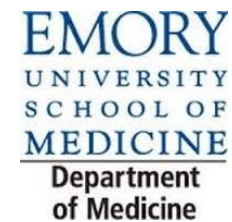


The Science & the Art of NIH Grant Review: Understanding the application review process to improve grant writing skills

May 14, 2018



Survey Drawing



K-Club Specials

PhRMA Foundation Grants

Research Starter Grants

<http://www.phrmafoundation.org/2018-awards/research-starter-grants/>

- Multiple areas supported
 - Health Outcomes
 - Informatics
 - Pharmaceuticals
 - Pharmacology/Toxicology
 - Translational Medicine and Therapeutics
- Support individuals in academia who do not have other substantial sources of research funding.
- Applicants will be judged on the scientific merit of the proposed research, and on the degree of financial need
- Provide \$100,000 for one year
- Exact eligibility criteria for each flavor differs slightly, but generally is for early career faculty who have not yet received an independent award

Today's panelists

Jessica Alvarez, PhD, RD

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism & Lipids

Emory University School of Medicine

David Guidot, MD

Director, Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, & Critical Care Medicine

Professor

Emory University School of Medicine

Srini Tridandapani, MSEE, PhD, MD, MSCR

Assistant Professor, Radiology and Biomedical Engineering

Adjunct Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology

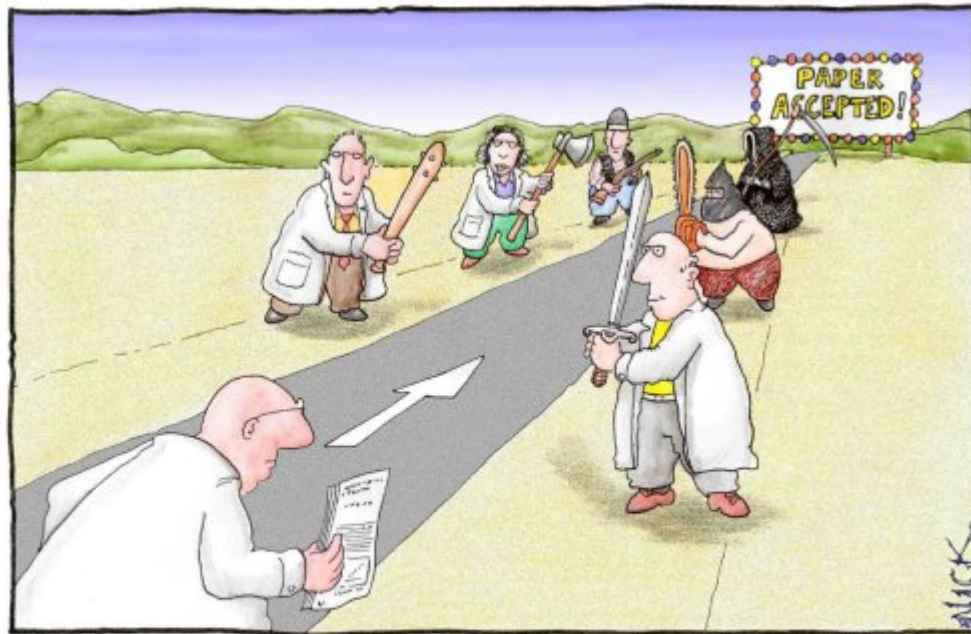
Director, Radiology Research Track Residency Program

Director, Quality Imaging Laboratory (QualL)

Outline of today's session

- Video revealing the NIH Peer Review process (from 2011)
- Facilitated Panel Discussion

Overview of the review process



Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as 'quite an improvement.'

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fBDxl6l4dOA&feature=youtu.be>

NIH Peer Review Revealed

- Is the NIH video an accurate depiction of what you've experienced as an NIH grant reviewer?
- How is it the same?
- How does it differ?



Relative weight of each grant section

- Primary/secondary/tertiary reviewers
 - What sections of the grant application most influence the impact score?
 - How much reliance is there on the supplemental non scientific materials? (ex, biosketches, letters of support, facilities and other resources, budget justifications, authentication of key resources)
- What documents do non primary/secondary/tertiary reviewers rely on most in their assessment, evaluation and ultimately in scoring?



K-Specific Review Criteria

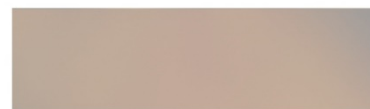
Specific to the K: Reviewers should provide their assessment of the likelihood for the candidate to maintain a strong research program, taking into consideration the criteria below in determining the overall impact/priority score.

Core Review Criteria

- Candidate
 - Career Development Plan/Career Goals & Objectives/Plan to Provide Mentoring
 - Research Plan
 - Mentor(s), Co-mentor(s), Consultant(s), Collaborator(s)
 - Environment and Institutional Commitment to the Candidate
-
- As a reviewer, what specifically would you be looking for to evaluate a K candidate?
 - What would provide compelling evidence to you that the applicant has successfully created a path towards independence?

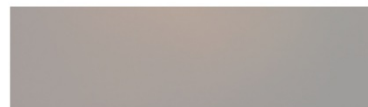
Is preparation a key to success?

- What kinds of applicant legwork and preparation are most evident during the review process?
- Can an applicant's good relationship with a Program Officer help favorably influence the review or funding of an application?
- Is there value that can be gained by researching the people serving on the study section before writing the application?



**I DON'T BELIEVE
IN LUCK, I BELIEVE
IN PREPARATION**

BOBBY KNIGHT
PICTUREQUOTES.COM



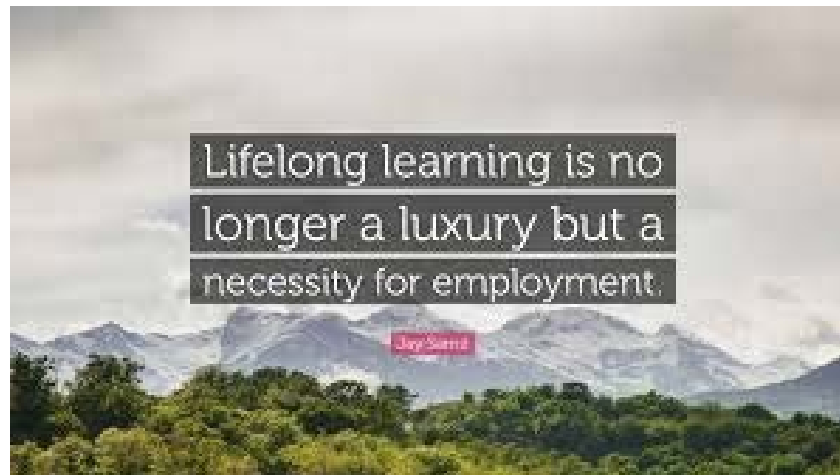
Is the devil in the details?

- What types of formatting and grantsmanship practices annoy you as a reviewer?
- Does lack of attention to detail in an application and grammatical errors influence the review panel as a whole?
- What special formatting and aesthetic touches have you appreciated/valued as a reviewer?



Lifelong learner

- What are some tips you've learned from being a grant reviewer that helped you become a better grant writer?
- What have you learned from other reviewers that helped you become a better grant reviewer and grant writer?



General Advice

- What is the best piece of advice you received early in your career?
- What are the “must have” components of grant applications and what are the potential pitfalls that are viewed as the “kiss of death?”
- How can early career faculty get involved and gain grant review experience?

