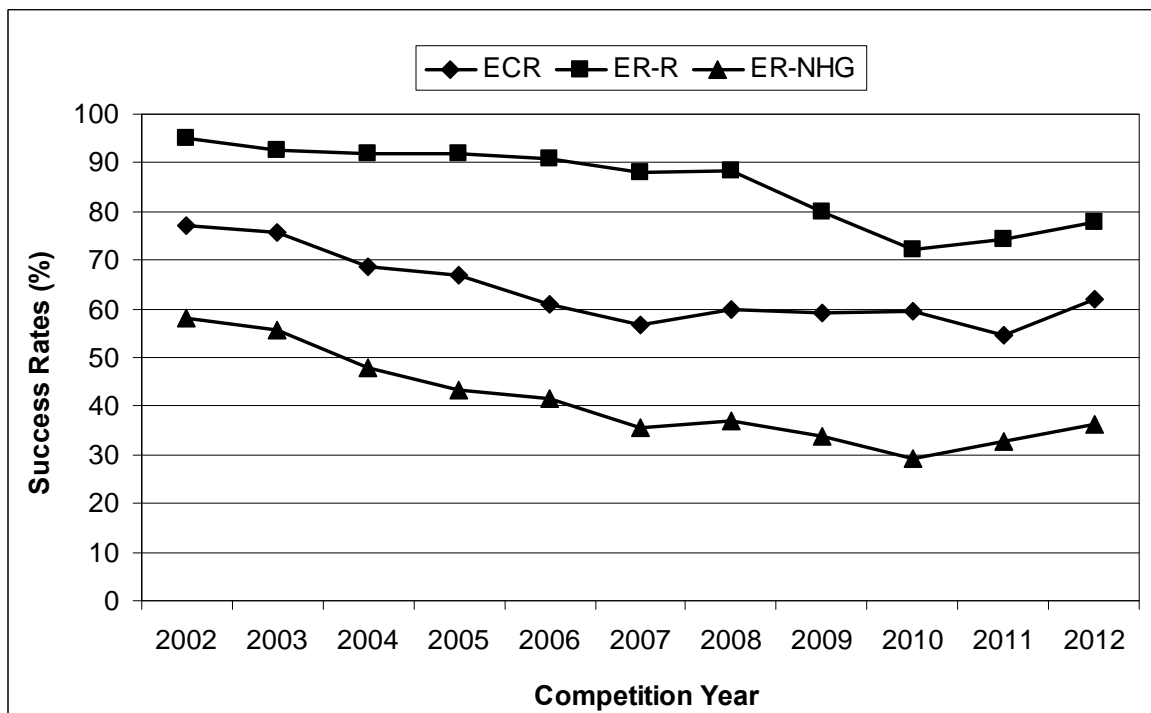
b) Established Researchers – First Renewal



**Figure 6. Percentage Change in Grant Level, 2012 Competition**



**Figure 7. Success Rate<sup>1</sup> by Category of Individual Applicants, Competition Years 2002-12**



<sup>1</sup> Only includes Discovery Grant Individual

**Table 2. Number of Applications and Awards by Category of Applicants, 2002-12**

<b>Competition Year</b>	<b>Number of Applications<sup>1</sup></b>			<b>Number of Awards<sup>1</sup></b>		
	<i>ECR</i>	<i>ER-R</i>	<i>ER-NHG</i>	<i>ECR</i>	<i>ER-R</i>	<i>ER-NHG</i>
2002	520	1,712	597	401	1,625	346
2003	509	1,673	712	385	1,552	395
2004	677	1,557	716	464	1,432	343
2005	683	1,731	713	457	1,592	309
2006	672	1,805	703	410	1,638	291
2007	768	2,053	699	436	1,810	249
2008	710	1,944	680	426	1,718	252
2009	503	1,850	819	298	1,481	278
2010	513	1,864	902	305	1,348	264
2011	457	1,835	1,137	250	1,363	373
2012	480	1,848	1,102	298	1,438	399

<sup>1</sup> Only includes Discovery Grant Individual



**Table 3. Discovery Grants<sup>1</sup> Competition Results by University, 2012 Competition**

Universities	Early Career Researchers			Established Researchers - Renewing			Established Researchers - Not Holding a Grant		
	Success Rate (%)	Total Amount Awarded (\$)	Average Grant (\$)	Success Rate (%)	Total Amount Awarded (\$)	Average Grant (\$)	Success Rate (%)	Total Amount Awarded (\$)	Average Grant (\$)
Acadia University	*	*	*	57	95,000	23,750	29	47,000	23,500
Algoma University	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Athabasca University	*	*	*	*	*	*	0	0	0
Bishop's University	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Brandon University	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
British Columbia Institute of Technology	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Brock University	*	*	*	82	387,000	27,643	17	45,000	22,500
Cape Breton University	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Carleton University	50	94,000	23,500	68	748,000	29,920	16	105,000	26,250
Centre de recherche informatique de Montréal	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Concordia University	64	170,000	24,286	73	1,152,000	28,098	38	254,000	25,400
Dalhousie University	50	116,000	23,200	83	1,814,044	34,227	30	258,000	36,857
École de technologie supérieure	40	89,000	22,250	69	259,000	23,545	57	170,000	21,250
École Polytechnique de Montréal	67	144,000	24,000	85	936,800	33,457	53	214,000	23,778
HEC Montréal	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Institut national de recherche scientifique	100	234,000	29,250	79	307,000	27,909	44	102,000	25,500
Lakehead University	60	63,000	21,000	42	149,000	29,800	11	100,000	33,333
Laurentian University	*	*	*	60	170,000	28,333	7	15,000	15,000
McGill University	85	966,238	29,280	78	3,291,226	36,980	43	711,000	30,913
McMaster University	53	207,500	25,938	86	1,780,000	36,327	36	217,000	21,700
Memorial University of Newfoundland	65	260,000	23,636	76	829,000	28,586	21	113,000	22,600
Mount Allison University	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Mount Royal University	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Mount Saint Vincent University	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nipissing University	*	*	*	*	*	*	20	14,000	14,000
Nova Scotia Agricultural College	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Queen's University	60	64,000	21,333	83	1,101,000	36,700	40	221,000	36,833
Redeemer University College	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Royal Military College of Canada	40	55,000	27,500	17	25,000	25,000	7	20,000	20,000
Ryerson University	71	130,000	26,000	70	576,000	27,429	35	176,000	19,556
Saint Mary's University	*	*	*	78	161,920	23,131	33	44,000	22,000
Simon Fraser University	43	80,000	26,667	76	1,558,000	37,095	43	289,000	24,083
St. Francis Xavier University	*	*	*	*	*	*	33	53,000	26,500
The King's University College	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
The University of British Columbia	73	444,000	27,750	87	4,556,000	37,967	44	603,000	27,409
The University of Western Ontario	63	131,000	26,200	83	2,650,000	37,324	40	459,000	25,500
The University of Winnipeg	57	103,000	25,750	*	*	*	17	14,000	14,000
Thompson Rivers University	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Trent University	*	*	*	63	157,000	31,400	33	86,000	28,667
Trinity Western University	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
TRIUMF	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Université de Moncton	43	84,000	28,000	60	62,000	20,667	13	25,052	25,052
Université de Montréal	69	277,000	30,778	82	989,000	30,906	0	344,680	26,514
Université de Sherbrooke	75	244,000	27,111	93	789,000	29,222	30	170,000	28,333
Université du Québec à Chicoutimi	33	45,000	22,500	50	79,000	26,333	*	*	*
Université du Québec à Montréal	70	177,000	25,286	71	470,000	27,647	31	132,000	26,400
Université du Québec à Rimouski	29	56,000	28,000	100	279,000	31,000	*	*	*
Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières	*	*	*	90	215,000	23,889	20	67,000	22,333
Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Université du Québec en Outaouais	*	*	*	*	*	*	17	18,000	18,000
Université Laval	48	308,000	28,000	78	1,975,656	35,280	38	408,000	29,143
University of Alberta	64	344,000	24,571	75	2,395,000	31,513	42	427,912	28,527
University of Calgary	69	241,040	26,782	77	1,540,000	31,429	48	502,000	26,421
University of Guelph	54	186,000	26,571	73	874,000	29,133	25	232,000	25,778
University of Lethbridge	*	*	*	58	218,000	31,143	38	138,000	46,000
University of Manitoba	73	281,000	25,545	79	1,174,800	31,751	32	300,000	25,000
University of New Brunswick	*	*	*	70	473,000	29,563	6	21,000	21,000
University of Northern British Columbia	*	*	*	67	173,000	28,833	29	42,000	21,000
University of Ontario Institute of Technology	50	66,000	22,000	80	146,000	18,250	29	36,000	18,000
University of Ottawa	57	215,000	26,875	75	1,557,800	37,090	44	451,000	32,214
University of Prince Edward Island	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
University of Regina	*	*	*	64	245,000	27,222	38	95,000	19,000
University of Saskatchewan	45	143,000	28,600	66	1,043,000	31,606	42	428,000	26,750
University of the Fraser Valley	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
University of Toronto	61	567,958	28,398	86	5,111,340	39,932	58	888,000	31,714
University of Victoria	*	*	*	82	1,023,746	33,024	45	222,000	24,667
University of Waterloo	81	562,000	25,545	85	3,214,000	32,465	58	768,000	26,483
University of Windsor	*	*	*	56	401,000	28,643	41	202,000	22,444
Wilfrid Laurier University	67	111,000	27,750	57	88,000	22,000	31	130,000	26,000
York University	83	152,000	30,400	85	920,000	26,286	46	335,000	30,455
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>8,048,736</b>	<b>26,740</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>48,630,612</b>	<b>33,354</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>10,839,644</b>	<b>26,964</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes Discovery and Subatomic Physics Individuals and Team Grants but, excludes Subatomic Physics Projects

