

RESEARCH FORUM SERIES

Core Curriculum Module D

Grantsmanship

Part 1: Preparing a NIH Grant Application:

Format and Content

Part 2: Mock Study Section

Part 3: Preparing a Revised Application and Budget

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I. Background

A variety of federal agencies, foundations, and private sector agencies fund primary care/health services research. As funding for research has become more competitive, it is important that researchers improve their knowledge and skills related to grantsmanship.

Preparing and submitting a successful grant is a demanding and labor intensive process that requires careful thought, thoroughness, and attention to detail. Researchers also need to be open and responsive to critical feedback from colleagues and grant reviewers designed to improve the quality, rigor, and trustworthiness of the proposed research.

II. Aim

In this 3-part workshop, Fellows will learn about the NIH grant preparation and review process, and selected practical issues in grantsmanship.

III. Learning Objectives

Part 1: Preparing a NIH Grant Application: Format and Content

- To understand the organization of NIH grant application.
- To understand the procedure in submitting a NIH grant

Part 2: Mock Study Section

- To participate in a mock study section
- To prepare a written critique of a grant proposal

Part 3: Preparing a revised application and budget

- To learn how to prepare a revised application to the NIH
- To learn how to prepare a budget for a grant application.

II. Teaching Method(s)

Dr. Jeffrey Carson presented three 1.5 hour seminars. A mix of didactic lectures, independent study, small group experiential learning, and group discussion were employed.

III. Content Outline

The goal of this 3-session workshop is to provide an overview of the preparation, revision, and development of a NIH grant. Participants will have the opportunity to review the first submission of one of Dr. Carson's grants and participate in a mock study section. Students will receive a copy of the actual review and how it was responded to for the second submission. A brief overview of the budget will be presented. The 3-session workshop will conclude with presentation of the results of the study and the distribution of the published manuscript. This workshop should be instructive for fellows and faculty who are new or relatively inexperienced with the research grant process for a clinical study.

Part 1: Preparing an NIH Grant Application: Format and Content

This session will be a lecture in which the format and content of a grant is presented. At least 1/3 of the time will be available for questions. Assignments and materials for a Mock Study Section will be distributed.

- Powerpoint [slides](#) (see Attachment)

Part 2: Mock Study Section

A real grant application that was submitted and eventually funded by the NIH will be distributed prior to the session. The group will be assigned as reviewers for different parts of the application and will be expected to prepare a written critique of the grant. The group will discuss the grant's strengths and limitations and score the proposal. At the end of the session, the study section summary statement will be provided and the issues raised will be discussed.

Part 3: Preparing a revised application and budget

In this session we will review the content and process of revising a NIH grant and how to respond to criticisms. If time permits, we also review how to develop a budget.

At the end of the session, the results of the study will be briefly presented and the manuscript that was published in a high visibility peer-reviewed journal will be distributed.

VI. Application to Actual Research Projects by Fellows

Fellows will have an opportunity to bring questions related to grant applications they are working on for discussion to the group and at follow-up Research Forum meetings.

VII. References/Internet Resources

Eaves GN. Who reads your project-grant application to the National Institutes of Health? Federation Proceedings 1972; 31(1):3-11.

Hitchcock MA, Lamkin BD, Clarke CM, Kreis SR. Skills for the beginning family medicine investigator. Family Medicine 1987; 19:120-124.

Lauffer A. Grants, etc., Second edition, Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE, 1997.

Lefferts R. Getting a Grant in the 1990s. How to Write Successful Grant Proposals, Third edition, Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1991.

Miller DC: Handbook of Research Design and Social Measurement, Fifth Edition, Newbury Park, CA: SAGE, 1991 (Part 7. Research Proposal, Funding, Costing, Reporting, and Career Utilization, pp. 583-689).

Price LJ. A medical anthropologist's ruminations on NIH funding. Medical Anthropology Quarterly 1992; 6(2):128-146.

Ries JB, Leukefeld C. The Research Funding Guidebook. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE, 1997.

Romm FJ. Practical grantsmanship: the application process in health care research. Family Medicine 1991; 23:392-386.