NIH APPLICATIONS AND REVIEW

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Preparing the Application

➢ Start early! It always takes longer to prepare a good grant than you think

➢ Junior investigators - Seek advice from mentors in preparing application; attend grantsmanship workshops; take a look at a funded application for overall organization

➢ Read the application instructions! Page limits, font size, required sections, how to submit, etc.

➢ Work with your grants office prior to submission; alert them that you are planning to submit

➢ Get pre-review from experienced investigators

What are reviewers looking for in your application?

- Significance of the problem to be studied and your application

- A testable hypothesis

- Specific aims that will address the hypothesis and an approach that will fully test it; POs can review your SA page

- A strong premise; background information and preliminary data to support the hypothesis

- Qualified investigator; experience with methods and actively publishing

- An innovative approach; be creative, use new/novel techniques

- An environment that would support the successful completion of the project

Things that can worsen your score

- The problem to be studied isn't significant

- No or weak hypothesis

- Lack of innovation/outdated techniques

- Weak investigator

- Lack of or non-supportive preliminary data

- Problems with the approach; methodological problems; unfocused approach, "A fishing expedition", interdependent aims (one aim depends on results from another aim)

- Lack of rigor, minimal discussion of expected outcomes and alternative approaches

- Environment not supportive (lack of resources, space, release time, etc.)

Grantsmanship Issues

- Put the reviewer in a good mood!

- Don't use the smallest font and smallest margins

- Lack of figures/tables; too much text

- Too many misspelled words; poorly proofed for grammar

- Missing pieces (power analyses, statistical methods, gender comparisons, resource sharing plan, etc.)