

## Getting Funded: Reviewer's Perspective



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## Who are the Reviewers?

- ↳ Busy people
  - ✦ Academics
  - ✦ Researchers
  - ✦ Administrators
  - ✦ Spouses/Partners
  - ✦ Parents



## Who are the Reviewers?

- ↳ Accomplished researchers
- ↳ Content experts
- ↳ Methods experts



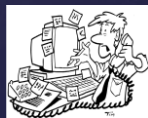
## Why do Reviewers Volunteer?

- ↳ Give back
- ↳ Keep abreast of the current state of the science
- ↳ Voice in the direction of the state of the science
- ↳ Indirect opportunity to mentor



## Life of a Reviewer

- ↳ Grant applications/proposals are made available for review
- ↳ Many conflicting deadlines
- ↳ Establish a plan
- ↳ Read proposals
- ↳ Write & submit reviews
- ↳ Participate in review sessions



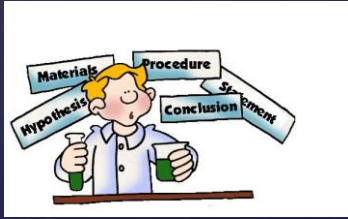
## How Much Time Does it Take to Review an Application/Proposal?

- ↳ It depends
- ↳ How much time do you want the reviewer to spend on **YOUR** application?



## Assumptions

- ↳ The science must be sound!!!



## Beginning the Reviews

- ↳ Determining order of review
  - ✦ On an airplane
  - ✦ Beginning of the day
  - ✦ End of the day
- ↳ What is the reviewer doing?

## Getting the Reviewers Attention

- ↳ Title
- ↳ Significance
- ↳ Impact
- ↳ Innovation
- ↳ Team
- ↳ Writing style
- ↳ Abstract

## First Impressions Matter



## Title



- ↳ Effect of physical activity on age-related changes in cardiac function and performance in women
- ↳ Safe, innovative exercise program to improve cardiac function and quality of life in older women

- ↳ What makes middle-aged and older women walk?
- ↳ Factors affecting adherence to a long-term interval walking training program in middle-aged and older women



- ↳ Comparison of high-speed and low-speed resistance training in older women
- ↳ Resistance training in older women: High-speed or low-speed, that is the question!



## Significance

- ↳ Sufficiently important to be worthy of attention
- ↳ Having particular meaning
  - ⌘ Life or death
  - ⌘ Cost
  - ⌘ Public health threat
  - ⌘ Safety
  - ⌘ Quality of life
  - ⌘ Number of people affected



## NIH Significance



- ↳ Does the project address an **important problem or critical barrier to progress** in the field?
- ↳ If the aims of the project are achieved, **how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved?**

- ↳ How will successful completion of the aims **change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?**



## Impact



- ↳ Have a strong effect on someone or something
- ↳ Have a sustained powerful influence
  - ⌘ Changing lives
  - ⌘ Cutting healthcare expenditures
  - ⌘ Curing disease
  - ⌘ Reducing adverse outcomes
  - ⌘ Improved healthcare delivery model

## Innovation



- ↳ New idea, device, or process
- ↳ Application of better solutions that meet new demands or needs, recognized or unrecognized
- ↳ Original and more effective than current thinking, product, or process

- ↳ Reviewers do their homework
  - Current knowledge
  - Literature searches
  - Your publications
  - Currently funded studies
  - Google searches
  - Measures
  - Statistical methods...



## Team

- ↳ Individuals coming together to achieve a common goal
  - Adequate representation of expertise in **all** areas of the proposal
    - ↳ Content
    - ↳ Methods
    - ↳ Population
  - Adequate time



## Writing Style

- ↳ Clear
- ↳ Concise
- ↳ Conceptual framework that paints a picture
- ↳ Avoid jargon
- ↳ Headings
- ↳ White space



## Abstract

- ↳ Paint the picture
- ↳ Don't make the reviewer guess
- ↳ Clear, concise language
- ↳ Have others provide feedback



Thank you!

