

OVERVIEW: PART ONE

BEFORE YOU BEGIN TO WRITE

In our opinion, most applicants fail in their quest for research funding in large part because they don't do everything possible to position themselves to succeed. Chapters one through seven of this *Workbook* are designed to help you avoid that trap.

Chapter one, "What You Must Know About How and Why NIH Funds Research," will familiarize you with how the National Institutes of Health is organized and will introduce you to the Center for Scientific Review – the part of NIH that receives all applications and refers most of them for review.

Chapter two, "How to Develop an Irresistible Idea for Your Grant Application," will assist you in evolving the centerpiece of your proposal – an idea that will make a significant, vertical difference in your field once it is acted upon.

Chapter three, "How to Find the Appropriate Program and Granting Mechanism for Your Idea," will help you target the most appropriate part of NIH and make certain that you package and present it in the appropriate vehicle.

Chapter four, "Writing for Success, Influence of the NIH Review Process on How You Write, and How to Modify a Submitted Proposal," will familiarize you with selecting and optimizing your presentation to the most appropriate scientific review group for your proposal.

Chapter five, "Response to Prior Review," will help you to avoid the pitfalls that undercut so many resubmitted applications.

And, finally, Chapter six, "Create a Writing Schedule," will help you set up a developmental schedule for your proposal that will allow you to manage all of the competing priorities with which you are faced while, at the same time, you develop the best grant application of which you are capable.

We strongly urge you to read and follow the recommendations that are contained in Part One of this *Workbook*. From years of experience helping investigators prepare NIH grant applications, we can tell you that those who read and follow this first part of the *Workbook* enter the writing phase of the developmental process with a distinct edge over their competitors. We encourage you to be among them.