Writing a Grant Application

F99/K00 Webinars

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How can a Training or Career Development Award Help You?

It supports the development of your research career:

- Facilitates movement from now to where you want to be in 3-5 years
- Develops your overall scientific career
- Research is just one element (compared to a research grant – e.g. R01- which is all about the research)

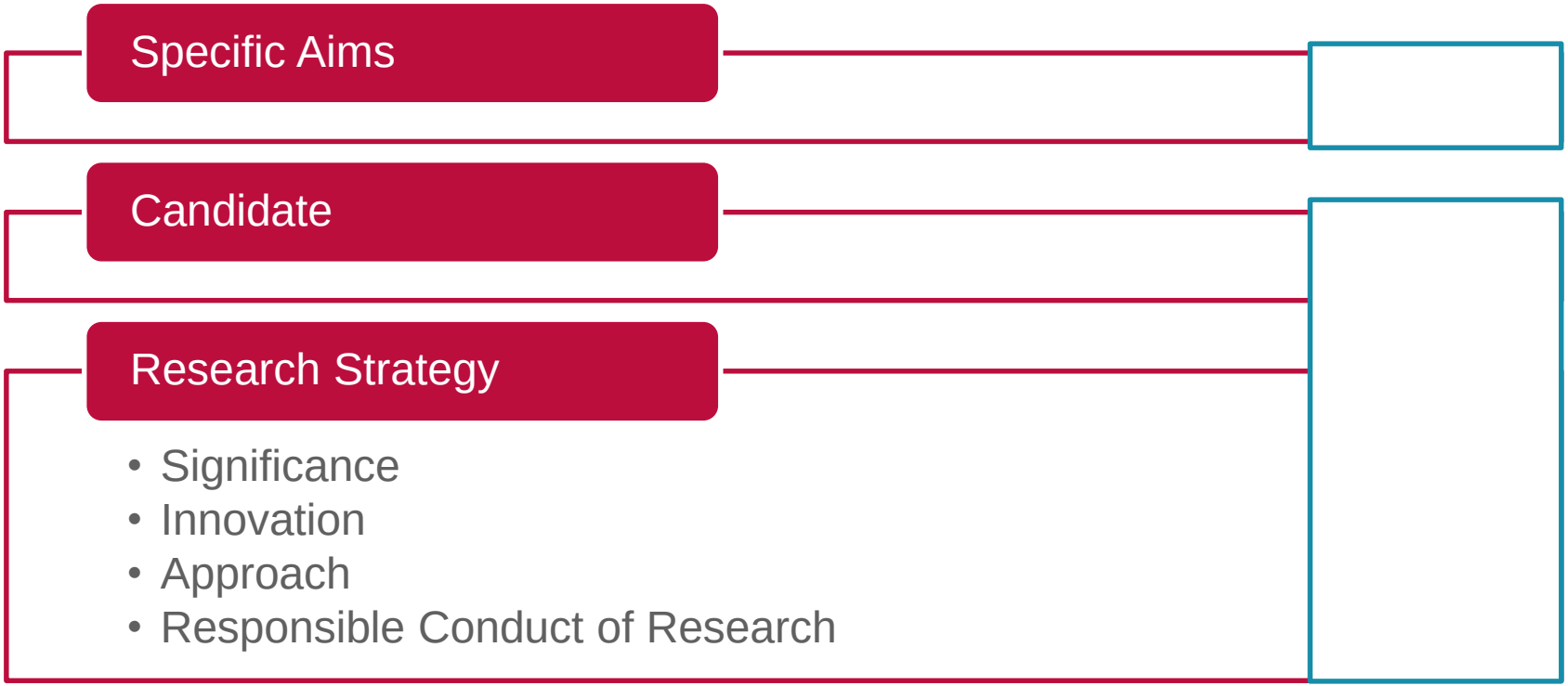
Factors to consider in selecting the right funding opportunity:

