NIH Grants: How to and why with secondary data analysis

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National Cancer Institute

National Institutes of Health

"We're from the government and we are here to help"

National Cancer Institute

Division of Cancer Control & Population Sciences

National Institutes of Health

Why bother??

- Impacts salary, promotion, tenure, and reputation
- Generates publications
- Grants + Pubs = Power
- Grants = Freedom
- Control your destiny
- Enact your vision

National Cancer Institute®

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Do your homework before you submit

- ▸ **Think novel but not too far outside the box**
- ▸ **NIH Guide listserv: http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/listserv.htm**
- ▸ **Search for current Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs)**
- ▸ **CRISP (Computer Retrieval of Information on Scientific Projects database): http://crisp.cit.nih.gov**
- ▸ **Contact a Program Director to discuss**

Program Directors are your "Friends"

▶ **Your PD's are there to answer questions (set up a time to talk):**

⏩ Identify resources to locate funding opportunities

⏩ Direct investigators to grant mechanisms that match the goal or intent of their projects and experience

⏩ Have knowledge of grant portfolio

⏩ Attend Study Section reviews (can follow-up after review of grant)

⏩ Refer you to appropriate program staff at NCI and other NIH institutes

Types of FOAs: To RFA or Not RFA?

▸ **Program Announcement (PA):** Statement of ongoing research interest by Institute/Center
  ⏵ **No set-aside monies (usually)**
  ⏵ **Investigator-initiated awards are now in response to a parent PA**
    ▪ **PA-07-070: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-070.html**
▸ **Request for Applications (RFA):** Special research initiative
  ⏵ **Set-aside monies and specially assembled review group**
  ⏵ **If not funded, consider submitting as NEW grant**
▸ **And remember that 80% of NIH funded research is investigator-initiated**

Types of Grant Mechanisms

- ▶ **R03 – Small Research Grants**
- ▶ **R21 – Exploratory/Developmental Grants**
- ▶ **R01 – Research Projects**
- ▶ **R13 – Conference Grants**
- ▶ **P01 – Research Program Projects**
- ▶ **K-Awards NCI – Training Awards**

http://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/flash/awards.htm

R03: Small Research Grants

▶ Provide short-term awards for testing new techniques, secondary analyses of existing data, and development of innovative projects that could provide pilot data

▶ Characteristics:
  ▸ **Up to $100K for 2-years (nonrenewable)**
  ▸ **2 submissions—initial and 1 amended**
  ▸ **Special NCI review committee for behavioral research PAR**
  ▸ **Only in response to Program Announcement (not part of the blanket NIH R03)**

R03

R21: Exploratory/Developmental Grants

▶ Support development of pilot projects, feasibility studies, and intervention studies that are creative, novel, high-risk/high-payoff, and produce innovative advances

▶ Characteristics:
  ⟫ **Up to $275K for 2 years (nonrenewable)**
  ⟫ **2 submissions—initial and 1 amended**
  ⟫ **Only in response to Program Announcement (not part of the blanket NIH R21)**

R01: Research Project Grants

▸ Traditional investigator-initiated grant providing support for discrete, specified research

⊳⊳ **If ≥ $500K/year, need to request NIH Center for Scientific Review (CSR)/Institute Program Director approval to submit—at least 6 to 8 weeks before submission deadline for NCI DCCPS**

⊳⊳ **Up to 5 years (usually 3–5 years)**

⊳⊳ **2 submissions—initial and 1 amended**

R01

PA's to look at for secondary data analysis

▸ **PA 06-151 (R21) Secondary analyses in obesity, diabetes, digestive, and kidney diseases (NIDDK)**
  http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-151.html

▸ **PA 06-180 (R03) NIH Small Research Grant Program (multiple NIH IC's but not NCI)**
   http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-180.html

▸ **PAR 09-003 (R03) Small Grants for Behavioral Research in Cancer Control (NCI-specific)**
  http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-003.html

PA's to look at for secondary data analysis(Cont'd)

- **PA 06-351 (R21): Exploratory grants for behavioral research in cancer control (NCI)**
  http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-351.html

- **PAR 07-019 (R03): Understanding and promoting health literacy (multiple institutes including NCI)**
  http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-07-019.html

- **PA 08-167,168, 169 (R01, R21, & R03): Secondary analysis of existing alcohol epidemiology data (NIAAA)**
  http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-167.html (R01)

- **PA 08-252 (R03): Archiving and development of social behavioral datasets in aging related studies (NIA)**
  http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-252.html

"Amy's Tips"

▶ **Look at CSR's website to determine most appropriate study section and discuss with Program Director (see cartoon)**

▶ **Cover letter**
- ▶▶ **Put in suggestion for study section**
- ▶▶ **Institute(s) for best assignment**
- ▶▶ **Name of PD**

"When writing your essays, I encourage you to think for yourselves while you express what I'd most agree with."