\* Less than five applications

**Table 4. Statistics by University Size, 2012 Competition**

Category of Applicants	Data	University Size		
		Large	Medium	Small
Early Career Researchers	Success Rate	66%	64%	48%
	Total Amount	\$5,604,736	\$1,329,000	\$1,115,000
	Average Grant	\$27,207	\$25,558	\$25,930
Established Researchers - Renewing	Success Rate	81%	72%	63%
	Total Amount	\$39,428,412	\$6,233,000	\$2,969,200
	Average Grant	\$35,110	\$28,077	\$26,276
Established Researchers - Not Holding a Grant	Success Rate	42%	33%	19%
	Total Amount	\$8,113,592	\$1,645,000	\$1,081,052
	Average Grant	\$27,882	\$24,552	\$24,569

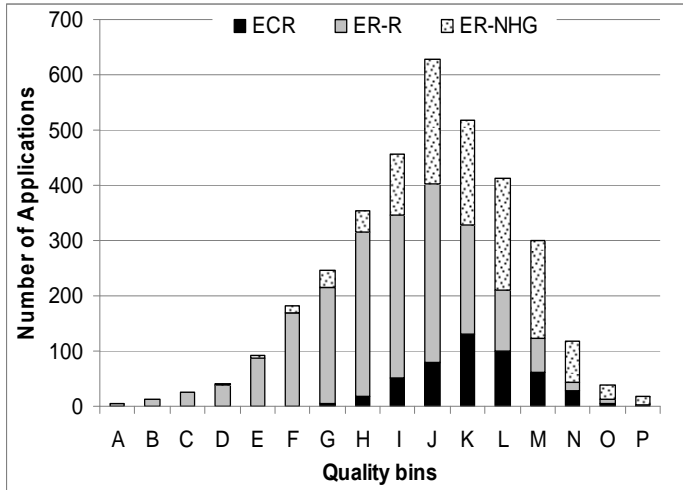
**Table 5. Success Rate by Category of Applicants and University Size, 2009-12**

	Large				Medium				Small			
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012
Early Career Researchers	62%	61%	59%	66%	57%	57%	57%	64%	42%	42%	34%	48%
Established Researchers - Renewing	83%	76%	78%	81%	69%	69%	52%	72%	65%	65%	55%	63%
Established Researchers - Not Holding a Grant	37%	35%	38%	42%	36%	36%	36%	33%	18%	18%	19%	19%

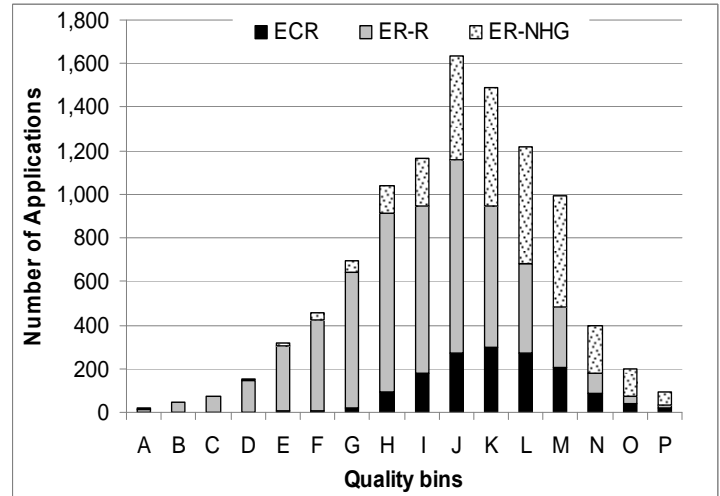
As a result of peer review, applications are placed in 16 “quality bins” based on their merit against the three selection criteria—Excellence of Researcher (EoR), Merit of Proposal (MoP), and Contribution to the Training of High Quality Personnel (HQP). Figure 8 shows the distribution of applications for ECR, Established Researchers Renewing their grant (ER-R), and Established Researchers Not Holding a Grant (ER-NHG) at the time of application between 2009 and 2011, and the same distribution for the 2012 competition. Budget permitting, NSERC aims to support Established Researchers to Bin J (which corresponds to ratings of Strong on three criteria or equivalent) and ECR to Bin K or Bin L.

**Figure 8. Distribution of Applications<sup>1</sup> by Quality Bin**

a) 2012 Competition



b) 2009-11 Competitions



<sup>1</sup> Does not include results for Subatomic Physics

**Table 6. Number of applications<sup>1</sup> by Quality Bins by University Size, 2012 Competition**

Bin	University Size					
	Large		Medium		Small	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
A	4	0.2%		0.0%		0.0%
B	14	0.6%		0.0%		0.0%
C	24	1.0%		0.0%	2	0.4%
D	38	1.6%	3	0.5%	1	0.2%
E	85	3.6%	7	1.2%	1	0.2%
F	157	6.6%	20	3.4%	5	1.0%
G	209	8.8%	28	4.8%	9	1.8%
H	278	11.7%	58	9.9%	18	3.7%
I	335	14.1%	74	12.6%	48	9.8%
J	407	17.1%	128	21.8%	94	19.1%
K	343	14.4%	94	16.0%	82	16.7%
L	244	10.3%	72	12.3%	98	20.0%
M	147	6.2%	66	11.3%	87	17.7%
N	67	2.8%	24	4.1%	27	5.5%
O	20	0.8%	9	1.5%	10	2.0%
P	7	0.3%	3	0.5%	9	1.8%
Total	2379	100.0%	586	100.0%	491	100.0%

<sup>1</sup> Does not include results for Subatomic Physics

## SECTION 3 – STATISTICS BY EVALUATION GROUP

**Table 7. Success Rate, Average Grant and Total Amount Awarded by Category of Applicant for Each Evaluation Group, 2012 Competition**

<b>1501 - Genes, Cells and Molecules</b>	<b>Early Career Researchers</b>	<b>Established Researchers</b>	
		<b>Renewing</b>	<b>Not Holding a Grant</b>
Success Rate	72%	75%	48%
Average Grant	\$31,764	\$34,451	\$31,360
Total Amount Awarded	\$1,619,958	\$4,892,000	\$3,386,912

<b>1502 - Biological Systems and Functions</b>	<b>Early Career Researchers</b>	<b>Established Researchers</b>	
		<b>Renewing</b>	<b>Not Holding a Grant</b>
Success Rate	51%	80%	33%
Average Grant	\$30,354	\$37,961	\$29,754
Total Amount Awarded	\$1,274,858	\$7,060,682	\$1,815,000

<b>1503 - Evolution and Ecology</b>	<b>Early Career Researchers</b>	<b>Established Researchers</b>	
		<b>Renewing</b>	<b>Not Holding a Grant</b>
Success Rate	52%	82%	49%
Average Grant	\$27,167	\$33,135	\$24,483
Total Amount Awarded	\$326,000	\$3,214,086	\$710,000

<b>1504 -Chemistry</b>	<b>Early Career Researchers</b>	<b>Established Researchers</b>	
		<b>Renewing</b>	<b>Not Holding a Grant</b>
Success Rate	61%	65%	18%
Average Grant	\$36,455	\$65,764	\$42,121
Total Amount Awarded	\$401,000	\$4,735,000	\$716,052

<b>1505 - Physics*</b>	<b>Early Career Researchers</b>	<b>Established Researchers</b>	
		<b>Renewing</b>	<b>Not Holding a Grant</b>
Success Rate	67%	86%	43%
Average Grant	\$26,773	\$39,081	\$30,334
Total Amount Awarded	\$589,000	\$4,924,240	\$788,680