- Stage in career development
- Research focus
- Prior research experience including publications
- Level of institutional commitment
- Needs of the investigator
- Effort that can be committed
- Citizenship status

Provisions & Requirements:

- Provides up to 5 years salary and research support
- Mentored awards require mentors & strong institutional commitment
- Some awards have specific effort commitment e.g. of ≥75% effort / 9 calendar months
- US citizen or permanent resident (except F99 and K99)
- Letters of recommendation, submitted electronically

Structure of a Grant Application



Specific Aims & Applicant sections

- Specific Aims
  - The **most important page** in the grant – the only page that non-assigned reviewers may read
  - Written for a scientist
  - Uses short declarative sentences
  - Does not include references, jargon or acronyms
  - Clearly states the hypothesis
  - Ensures that the aims **test** the hypothesis
  - Is not be technology driven
  - Elements are interdependent, not dependent

- Applicant
  - Tell the story of your training path, and goals
  - Focus on the “why” not the “what” you did
  - Include information not in biosketch
  - Put your best self forward
  - Prepare a “Training Program”
    - Select mentors and/or an advisory committee
    - Self identify deficiencies in your training & address with workshops and courses
    - Use the grant to augment your training
    - Indicate how the grant will maximize your chances of becoming an independent investigator

Research Strategy

- Introduction
  - Concise
  - Is not a literature review
  - Leads the reader to the hypothesis
  - Demonstrates the “conversation” in the field
  - Demonstrates a critical question is being asked and (hopefully) answered
  - Focuses everything on the hypothesis

- Approach
  - Demonstrates ability perform work
  - Shows PI’s contribution to work
  - Shows feasibility of experiments
  - Must be “doable” in requested period of funding
  - Is hypothesis-based, not tech driven
  - Is innovative and feasible - if very innovative, MUST have preliminary data to show it is feasible
  - Is NOT descriptive or a “fishing expedition”
  - Is FOCUSED and not a multi-aim proposal to conquer the world
  - Includes controls
  - Includes a section on statistics
  - Discusses potential pitfalls and proposes alternatives

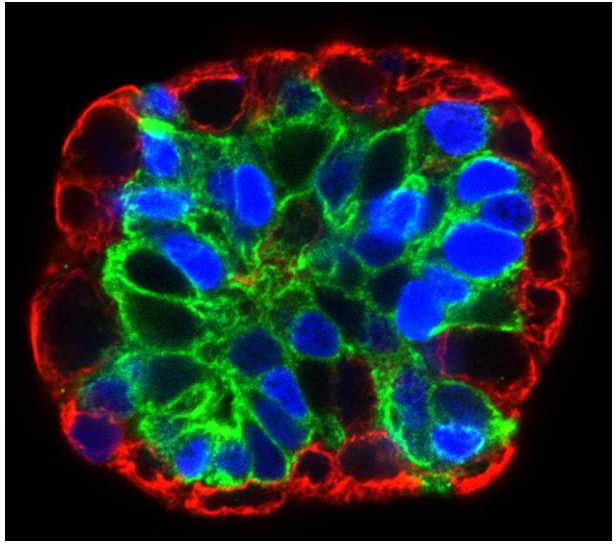
Flaws that are often Fatal

Big Picture

- Lacks relevant significance
- Not innovative
- Not hypothesis-driven
- Poorly written

Experimental Approach

- Overly ambitious …
- … Too narrow
- Dependence of one aim on another
- Lacks sufficient detail and statistical analyses
- Lacks anticipated results and alternative strategies



