
PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN THIS EDITION

The importance of the changes that NIH has made with respect to the preparation and review of grant applications cannot be exaggerated. They collectively represent a true paradigm shift and include:

Switch to a 9-point evaluation scale.

Greater emphasis on quality of content and less on detailed description of what will be done.

Greater emphasis on funding the applications of New/Early Stage Investigators.

Standardization and shortening of reviews.

Greater emphasis on the fastest path to funding: decision to reapply or switch to a new idea.

Shortening of the Research Plan, with elimination of sections for review of literature and presentation of preliminary data.

Linkage of sections of the application to each of the five core review criteria.

These innovations have greatly changed the formatting and review of NIH research-grant proposals, not only technically, but philosophically. We are not usually given to hyperbole, but in this case it is warranted: In our opinion, these changes are – without question – the most important and positive ones NIH has made in the writing and review of grant applications since we first began submitting proposals there in 1972. Let us guide you in using these changes to your competitive advantage.