Grant-writing

3 components of a grant:

1. The idea
   1. Novel and important
2. The supporting data
   1. Sound rationale
   2. Demonstrate feasibility and proficiency
   3. Prior evidence of success/productivity
3. The approach
   1. Directly addresses the question posed
   2. Technically feasible
   3. Financially feasible
   4. Temporally feasible

**Grant-writing tips:**

1. Start early!
2. Propose experiments that capitalize on your strengths. Seek collaborators who provide expertise that you don’t have (or don’t have evidence of).
3. Pay attention to RFAs and early investigator opportunities.
4. For NIH, talk to program officers to make sure you are sending your grant to an appropriate study section/institute.
5. Talk to others about your plans/ideas.
6. Decide what preliminary data will be needed to support your proposal several months before writing.
7. Make sure every piece of data/experiment/word in your grant is relevant to the aims of the grant.
8. Get a senior mentor to review your grant at least 1 month BEFORE submission.
9. Aim to write at about a 6th grade reading level. Think about your audience.
10. Make it clear what you will do and how you will do it. Avoid using “meaningless” words (characterize, shed light, etc.).
11. Use active voice.
12. Make it legible. Leave white space.
13. Get letters of support. Ask early. Anticipate that you will need to write them.
14. List “significant outcomes” at the end of each Aim.
15. Don’t leave typos, formatting mistakes, or incomplete sentences in your grant. Aim for perfection.
16. Prepare budgets, justifications, IACUC, IRB, and other “administrative” details along the way. Don’t leave this to the last minute.

**Common criticisms of reviewers:**

1. Lack of original data
2. Poor rationale for experiments
3. Lack of expertise in required techniques
4. Unfocused or irrelevant research plan
5. Lack of knowledge of published literature
6. Over-ambitious proposal
7. Uncertain relevance

**Making the Right Moves: The 4 C’s: Clarity, Content, Coherence of concepts, Cutting edge**