\*Includes Subatomic Physics Discovery Individual and Group, but not Projects

<b>1506 - Geosciences</b>	<b>Early Career Researchers</b>	<b>Established Researchers</b>	
		<b>Renewing</b>	<b>Not Holding a Grant</b>
Success Rate	54%	66%	33%
Average Grant	\$30,526	\$36,240	\$29,783
Total Amount Awarded	\$580,000	\$3,732,684	\$685,000

<b>1507 - Computer Science</b>	<b>Early Career Researchers</b>	<b>Established Researchers</b>	
		<b>Renewing</b>	<b>Not Holding a Grant</b>
Success Rate	68%	84%	38%
Average Grant	\$21,609	\$27,966	\$17,214
Total Amount Awarded	\$497,000	\$5,033,920	\$482,000

<b>1508 - Mathematics and Statistics</b>	<b>Early Career Researchers</b>	<b>Established Researchers</b>	
		<b>Renewing</b>	<b>Not Holding a Grant</b>
Success Rate	63%	76%	23%
Average Grant	\$18,407	\$22,183	\$14,667
Total Amount Awarded	\$497,000	\$2,906,000	\$220,000

<b>1509 - Civil, industrial and Systems Engineering</b>	<b>Early Career Researchers</b>	<b>Established Researchers</b>	
		<b>Renewing</b>	<b>Not Holding a Grant</b>
Success Rate	75%	80%	24%
Average Grant	\$23,111	\$27,168	\$20,300
Total Amount Awarded	\$832,000	\$2,744,000	\$406,000

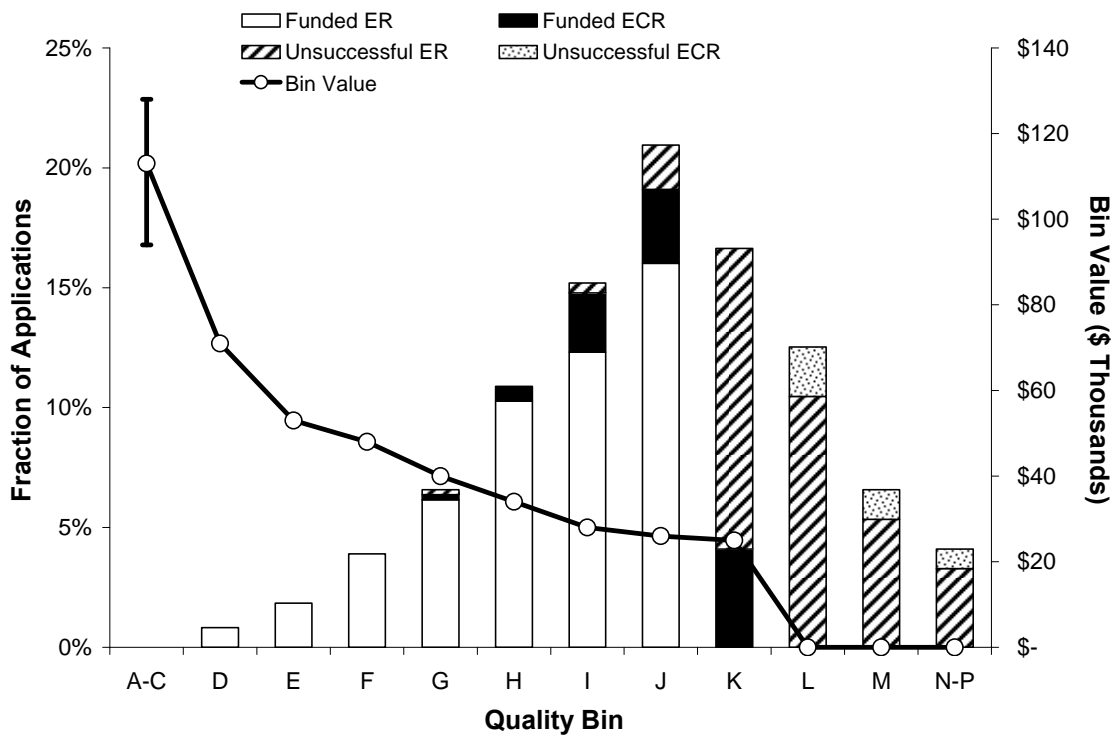
<b>1510 - Electrical and Computer Engineering</b>	<b>Early Career Researchers</b>	<b>Established Researchers</b>	
		<b>Renewing</b>	<b>Not Holding a Grant</b>
Success Rate	63%	78%	46%
Average Grant	\$23,047	\$29,304	\$22,270
Total Amount Awarded	\$507,040	\$4,044,000	\$824,000

<b>1511 - Materials and Chemical Engineering</b>	<b>Early Career Researchers</b>	<b>Established Researchers</b>	
		<b>Renewing</b>	<b>Not Holding a Grant</b>
Success Rate	72%	85%	18%
Average Grant	\$25,438	\$30,400	\$20,800
Total Amount Awarded	\$457,880	\$2,888,000	\$208,000

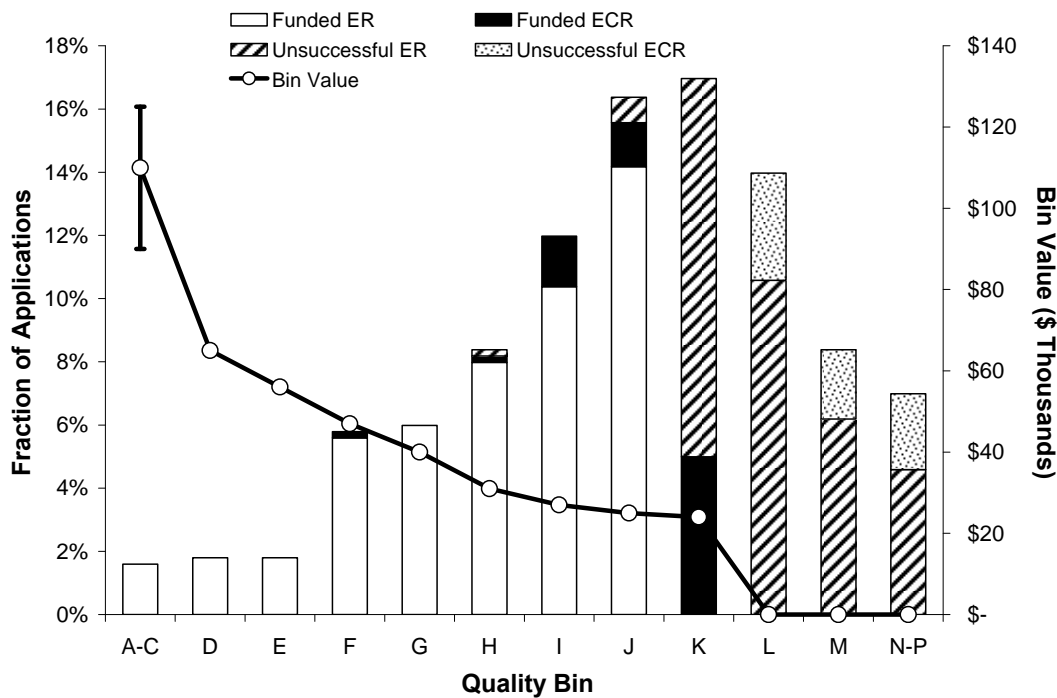
<b>1512 - Mechanical Engineering</b>	<b>Early Career Researchers</b>	<b>Established Researchers</b>	
		<b>Renewing</b>	<b>Not Holding a Grant</b>
Success Rate	49%	74%	44%
Average Grant	\$25,944	\$28,230	\$21,357
Total Amount Awarded	\$467,000	\$2,456,000	\$598,000

The distribution of applications by “quality bins” is presented in Figure 9 for each Evaluation Group (EG). The bin value illustrated represents the value of the bin for the normal cost of research. For EGs marked with a star (\*), a differential for the cost of research was used and, as a result, individual grant values within a bin may be lower or higher than indicated.