S.GROSS

"My question is: Are we making an impact?"

Develop Your Idea

▶ **Generate preliminary data (need pilot data for R01s!)**

▶ **Enlist collaborators, include letters of commitment**

▶ **Review successful proposals of other colleagues**

Preparing the Application

‣ **Clear, concise writing style**

‣ **Be focused and don't rush**

‣ Read instructions!

‣ Never assume that reviewers "know what you mean"

‣ **Explain your rationale/choices**

‣ **Critique, critique, and critique again**

Preparing the Application (cont'd)

- ▶ **Concentrate on specific aims**
- ▶ **Generate especially strong methods**
  - ▪ **Does it work? Prelim data**
  - ▪ **Define design, analytic model, and primary outcome**
  - ▪ **Link outcomes to specific measures**
    - – **Use VALIDATED instruments!**
  - ▪ **Detailed recruitment and retention**
  - ▪ **Defuse attacks by identifying limitations**
- ▶ **Anticipate human subject issues**

Other important factors for a successful application

▸ **Include analyses on:**
  ▸▸ **Mediators/moderators**
  ▸▸ **Process**
  ▸▸ **Cost-benefit**
  ▸▸ **Dissemination/diffusion**

▸ **Get outside consultants and/or subs**

▸ **Assess and adjust for intervention fidelity**
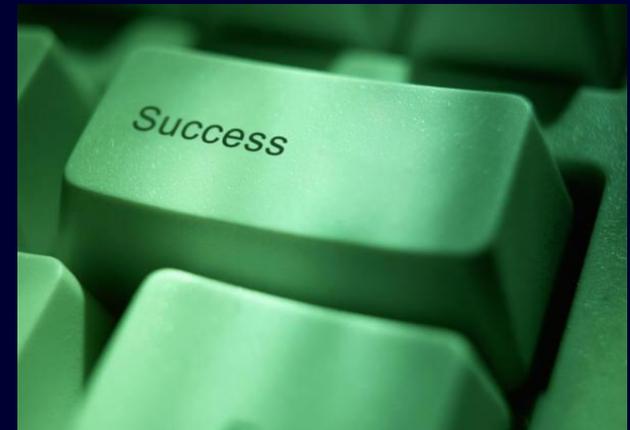
Key Deadlines

- **New R01's: Feb 5, June 5, and Oct 5**

- **New R03's and R21's: Feb 16, June 16th, and Oct 16**
  - **(note NCI small grants for behavioral research: April 20, Aug 21, and Dec 22, 2008)**

