

The Fundamentals of Putting Together a Grant Application

Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract Research Grant Writing Webinar
January 11, 2021

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General Pointers in Grant Writing

- Identify a good research question

- Feasible, novel, relevant, and interesting



- Refine your research question (clinical experience)



- Assemble the ideal team *for you*



- Budget your time



- Know grant application components (SSAT, NIH-K08, other)

- Do not give up with rejections (continue to submit)



- Review career plans with Department leadership

- Have others review your grant application



Key Components for Career Development Grant Applications (NIH as Example)

- Candidate's Background
 - Career goals and objectives
 - Plan for career development during award period
- Research Plan
 - Research strategy
 - Training in responsible conduct of research
- Mentorship and Collaboration Plan
- Letters of Support
- Environmental and Institutional Commitment

Candidate's Background

Career Goals and Objectives

- Clearly state long term goals



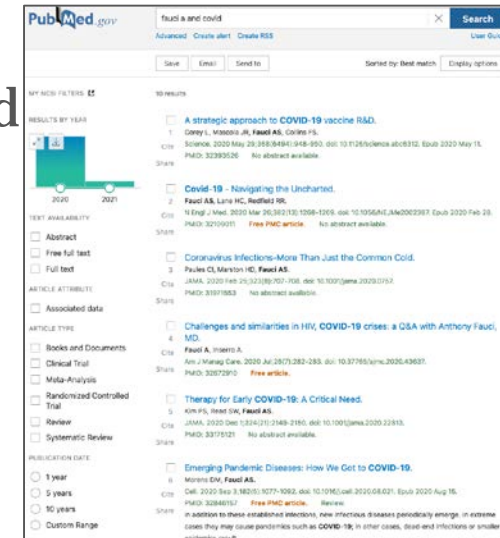
- Commitment to academics in patient-centered research

- Time commitment

- Professional responsibilities intertwine with award

- Stress track record for research and publications

- What do you plan to gain with this award?



Candidate's Background

Plan for Career Development Award

- State objective of proposal
 - Your academic career development!
- Justify need for career development award

Prior research
& training



Training &
experience
during award



Independent
investigator

- Use resources of your home institution



Research Plan

Specific Aims

- Be crystal clear and concise in what you intend to do
 - State goals of research, expected outcomes and impact on field
- What do you you want to achieve?
- More about the science, less about the career development
- Present the problem and how you are going to solve it
- “Perfect” this section before working on rest of research plan

Research Plans

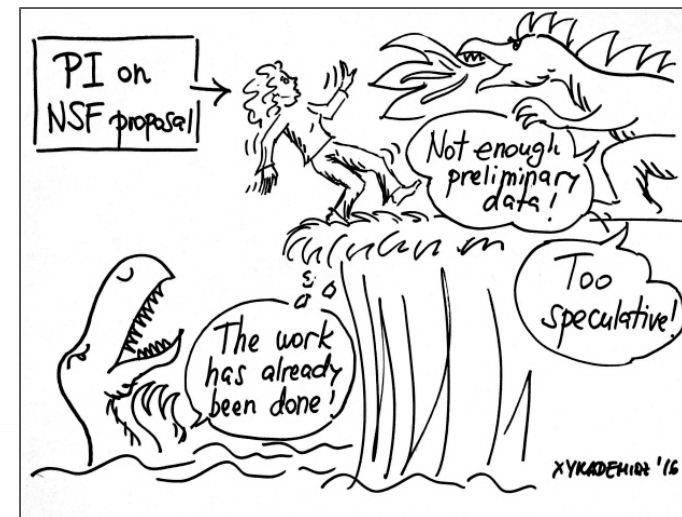
Background and Significance

- Significance
 - Paint the picture (what has been done?)
 - Gaps in existing knowledge which your research fills
 - Why is this an important scientific problem?
- Innovation
 - Offer a new perspective
 - Novel concepts
- Approach
 - How are you going to accomplish aims?