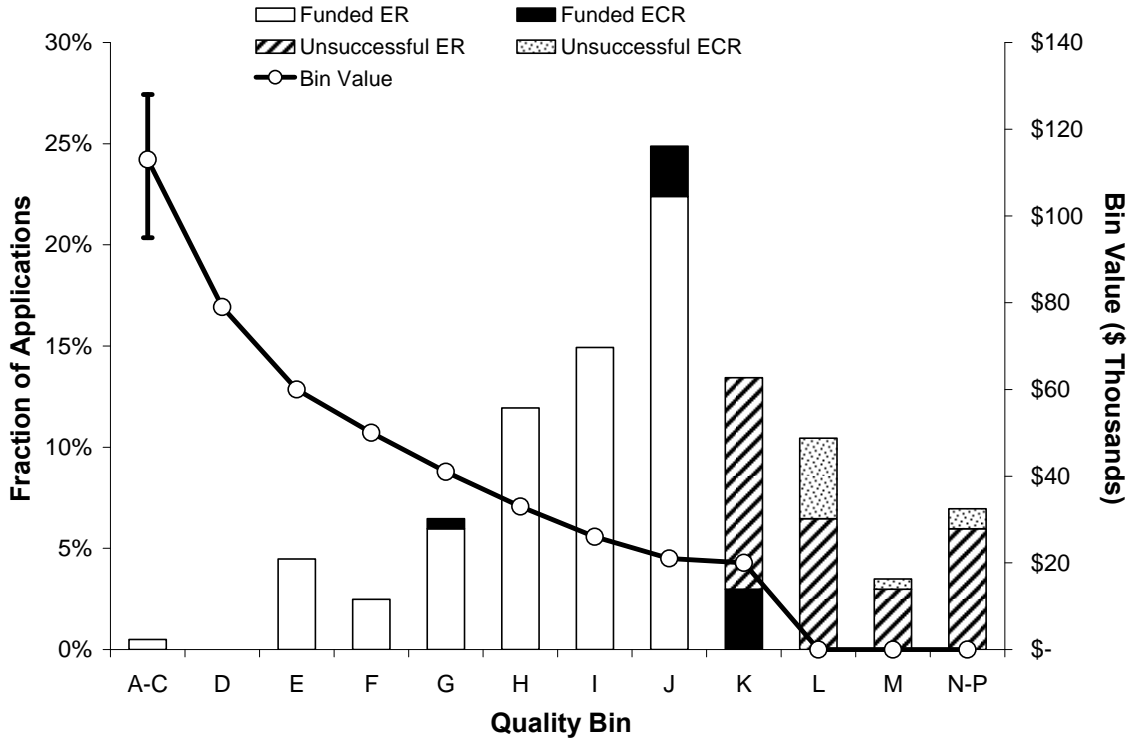
**Figure 9. Distribution of the Fraction of Applications by Quality Bin for Each Evaluation Group, 2012 Competition**  
**Gene, Cells and Molecules\***



