CONTENT FOR F30/F31 NRSA APPLICATIONS

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CORE REVIEW CRITERIA

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

CORE REVIEW CRITERIA

- **Fellowship Applicant**
- Sponsors, Collaborators, Consultants
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APPLICANT IS EVALUATED BY:

- Academic credentials: grades, productivity
- Demonstrated scientific accomplishment-publications, 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 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)

- Length: One page

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

- Length: Six pages

RESEARCH TRAINING PLAN TIPS

- Break up sections with headings
  - -Use bold, italics, underlining to emphasize points
- 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

- Length: One page

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)

- Length: One page

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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

- Length: One page

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

- Length: One page

RESPECTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS

- Delineate applicant role in obtaining preliminary data generated for proposal vs. others
- Applicant role in preparing grant application

- Length: One page