

Preface

Over the last 50 years, behavioral and biomedical research has been generously supported by the federal government, private foundations, and other philanthropic organizations. This has contributed to the development of a vibrant public health system in the United States and worldwide. To be competitive, investigators must understand the funding environment and how to translate their hypotheses into innovative research grant applications that are evaluated to have scientific merit.

This unique book provides technical assistance for researchers applying for biobehavioral and psychosocial research funding and can give them an edge in this competitive environment. It updates the first edition, which is still the only book of its kind written by federal personnel and research investigators who have been directly involved with virtually every aspect of federal research support: development, review, management of research grants.

The book provides invaluable tips on all aspects of the art of grantsmanship, including how to determine research opportunities and priorities, how to develop the different elements of an application, how to negotiate the electronic submission and review processes, and how to disseminate the findings. It gives the reader an in-depth understanding of how organizations determine scientific merit and make payment decisions.

Objectives of this Book

- Understand the federal research system
- Become knowledgeable about specific research mechanisms
- Learn about current funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) and how to find out about new ones
- Understand the steps in preparing a research application
- Learn about the peer review system

Overview of Book

The book is divided into three sections and each chapter is prepared by an expert who in addition to providing information on the technical aspects provides insights from inside the federal funding system.

The first section focuses on grantsmanship and the Grant Review and Management Process. In Chap. 1 Dr. Pequegnat provides insights on the grantsmanship process including tips on improving your chance of success in the preparation and review of your grant application. Drs. McKay and Bell are experts in developing good collaborations with the community in which the research is to be conducted and they provide guidelines on establishing a successful community advisory board (CAB) in Chap. 2. Dr. Noronha has responsibility for processing funding opportunity announcements and shares the latest guidance on the electronic submission process in Chaps. 3 and 6, respectively. Dr. Manson suggests that you conduct an ethnographic study of your potential funding agency in order to develop a proposal that responds to their core scientific issues in Chap. 5. In Chap. 7, Dr. Miller Sostek who was a Scientific Review Officer and later a policy maker at the NIH Center for Scientific Review describes the enhanced review process. Dr. Folkman has been a chair of an NIH Scientific Review Group (SRG) and Dr. Pequegnat has observed SRGs for over 20 years and they identify common mistakes in proposals and suggest strategies to avoid them described in Chap. 8. In Chap. 9, Drs. Lyman and Stanton, who have been members of NIH Scientific Review Groups and the recipients of their own multiple grant summary statements, and Dr. Pequegnat, who has reviewed thousands of summary statement as a program officer for over 20 years, help you to understand the meaning of the “state-ments” in your summary statement. Dr. Stover has developed payment strategies and advocated for funding decisions for over 35 years and demystifies the process of how your grant application is actually paid in Chap. 10. While the goal is to be awarded a grant, there is very little guidance on how to manage your grant over its lifetime. Dr. Kalichman has successfully managed both domestic and international grants and provides guidance to the new investigator to ensure that the resources are well utilized to conduct the study in Chap. 11.

The second section is focused on how to develop different parts of your research application. Chapter 12 provides guidance on developing a theoretical framework for your grant by Dr. Herek, who is an experienced social psychologist and researcher. Dr. Dawes makes suggestions about how to develop testable hypotheses, which are critical components of a scientific research proposal in Chap. 13. In Chap. 14 Drs. Benson, Tolley, and Pequegnat provide guidance on collecting and analyzing qualitative data. Chapter 15 is focused on identifying and describing measures that are appropriate to assess constructs in your theoretical framework. Chapter 16 is a new chapter, in which Dr. Rosser describes the challenges and rewards of working with new technology to conduct research. In Chap. 17, Drs. Szapocznik, Pequegnat, and Prado provide a step-by-step guide to developing an intervention for your at-risk population. Chapter 18 is a new chapter

in which Dr. Coates describes the importance of developing an appropriate control group that ensures that you rule out alternative explanations for your data. In Chap. 19, Drs. Wishnoff, Hayes-Shell, and Shore emphasize the elements of a good human subjects plan in the context of new ethical challenges. Drs. Quinn and Nakamura describe the components of a good animal care plan for biomedical research in Chap. 20. Mr. Kytte and Dr. Boyce provide a plan for presenting the members of your research team in Chap. 21.

The data analytic plan is one of the most important parts of a research plan. An effective plan is provided by quantitative psychologist Dr. Panter in Chap. 22. In Chap. 23, Mr. Rahmud lays out the components of a budget plan that will account for sufficient funds to conduct your study. In Chap. 24, Ms. Strader and Dr. Pequegnat present a model for a comprehensive quality control/quality assurance plan, which is essential to implementing your protocol with fidelity. In Chap. 25, Dr. Mayo lays out the research training opportunities at different levels of your career. In Chap. 26, Drs. Pinkerton and Holtgrave decipher the issues in developing a cost-effective study to document that your intervention is cost-saving.

Finally, in Section III, issues about how to disseminate results of your study are discussed. In Chap. 27, Dr. Kelly describes the process of disseminating your evidence-based intervention to service providers and policy makers where it can translate to promoting health and decreasing illness. Finally, in Chap. 28, Drs. Bachrach and Spittel discuss issues in the development of a data sharing plan that is now required in your research applications.

As we go to press, this is the latest guidance on developing a grant with scientific merit in accordance with federal funding policy. However, before you prepare a final proposal, please consult your program officer and the relevant NIH website for the latest guidance in case there have been changes in funding policy.

Although its focus is on Public Health Service (PHS) funding, the guide is equally useful for all research proposals, including those that graduate students are preparing as a thesis or dissertation proposal. Service providers in community-based organizations and public health agencies will also find this a useful resource in preparing proposals to compete for grant funds from state and community resources, non-government organizations (NGOs), and foundations.

We hope that this book will contribute to success with the next grant application that you submit.

Bethesda, Maryland

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A Guide for Social and Behavioral Scientists

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