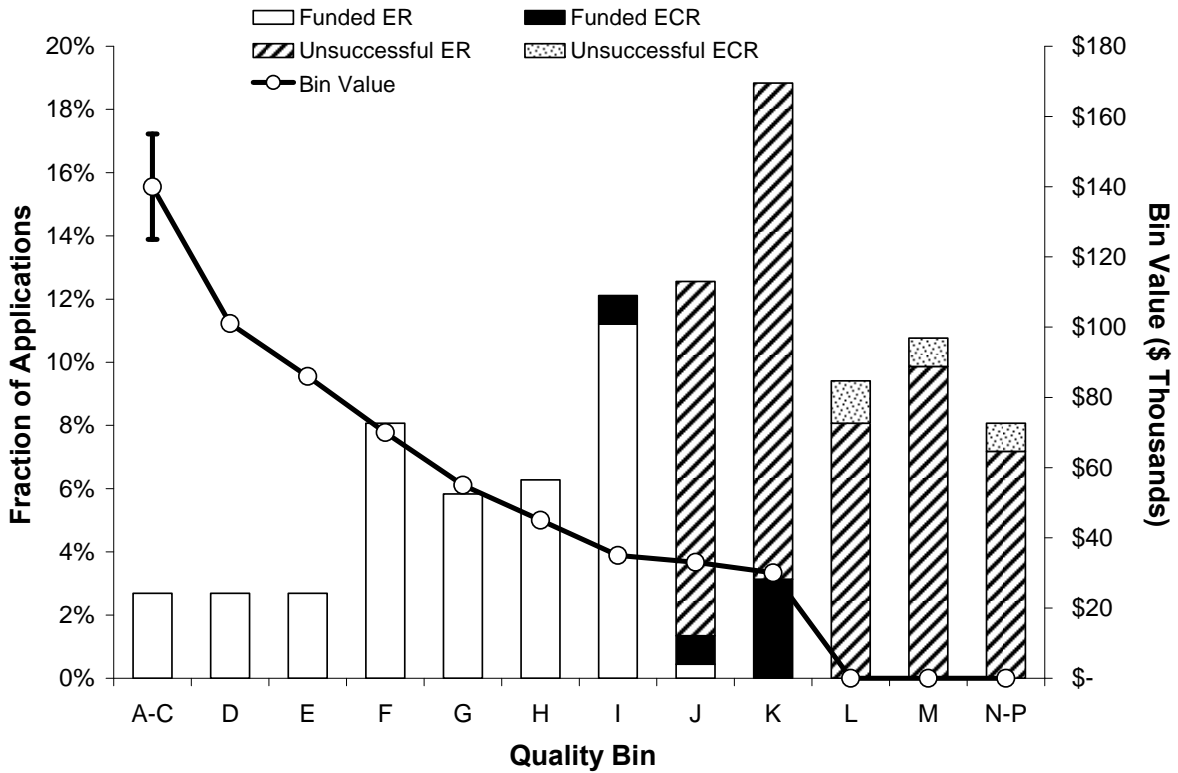
**Biological Systems and Functions\***



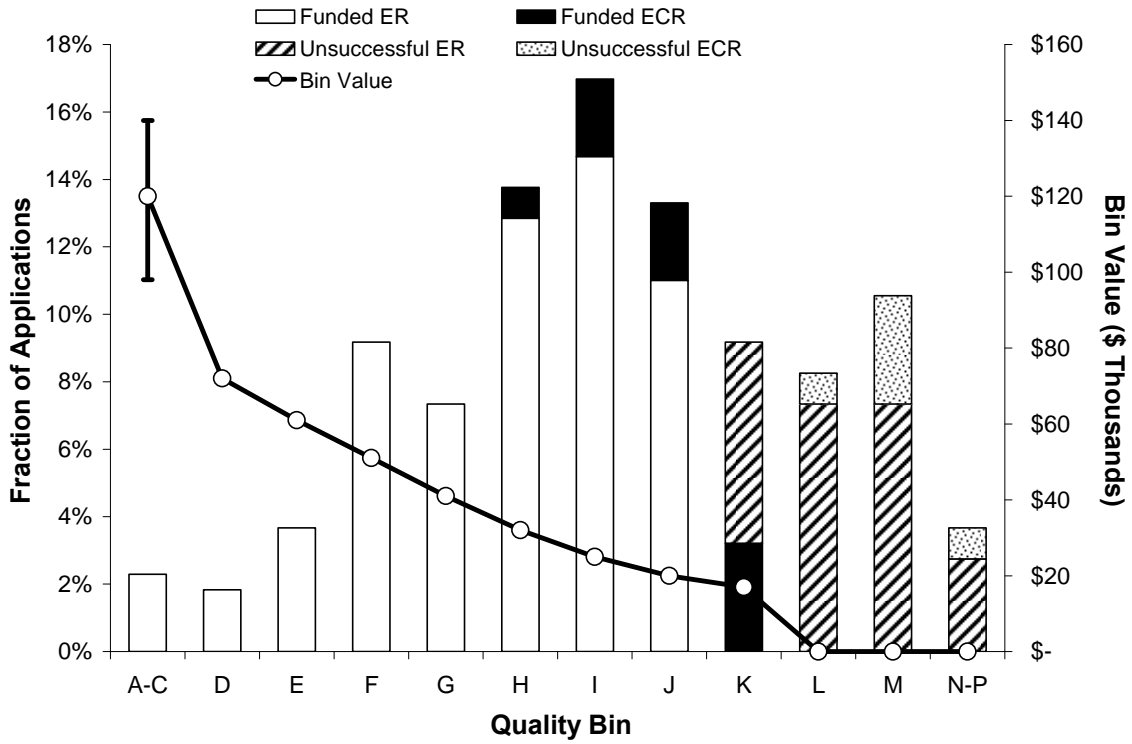
### Evolution and Ecology



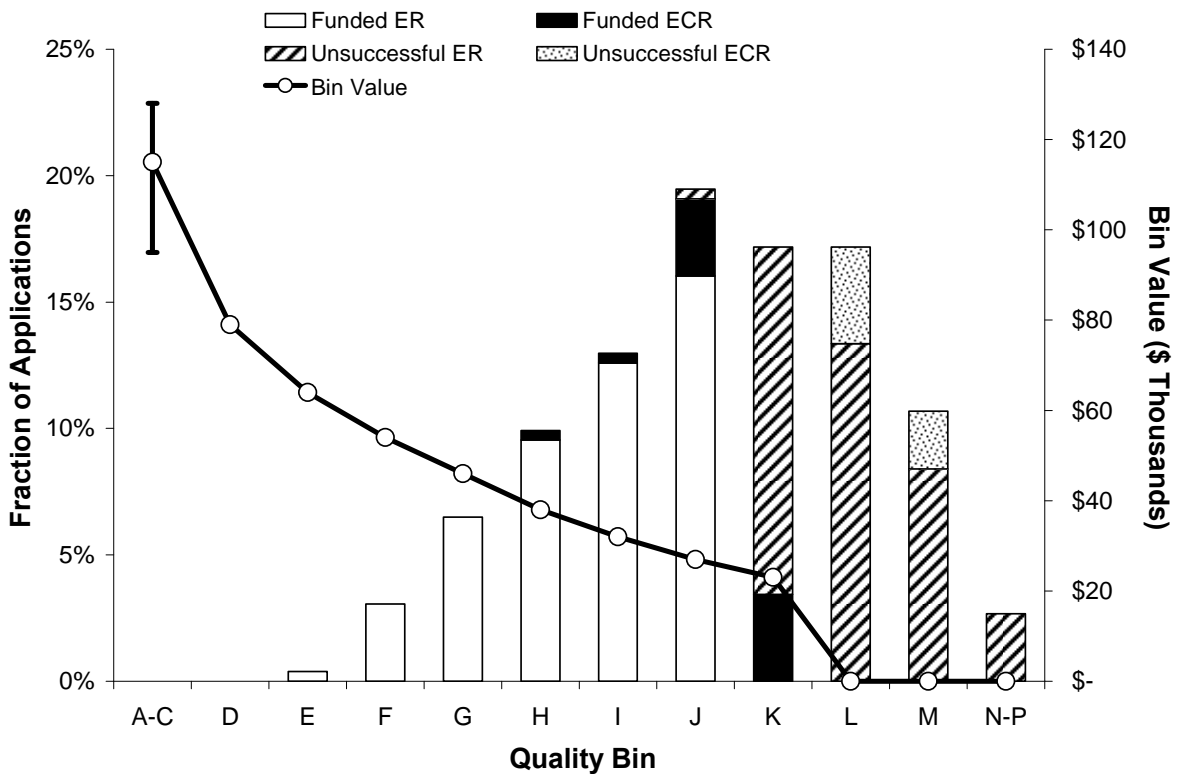
### Chemistry



### Physics\* (excluding Subatomic Physics)

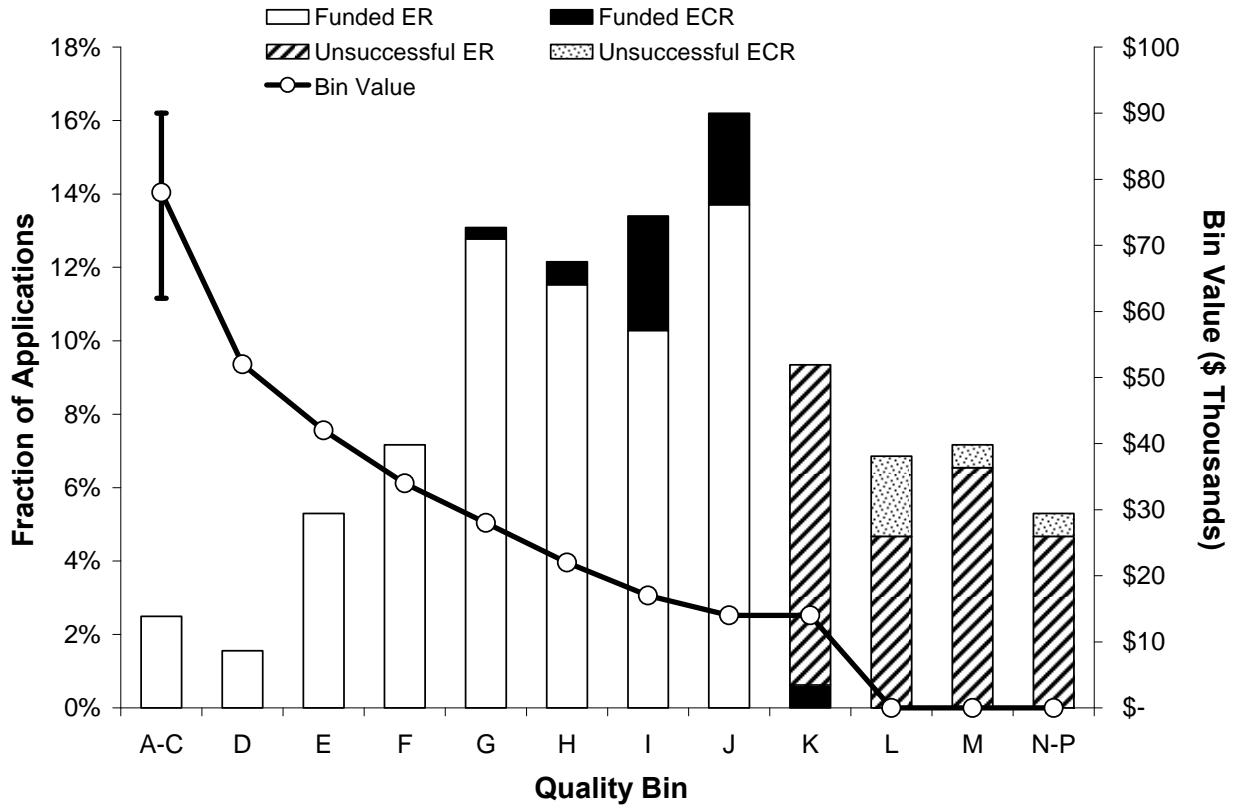


