Writing a grant application: personal experience & perspective

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Follow the recipe

Pay attention to

- "Call for application"
 - -open call and closing date (internal closing date)
- Read the guidelines carefully
 - -even if you are a "seasoned" applicant
- Eligibility
- Thematic priorities
 - -does your project fit into one of the thematic priorities?

Most important ingredient

The proposal

- -novelty
- -local relevance
- -clinical translation

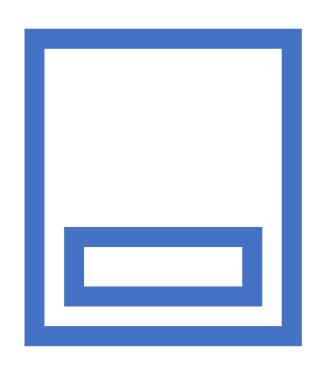






Reviewers

- Expert in the field but may not necessarily know your specific topic
- Busy individuals
- May have many proposals to get through
- Under pressure to identify and recommend proposals to support



Introduction

- easy to follow and understand
- written succinctly
- include up-to-date literature review and summary
- what is/are currently available
- current practice



Research gaps & clinical needs



How we can address these.....



Preliminary work

Identify the aims of the proposal and their respective hypotheses

Don't include too many aims (unrealistic)

Feasibility

Explain clinical needs and identify the clinical relevance

Very important to showcase preliminary work

• To demonstrate the team's capability in delivery the proposed aims

 Both published and unpublished work should be included (even remotely related)

• For follow-up work, make sure there is continuity in the "story-telling"



Plan of investigation

subject recruitment (be realistic)
inclusion and exclusion criteria
sample size estimation (get help if you are not proficient)

Detailed methodology:

- meticulous planning
- put yourself in the reviewer's shoes
- structured and easy to read
- aims separately described if possible but ensure continuity

Things may not always go accordingly to plan

Identify potential problems or issues

Think of contingency plans

 Make sure your collaborators can help when things go wrong (choose your collaborators wisely)

Budget



Study the guidelines carefully



Get help from research service +/- finance



Don't try to overbudget, ask what you need



Staff cost: does salary rank match with the responsibilities or abilities?

Grading for applications	Meaning
4	Nil or very minor issues to address only
Recommended for support	
3	
Recommended for support subject to clarifications / amendments	Minor revision and clarification required for a successful delivery
2	
Not recommended for support at present	Major revision required for significant improvement
1	Minimal impact on research/flaw in
Not supported	methodology/incomplete application/ out of scope of the fund



Grant Review Board

3. Recommended for support subject to clarifications/ amendments



Address all comments raised by GRB and specific reviewers



Get IRB approval early (ideally before you even hear from GRB)

Make sure title matches the one in the proposal



Use the template provided

Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing.

~Pele