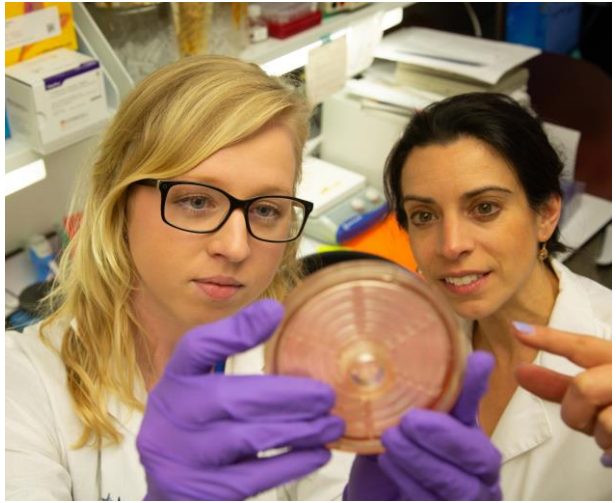
Common Issues that Limit Enthusiasm from Reviewers

Training plan is too generic:

- If you can put someone else's name in the training plan then it is not specific to the applicant
- The more detail the better (who, what, where, when)

Reference letters not glowing:

- Hint: All letters need to be "outstanding"
- Strategize with your sponsor concerning letters
- Ask people who know you, know your work and who are positive people and good writers



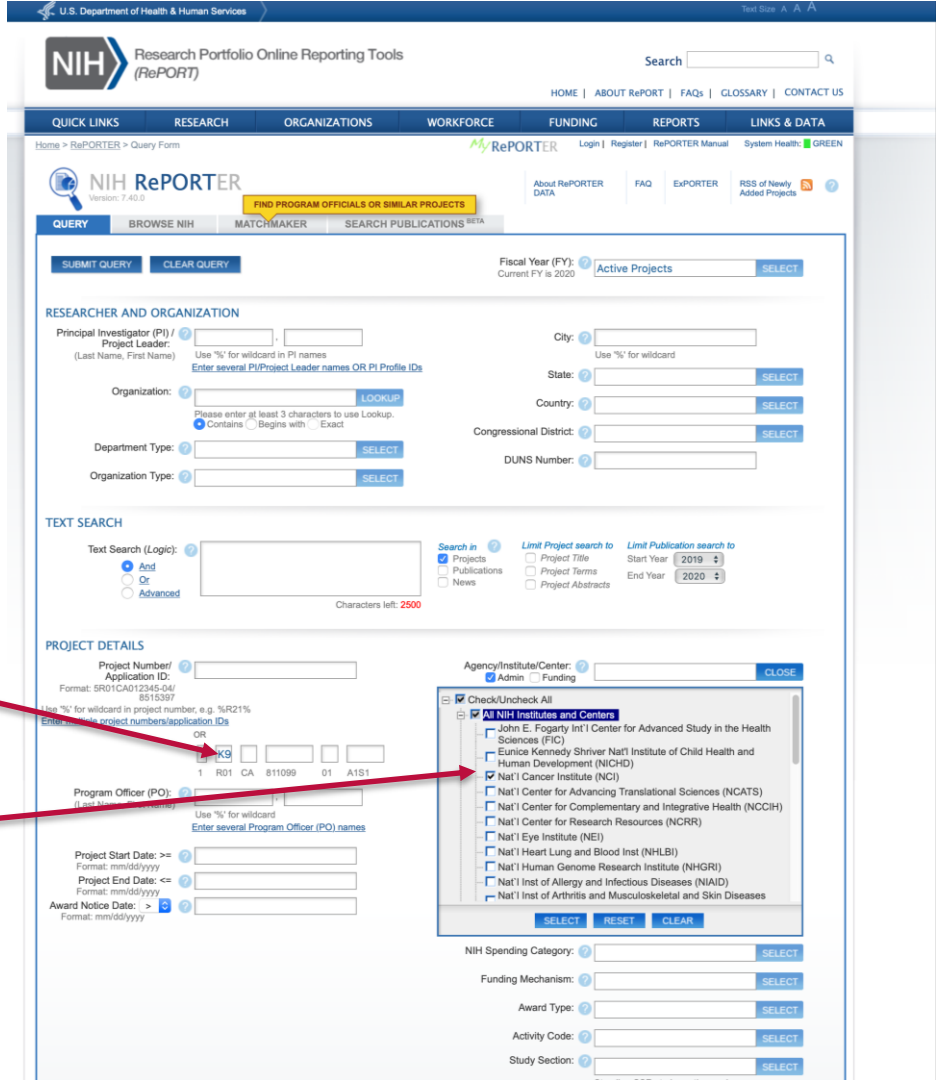
Thoughts on Review

- Know the Study Section
- Appreciate that they are busy people with full time jobs
- Be considerate of their time
- Make their job as easy as possible with clarity, clear language, good structure e.g. sub-headings, etc
- Provide them the information they need for writing their review