### Geoscience\*

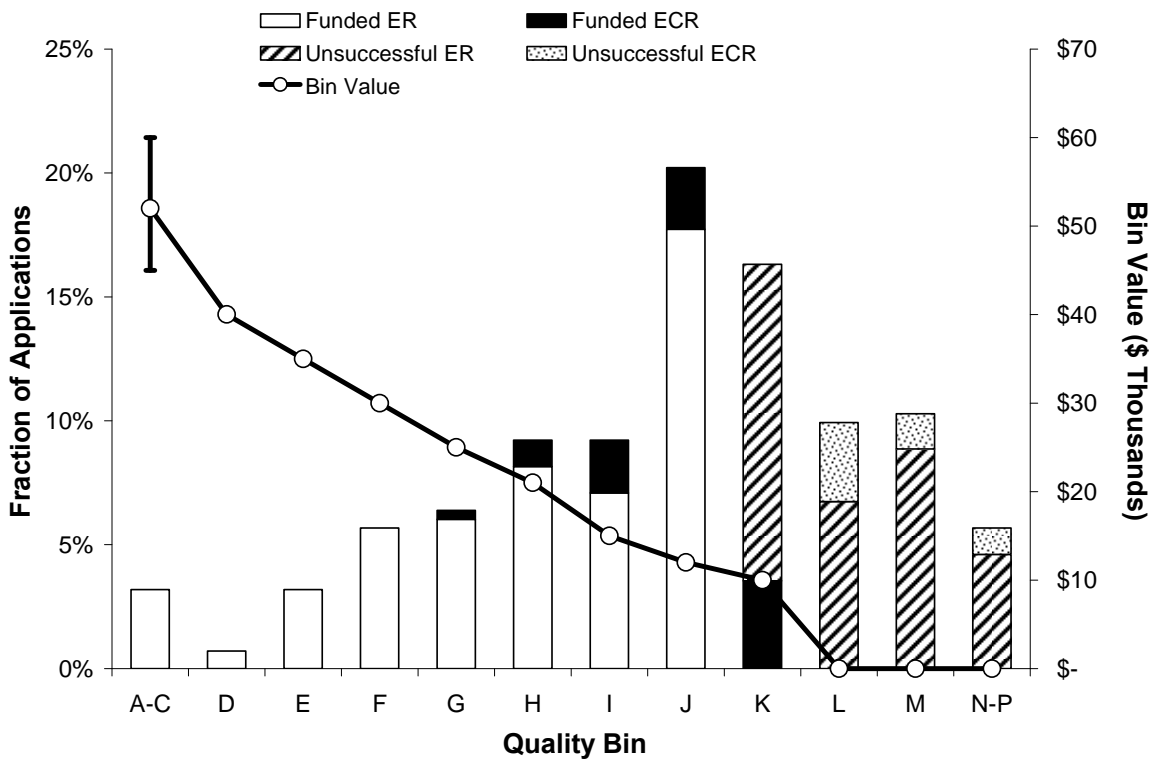




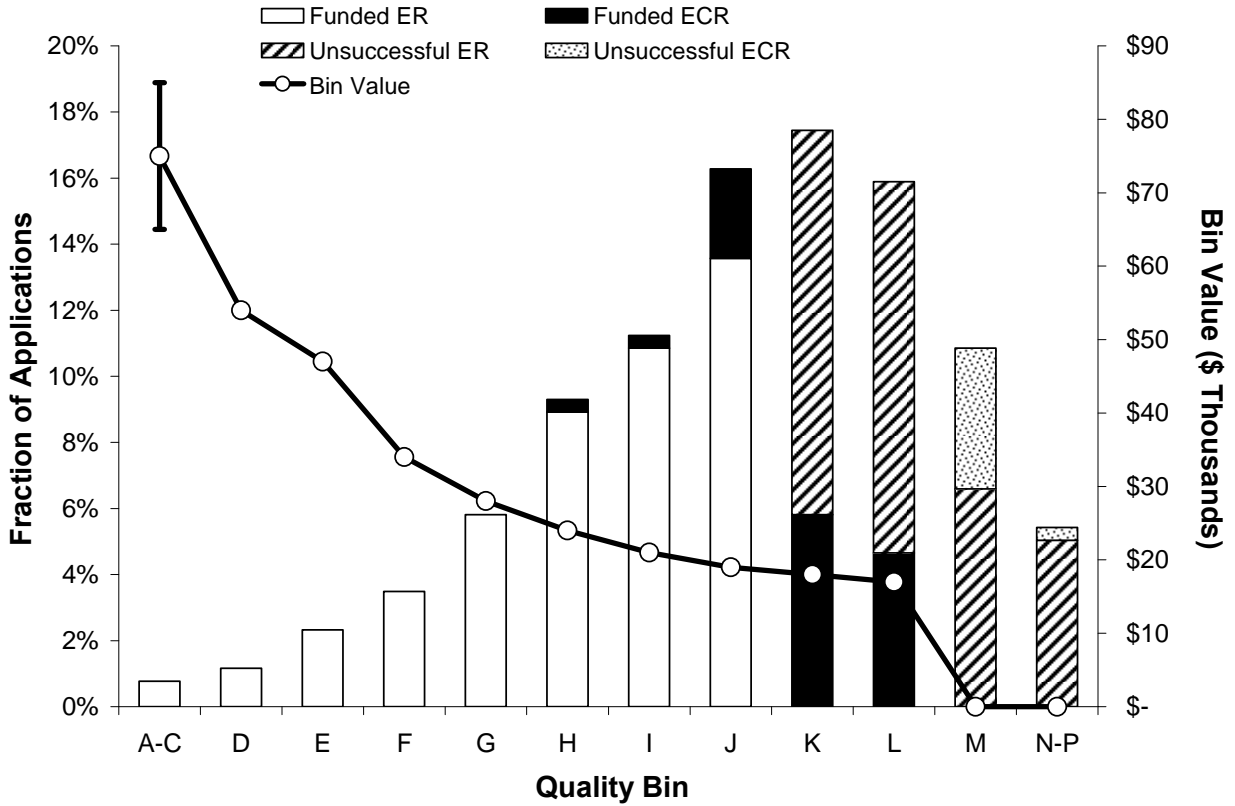
### Computer Science



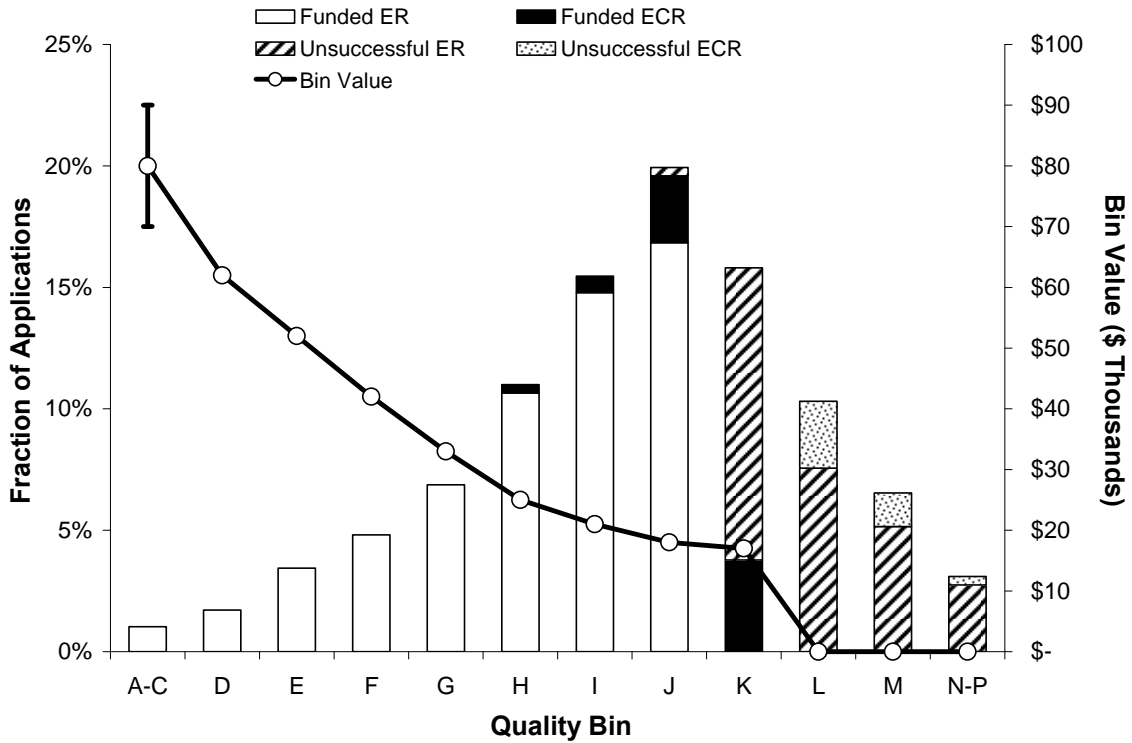
### Mathematics and Statistics



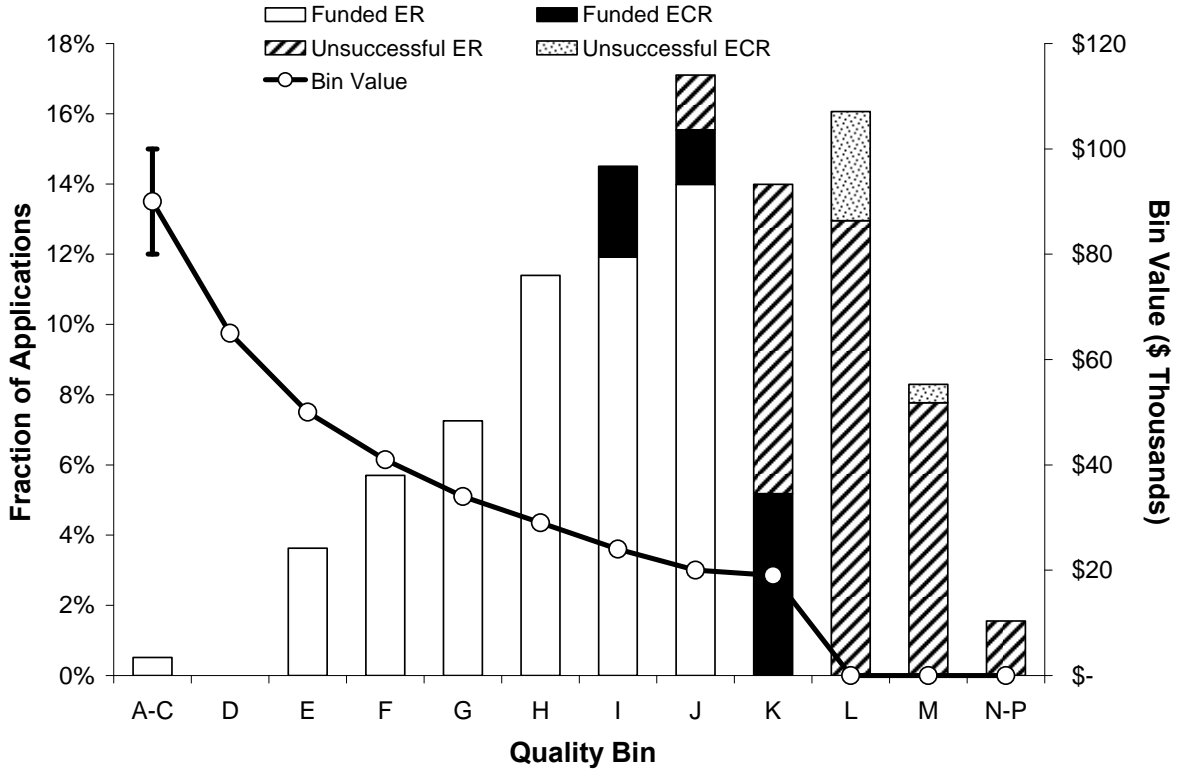
### Civil, Industrial and Systems Engineering



