# CONTENT FOR F30/F31 NRSA APPLICATIONS

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#### CHOOSE AN NIH INSTITUTION

MSP website: <a href="https://www.med.illinois.edu/MSP/Students/Fellowships/">https://www.med.illinois.edu/MSP/Students/Fellowships/</a>

F30 - PA-11-110 (<a href="http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-11-110.html">http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-11-110.html</a>)

#### Participating Institutes:

- Aging (NIA), (http://www.nia.nih.gov/)
- Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), (http://www.niaaa.nih.gov)
- Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), (http://www.nidcd.nih.gov)
- Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), (http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/)
- Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), (http://www.niddk.nih.gov)
- Drug Abuse (NIDA), (http://www.nida.nih.gov)
- Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS/NIH), (http://www.niehs.nih.gov)
- Mental Health (NIMH), (http://www.nimh.nih.gov)
- National Cancer Institute (http://www.nci.nih.gov)
- Send specific aims page to program officer for feedback

- Fellowship Applicant
- Sponsors, Collaborators, Consultants
- Research Training Plan
- Training Potential
- Institutional Environment

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#### **APPLICANT IS EVALUATED BY:**

- Academic credentials: grades, productivity
- Demonstrated scientific accomplishmentpublications, presentations
- Past funding
- Letters of reference (should be excellent): previous mentors, sponsors

#### APPLICANT BIOSKETCH

Standard NIH biosketch format including:

- Personal statement: research interests, past accomplishments, why you can do the proposed research
- Education and employment
- Academic and professional honors
- Activities and memberships
- Publications (peer reviewed papers)
- Length: 3-4 pages

### DOCTORAL DISSERTATION AND OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Outline previous research experience
  - Not just techniques learned but questions hypothesized and answered
  - Summarize meetings attended, published papers

Length: Two pages

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#### SPONSOR AND CO-SPONSOR CRITERIA

- Research support available: grants and funding sources
- Productivity: publications
- Mentoring record: previous and current fellows and trainees
- If your primary sponsor is not strong in all areas, seek out a co-sponsor. Make sure there is a good research fit.
- Get letters of support for techniques your lab doesn't't have expertise in

#### SPONSOR BIOSKETCH

Standard NIH biosketch format including:

- Personal statement: research interests, past research accomplishments (papers, grants), number of students mentored
- Professional experience
- Honors and awards
- Scientific activities
- Selected publications (peer reviewed papers)
- Research support
- Length: 3-4 pages

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#### RESEARCH TRAINING PLAN I

#### Specific Aims page:

- Disease your research addresses and its impact on human health: prevalence, cost, morbidity
- What is NOT known: ex's mechanism, biological processes that interact with disease
- Your research question/hypothesis
- Brief summary of preliminary data: how it fits into question and what is known
- Aims: experimental design to test hypothesis
- Conclusion: how results from studies will impact human health (treatment, diagnosis, prevention)

#### RESEARCH TRAINING PLAN II

#### Background and significance

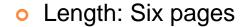
- What is the major question
- Relevance to human health
- What will be accomplished if aims are achieved
- How will these studies change the field
- How is this approach innovative

#### Preliminary studies

 Detailed explanation of figures and results: how they fit into research question and lead to hypothesis

#### Research approach: expand on aims

- Overview, rationale and design of each aim
- Anticipated results, potential pitfalls and alternative approaches



#### RESEARCH TRAINING PLAN TIPS

- Break up sections with headings
  - -Use bold, italics, underlining to emphasize points
- o Don't fill up all the available space
  - -Leave blank lines between sections if you can
- A picture is worth a thousand words

#### PROJECT SUMMARY

- Significance of project and relevance with to human health
- Brief description of what is known about the question you are addressing
- How your proposal will address unknown aspects and connect to human health
- This is published on a public NIH database

Length: 2 paragraphs

#### PROJECT NARRATIVE

- Very brief description of question you are addressing
- What results from your proposal will add to knowledge about particular disease or question
- Lay person should be able to understand

Length: One or two sentences

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### TRAINING PLAN

- Seminars and courses: taken and planned
- Mentoring: how often will you meet with your sponsors, what you will glean from these meetings
- Scientific presentations and publications: attended and planned
- Department/program info: prestige of faculty/department, seminars available, student support activities
- Medical Scholars Program (F30 applicants): history and success of the program
- Specific information about sponsors: how their background, facilities and equipment will guide your training
- Applicant qualification and potential for a research career: each sponsor should write a short "letter of recommendation" – pull together how their training and expertise will guide applicant training
  - Length: Six pages

## GOALS FOR FELLOWSHIP TRAINING AND CAREER

- Define applicant career goals
  - Relate to research proposed
- How will training plan assist and guide applicant career goals
  - Use specifics: techniques used, unique university or program environment that will foster applicant goals

#### ACTIVITES PLANNED UNDER AWARD

- Can use a timeline to outline which aims will be accomplished during which academic years
- F30 applicants: can explain percent of time that will be devoted to research/courses and clinical training throughout the proposal timeline
- Should include meetings, workshops, seminars
  - Anything that will impact and benefit applicant training and exposure (keep career goals in mind)

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#### FACILITIES AND OTHER RESOURCES

- List (in outline form) the facilities available to you during your training
  - Ex: Common lab facilities: list all common equipment including centrifuges, microscopes, data processing equipment
  - Core facilities: histology, sequencing, flow cytometry
- Think outside the box: library resources, machine, electronic shop and computing support
  - Length: One page (depends on resources)

#### SELECTION OF SPONSOR AND INSTUITION

 Prestige and reputation of university and applicant's affiliated program

 How selection of university/program fits into applicant research interest and training plan for future career

#### OTHER CONTENT

#### Resource sharing plan

 Ex. Any regents or animals planned to be shared in studies proposed – a couple of sentences

#### Letters of support from collaborators

Offer help with a technique or training, need biosketch

Note: many of these sections are not part of scoring; only accepted or unaccepted

#### STUDY SUBJECTS

- VETEBRATE ANIMALS SECTION (if applicable it is mandatory)
  - Species/strains/ages/sex/number used
  - Complete description of proposed procedures
  - Justification: choice of animal, animal number (detailed breeding plan for transgenic mice)
  - Description of vet care
  - Procedures to minimize discomfort
  - Methods of euthanasia etc.

#### HUMAN SUBJECTS SECTION

#### RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH

- Training plan for NIH ethics requirement
  - Ex.: If plan to take or have taken MCB ethics course requirement, outline topics covered and how they were covered (texts read, exercises etc.)
- List any other possible ethics courses, workshops or ethics discussions or mentorship with sponsors

#### RESPECTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS

 Delineate applicant role in obtaining preliminary data generated for proposal vs. others

Applicant role in preparing grant application