



The Structure Of A Grant: *Pre-Grant Writing Preparation*

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Conflicts of Interest

- No Relationships To Disclose

Pre-Grant Writing Preparation

1. *Your academic career*

- Commitment from your Chief
- Protected time
- Expected case load
- Space, personnel, start up money
- Administration of grant costs when funded

Pre-Grant Writing Preparation

1. *Your academic career*

- Time management
- Know your limitations
- Clinical, academic, personal activities – a balancing act!
- Learn to say no

Pre-Grant Writing Preparation

1. *Your clinical career*

- Become an excellent surgeon
- Use available resources to your advantage

Pre-Grant Writing Preparation

2. *Choose your study area*

- Ideally, this area has a relationship to your surgical interests
- Write a review and publish it

Pre-Grant Writing Preparation

3. *Find a mentor, build a research team*

- The ideal mentor has:
 - willingness to be a mentor (previous success)
 - adequate time
 - a track record of successful grant funding, especially with your agency of interest
 - a good working knowledge of your chosen study field and model
 - a personality complimentary to yours
 - An understanding of the unique challenges of being an academic surgeon

Pre-Grant Writing Preparation

3. *Find a mentor, build a research team*

- Often, one mentor is not enough
- Surround yourself with a group (team) of people committed to your success

Pre-Grant Writing Preparation

4. *Become informed*

- Internet Resources
- www.nih.gov
- <http://web.facs.org/research/index.html>
- PubMed reviews

Pre-Grant Writing Preparation

5. Application Forms

- Download the current versions and their instructions
- Check due dates carefully

Pre-Grant Writing Preparation

6. *Follow application instructions*

- These can be very specific, and grants can be turned away if not followed

Pre-Grant Writing Preparation

6. *Plan ahead*

- Fellow and junior investigator grants – 3 months
- NIH applications (R01, K08) – 6-9 months
- Construct hard timelines for:
 - Preliminary data
 - Manuscript submissions
 - Refining hypotheses
 - Submission of compliance forms, administrative paperwork
 - Recruitment of collaborators/support letters

Pre-Grant Writing Preparation

6. *The Central Hypothesis*

- Complete assessment of the field/literature search
- Computer Retrieval of Information on Scientific Projects (<http://crisp.cit.nih.gov/>)
- The Central Hypothesis must be:
 - Specific
 - Focused
 - Stated clearly in one sentence
 - Easily testable within up to 3 Specific Aims
 - Recruitment of collaborators/support letters
- Being “too ambitious” is a fatal mistake

Pre-Grant Writing Preparation

7. Preliminary Data

- Defines a new model (ideally, almost mandatorily, you have published the model – J Surg Res is a great place)
- Demonstrates feasibility of a novel surgical technique or delivery system
- Provides solid evidence that the central hypothesis is likely correct
 - The “grants game”: usually Specific Aim One is already completed (but not completely revealed in the application) at time of submission.

You are now ready to start writing!