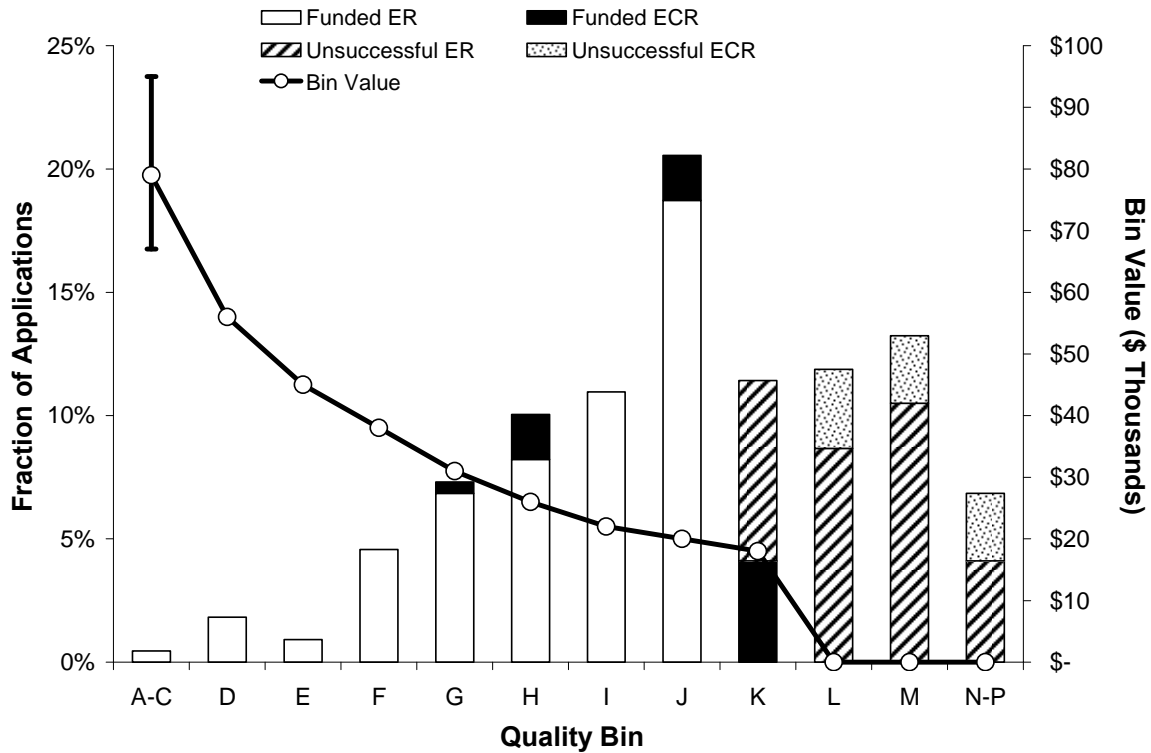
### Electrical and Computer Engineering



### Materials and Chemical Engineering



### Mechanical Engineering



## SECTION 4 – STATISTICS BY GENDER

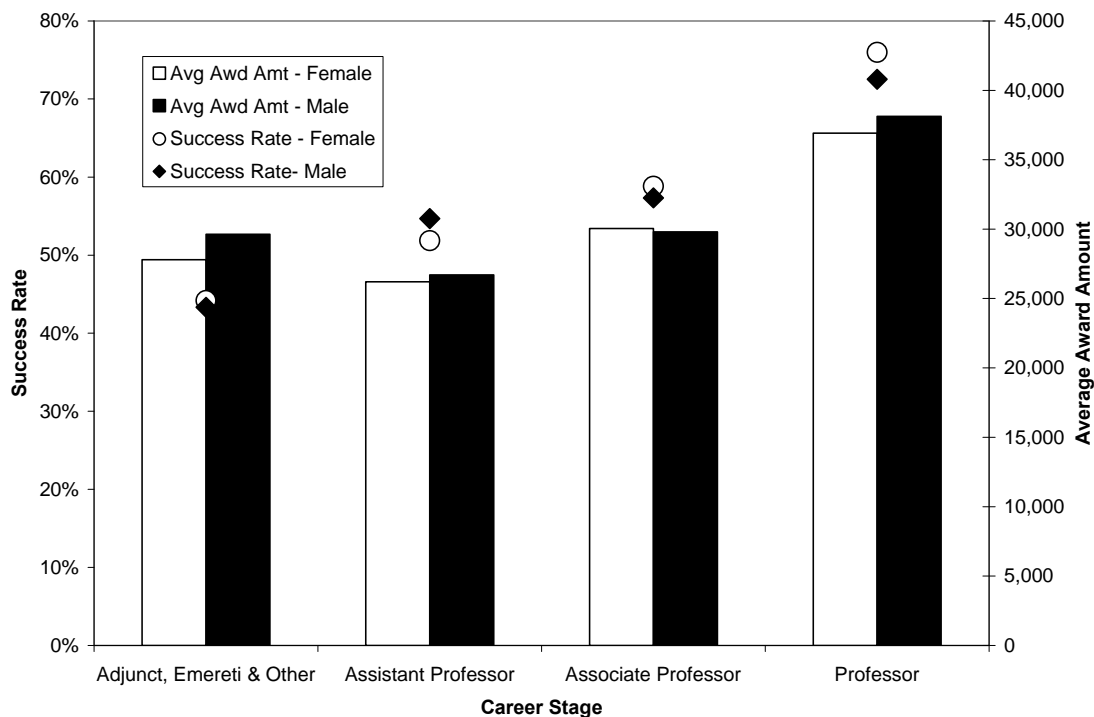
As part of NSERC’s commitment to gender equality, processes and competitions are monitored to ensure that no potential bias affects the evaluation of any submission. Data has been pooled over four competitions to ensure sufficient numbers in each category. Regular analysis of the outcomes of the Discovery Grants competitions reveals that male and female applicants have similar success rates (61 percent for males, 59 percent for females); and average grants (\$32,831 for males; \$30,801 for females). The difference in an average grant is largely attributable to the career stage of applicants, with a larger proportion of female applicants who are assistant or associate professors as compared to male applicants (Table 8).

**Table 8. Proportion of Applicants by Gender and Career Stage, 2009-12 Competitions**

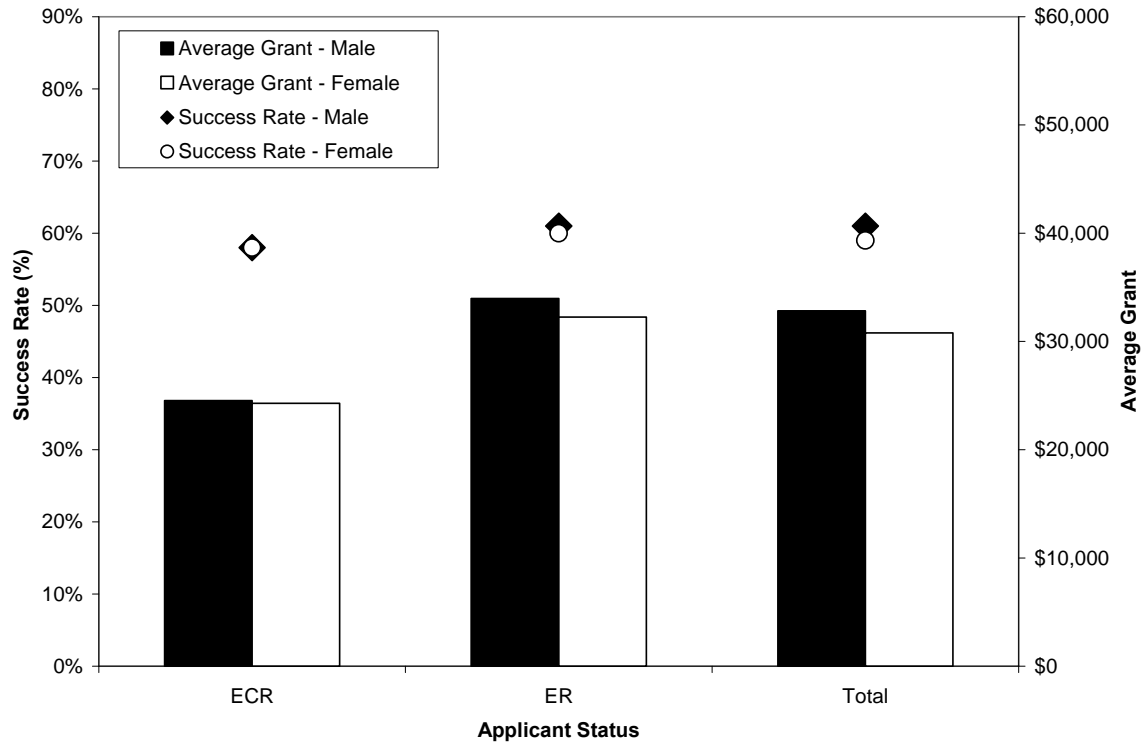
	Gender	
	Male	Female
Assistant Professor	25%	39%
Associate Professor	28%	31%
Professor	37%	24%
Adjunct, Emeriti and Other	10%	7%

Similar results are observed for both males and females for applicants at equivalent career stages (Figure 10) and of the same applicant status (Figure 11). Success rates vary between the disciplines (Figure 12).