- **Resubmission/**
  Competing continuation: one month after above dates

- **SBIR/STTR: April 5, Aug 5, and Dec 5**

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"Next day to the coast! You must be nuts!"
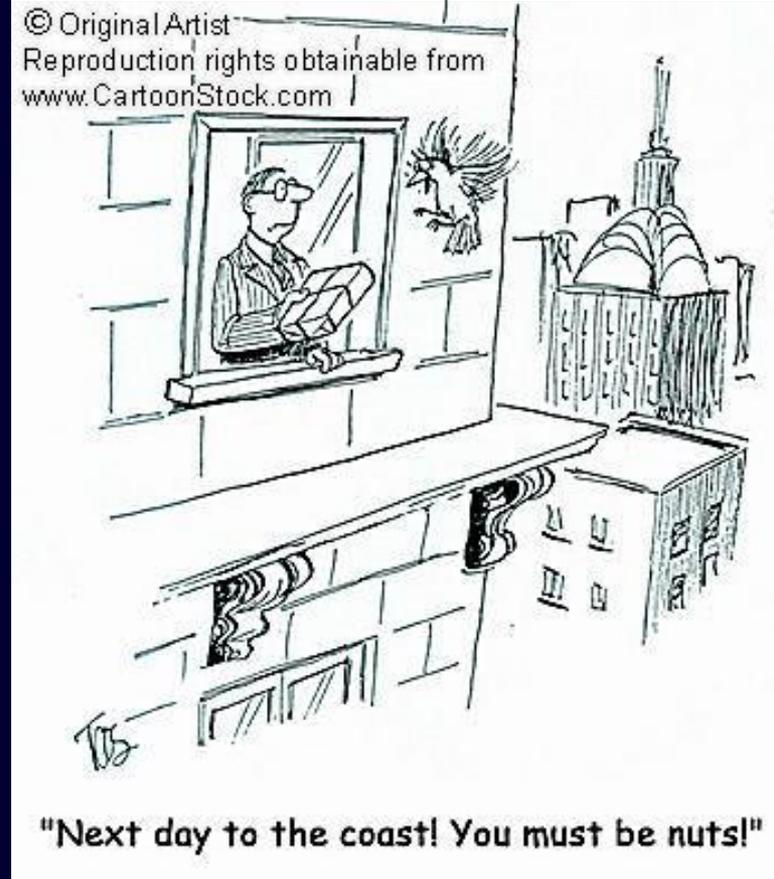
Other Key NIH web-links

- ‣ **Electronic Submission Intranet**
- ‣ **http://odoerdb2.od.nih.gov/ElectronicSubmission/index.htm**

- ‣ **Electronic Submission of Grant Applications**
- ‣ **http://era.nih.gov/ElectronicReceipt/**

- ‣ **Electronic Submission FAQs**
- ‣ **http://era.nih.gov/ElectronicReceipt/faq.htm**

- ‣ **Funding Opportunities and Notices**
- ‣ **http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/index.html**

- ‣ **Parent Announcements (For Unsolicited or Investigator-Initiated Applications)**
- ‣ **http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/parent_announcements.htm**

- ‣ **Standard Due Dates for Competing Applications**
- ‣ **http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/submissionschedule.htm**
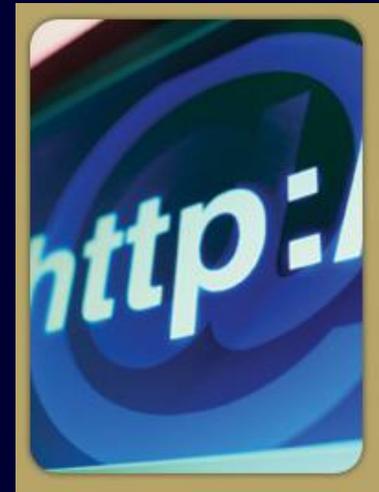
GOOD LUCK!
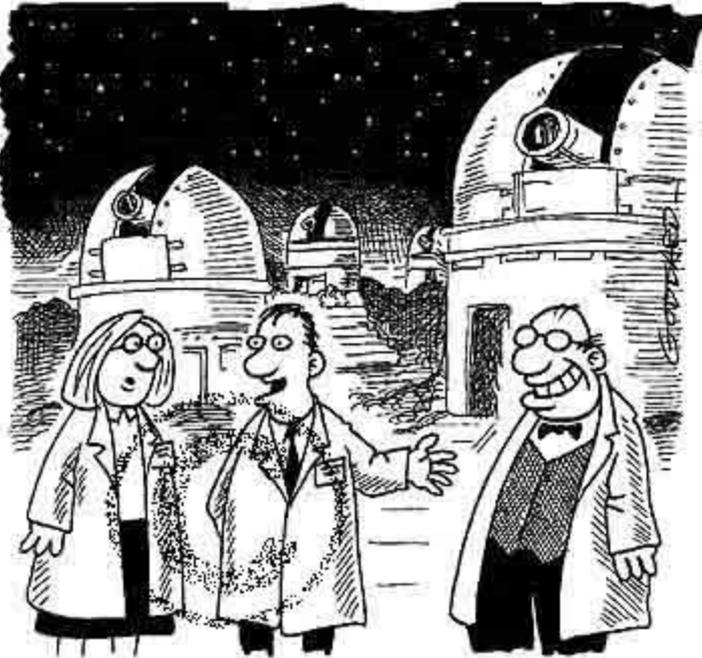
"This is Doctor Bagshaw, discoverer of the infinitely expanding research grant."