Research Plans

Preliminary Data

- Must have preliminary data
- Applicable to research plans
- Clear figures and tables which can stand on their own
 - You should be generating these in your lab experiments in time preceding application



Research Plans

Design and Methods

- Detailed information on how experiments will address each aim
 - Overall strategy, methodology and analyses
 - How data will be collected, analyzed and interpreted
- Convince reviewer you know all nooks & crannies of experiments
 - Present anticipated results
 - Sound statistics
 - Back-up plans for potential pitfalls
 - Future studies
- Logical sequence

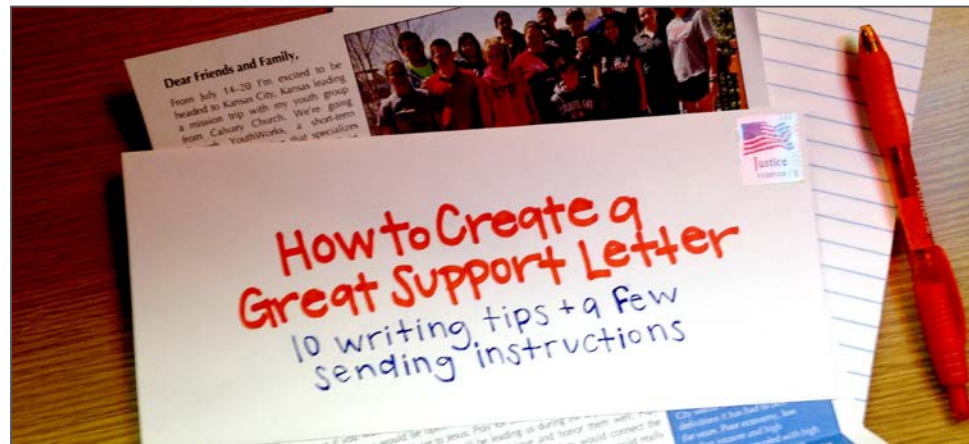
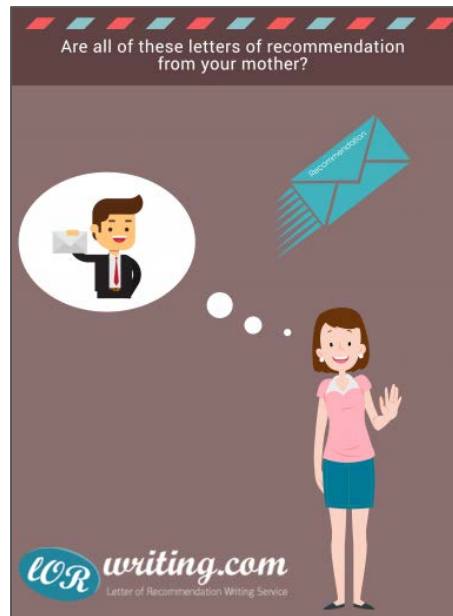
Mentorship and Collaborative Plan

- Clearly define primary mentor
 - Why they are ideal for this role?
 - Accomplished investigator with track record of success & independent support
- Identify membership committee
 - Realistic group of individuals who can round out goals of career development
- Identify collaborators
 - Able to help achieve design & methods



Letters of Support

- Simplify letter writing process for mentors, collaborators
- Provide enough time for letter writers



Summary

Fundamentals of Putting Together Grant Application

- Identify and refine your research question
- Assemble the right team
- Time management
- Know particulars and nuances of grant application components
 - Candidate background: career goals, objectives and plans
 - Research plan: start with specific aims, then complete the rest
 - Significance, innovation, approach
 - Mentorship
- Do not give up with rejections

Acknowledgments

- Khan Lab
 - Danielle Heller
 - Vadim Kurbatov
 - Daniel Jacobs
 - Varia Mironova
 - Gabriella Grisotti
 - Rebecca Zhu
 - Michael Heyang
- Johnson Lab
 - **Caroline Johnson**
 - Nicholas Rattray
 - Yuping Cai
 - Qian Zhang
 - Xinyi Shen
- Yale Section of Surgical Oncology
- Lu Lab
 - **Jun Lu**
 - Jingru Tian
 - Qinrong Wang
 - Dingyao Zhang
- Yale School of Public Health
 - Yawei Zhang
 - Lingeng Lu
- Funding
 - NIH KL-2 UL1 TR001863
 - Ohse New Investigator Award (Yale Surgery)
 - Lampman Funding (Yale Surgical Oncology)
 - NIH 1R21CA223686-01
 - NCI-2012-02067 U10CA0347429