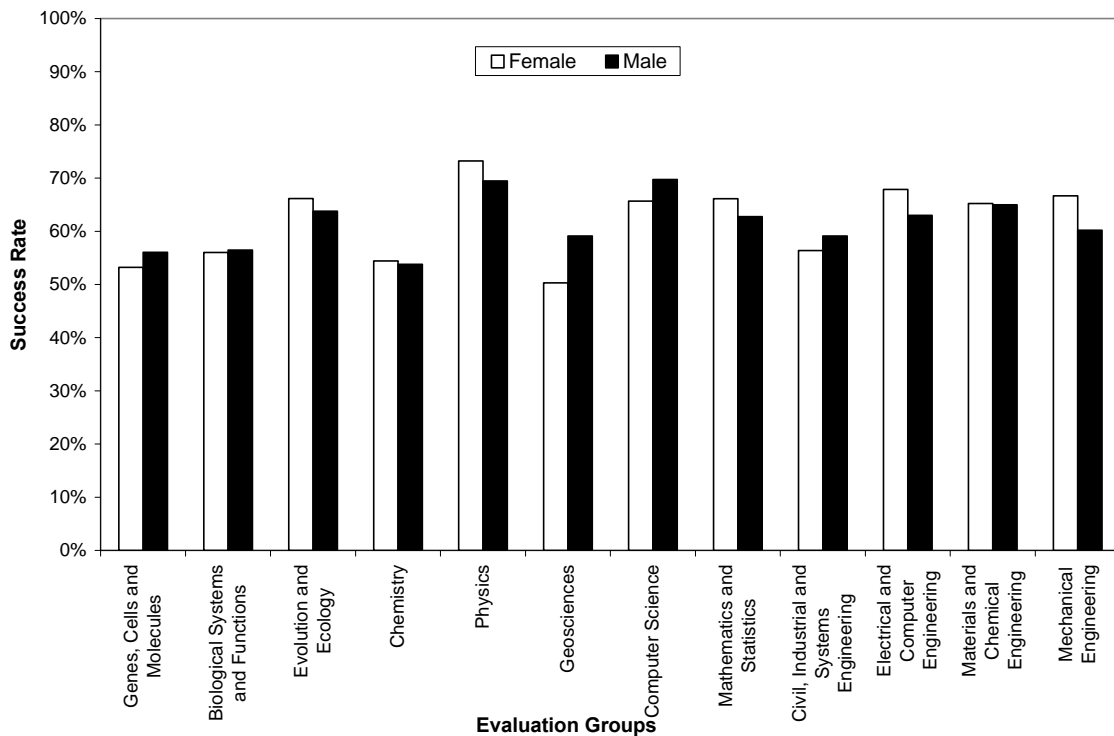
**Figure 10. Discovery Grant Success Rate and Average Awarded Amount by Career Stage and Gender, 2009-12 Competitions**



**Figure 11. Discovery Grant Success Rate and Average Grant by Applicant Status and Gender, 2009-12 Competitions**



**Figure 12. Discovery Grant Success Rate by Gender and Evaluation Group, 2009-12 Competitions**



## SECTION 5 – SURVEY OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Following the 2010 DG competition, a survey was sent to members completing their three-year terms. These members had exposure to both the “old” (pre-2009) system of review and the “new” system and were, therefore, well-placed to offer feedback regarding the changes. Members were asked for feedback on a variety of topics, including use of the rating scale and indicators, the new two-step evaluation system, and the conference model.

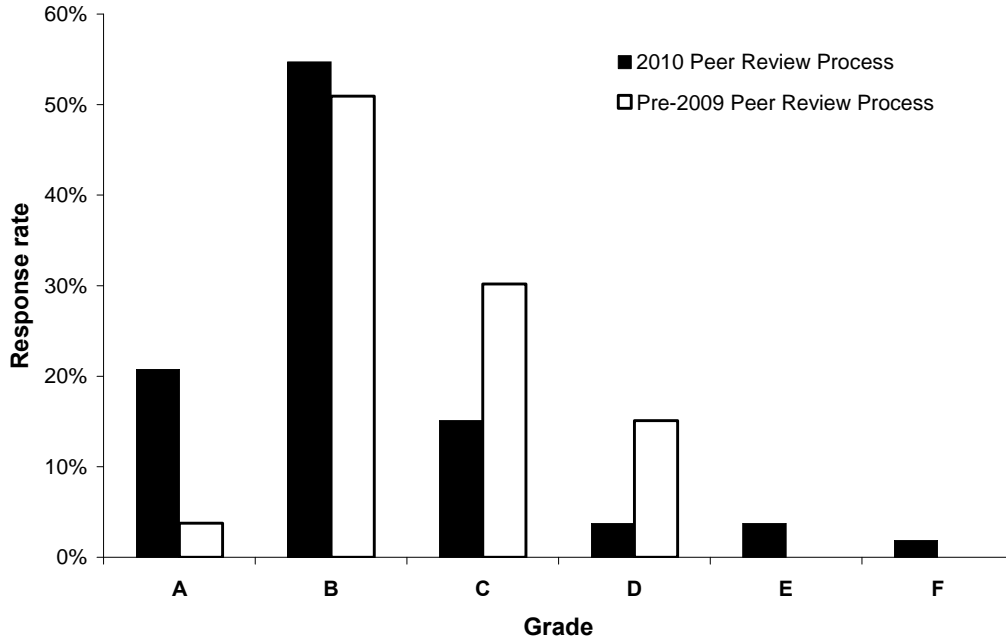
Fifty-four members responded (52 percent response rate) representing the 12 EGs. The findings were:

- The majority of surveyed members feel that the introduction of the rating scale and use of the evaluation indicators has improved the review process.
- A majority of respondents also found the quality of the review to be improved (78 percent overall).
- Members’ opinions were more divided on the subject of consistency; still the majority of members reported that the new system improved consistency (61 percent) and fairness of review (55 percent) between applications.
- It was suggested that additional time should be devoted to the calibration process in addition to reviewing the full range of indicators -- from exceptional to insufficient.
- The majority of respondents (77 percent) felt that the new two-step evaluation system substantially improved funding recommendations, in that applicants were able to reach an appropriate funding level more quickly than with the previous system.
- A recurring theme throughout the survey results was the responsiveness of the review process in eliminating inertia from the system and the enhanced fairness of the process.
- Opinions were also positive overall regarding the ability of the conference model to provide fair review of applications in interdisciplinary areas.

Finally, members were also asked to assign a letter grade to the “Pre-CY2009” evaluation system and the new two-step system (Figure 13). A majority of respondents indicated that the new system is either an improvement over the old one or was of the same quality as before. Figure 14 illustrates the change in grades assigned to the former and current evaluation systems, where a response of “C” for the pre-CY2009 system and “B” for the CY2010 system would be reported as “+1.” In contrast, responses of “A” for the pre-CY2009 system and “C” for the CY2010 system are reported as “-2.”

Since the survey was conducted NSERC has implemented several refinements in response to the issues identified in the survey--such as clarifying the performance indicators and providing increased opportunities for members to develop a consistent understanding and application of the performance indicators.

**Figure 13. Grades Assigned to the Pre-CY2009 (old) and CY2010 (new) Peer Review Systems by Members Completing their Three-Year Terms**



**Figure 14. Change in Grade Assigned to Pre CY2009 Peer Review Process Versus the CY2010 Peer Review Process by Members Completing their Three-Year Terms**

