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# The Structure of a Grant: Pre Grant Writing Preparation

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# How much time should I give myself?

## To do:

- Process activities:
    - Gather materials: old grants, articles,
    - Understand the process for submission
      - Electronic submission
      - Picking an Institute and Study Section
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# How much time should I give myself?

## To Do – Cont.

- Scientific activities:
  - Background Research
  - Do preliminary studies
  - Get help! – contact collaborators/mentors
  - Think! Questions to ask
    - experiments to propose
    - Study design

Give your collaborators/mentors time to review your work and critique !!!

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# How much time?

- Brand new investigator - up to 1 year
    - Longer for part-time
  - New NIH investigator – 4-6months
  - 1<sup>st</sup> competing renewal – 2-3 months
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> grant – up to 6 months
  - Very experienced multiple competing renewal – 1-2 months
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# Process work

- Talk to colleagues/mentors about your ideas
  - Look at other grants:
    - Style, some content, structure
  - Look at the relevant websites:
    - Grant writing
    - Institute / IRG-Study Section description
  - Attend grant writing workshops
  - Talk to friends/neighbors re. appropriate SS
    - You can call/e-mail the SS – SRA and/or Institute staff!!!
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# Background preparation

## ■ Review

- What is the problem you are addressing and why is it important
  - What aspect of the problem are you addressing and why
  - What have others proposed (mechanism, solution, theory, hypothesis)
  - What approaches (methods, techniques) have been used
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# Preliminary work:

- Publications (peer reviewed journal)
  - Topic of proposal
  - Methodology to be used
  - Related topics
- Submitted manuscripts
- Abstracts/presentations
- Unpublished preliminary results

Take credit for your collaborators' work

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# What preliminary work should I do?

- Experiments that support your hypothesis
- Work that demonstrates your capabilities
  - Methodology
  - Collaboration with co-investigators
- Demonstrate feasibility- i.e. can you pull it off?
  - Facilities- space, equipment, clinical infrastructure
  - Resources – pts. to recruit, animal models
  - Time commitment (P.I. and co-I.)

**Write Something in a Peer Reviewed Journal !!!**

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# What kinds of experiments should I propose?

- Develop new hypothesis based on your prior work or work of others but where you have contributed
  - Incrementalist vs. innovator
    - Better mouse trap vs. out of the box
  - Will need to show feasibility for exp. And methodology – so prepare!
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# Collect Appendix Material

- ❑ Publications
- ❑ manuscripts
- ❑ Photographs
- ❑ Videos

Keep this to the essentials !!!

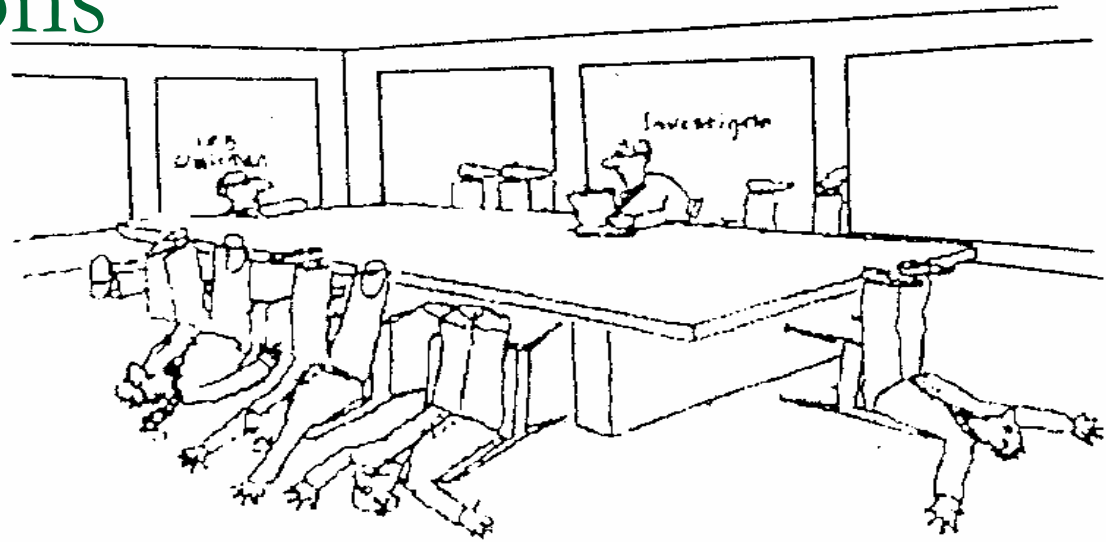
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# What Happens to Your Grant Application

- The Center for Scientific Review (CSR) receives most investigator-initiated applications.
  - NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) coordinate the review of many IC-specific applications
  - Your application is assigned to a review group and an NIH Institute or Center
  - An assignment notice is sent to you
  - Reviewers are identified
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# Study Sections



You want to do WHAT?

- Review 50 to 120 grants per cycle (Feb, June, October)
- Cover specific areas of scientific research
- “Peer review”
- Assign priority score and provide critiques

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# Important Sources of Information

- NIH web site

<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/grants/write/index.htm>

- AHA web site

[http://www.heart.org/downloadable/heart/1133366256870Grantwriting\\_Tips.pdf](http://www.heart.org/downloadable/heart/1133366256870Grantwriting_Tips.pdf)

- Science on-line

[http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career\\_development/work\\_sector/academic\\_1](http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_development/work_sector/academic_1)

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