Choosing a Study Section for Application Review

The url below connects to a National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) website that discusses how to choose a study section. Most center grants, program projects, research funding announcements (specific pot of money for a targeted area of research), and training grants are reviewed within an NIH institute. For these grant mechanisms study section selection is rarely a possibility. Research project grants such as R01’s, R21’s, R03’s are reviewed within the Center for Scientific Review (CSR) study sections and there is usually more than one study section that may have expertise for a specific grant application.

Many first time investigators allow the Referral Center at CSR to make the initial assignment, as they will know where there is expertise. More experienced investigators learn after receiving a summary statement that knowledge and choice of a study section is extremely important. Choosing a study section following the return of a summary statement and need to revise can be more complicated than the information in the url and require more strategizing. We suggest you contact the Grants Facilitation Group for help on choosing an amended application study section. Nevertheless, the url linking to NIAID and study selection tips is useful.

http://www.niaid.nih.gov/researchfunding/grant/strategy/pages/3audience.aspx#g1