What has been funded

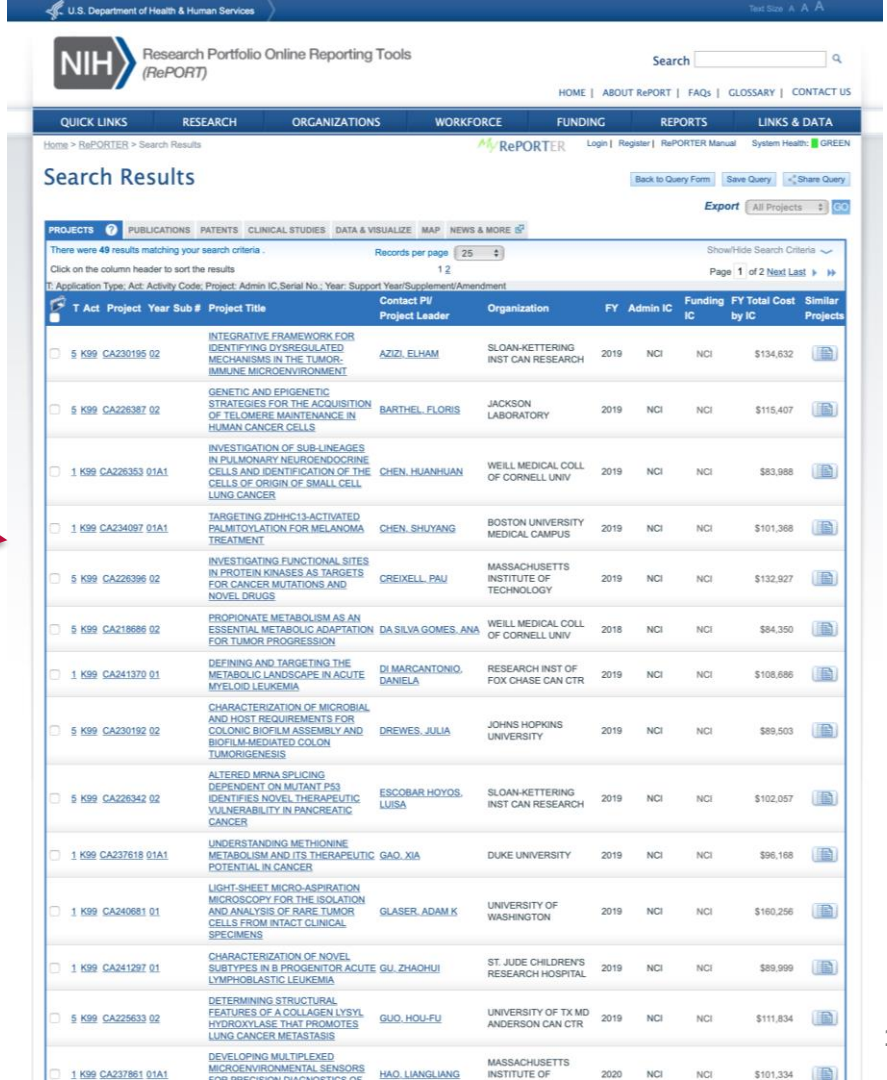
Enter mechanism

Filter by Institute/Center that is administrating or funding



What has been funded

A list of previously funded grants that you can explore



For additional information on training and career development opportunities offered by NCI, please visit **cancer.gov/cct**

www.cancer.gov **www.cancer.gov/espanol**