

## **Section C - Contributions to Science.**

Prior to May 25, 2015 section C was titled, “Selected Peer-Reviewed Publications”. It is now titled, “Contributions to Science”. In it, the writer of a Biographical Sketch can provide: (i) up to five brief narratives of scientific contributions s/he has made; (ii) citations of up to four publications and/or non-publication research products in support of each listed contribution; and (iii) a link to a complete list of the biosketch-writer’s publications.

The “Contributions to Science” and “Personal Statement” sections are co-equal, in our view, with respect to being the primary sources of information that reviewers use to score the INVESTIGATOR(S) core-review criterion.

Before you begin work on the Contributions to Science section, itself, we recommend that you first create a full digital listing of your publications using MyBibliography (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK53595>). While the complete list of publications is optional (see [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/faq\\_biosketches.htm#4393](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/faq_biosketches.htm#4393), FAQ #6), we strongly recommend that it be included in the biographical sketches of all members of the research team. NIH infers that you should create your Biographical Sketch using SciENcv (FAQ #13), but prefers that you use MyBibliography to present your complete bibliography. That preference stems from the fact that, unlike other public databases, the anonymity of reviewers who access a list created with MyBibliography is protected; it is not protected when lists created in other databases are accessed (FAQ #10).

No links are allowed in the Biographical Sketch, other than the link to your complete list of publications (see [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/faq\\_biosketches.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/faq_biosketches.htm), FAQ #5).

Unlike the references that are uploaded into the Bibliography and References Cited section of the *Other Project Information* form, citations offered in support of a contribution to science do not have to include the names of all authors. It is permissible to use “et al.” in section C of the Biographical Sketch (see [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/faq\\_biosketches.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/faq_biosketches.htm), FAQ #7). While it is not necessary to include a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) or PubMed reference number (PMID) with biosketch references, it is necessary to include a PubMed Central reference number (PMCID) or equivalent (see [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/faq\\_biosketches.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/faq_biosketches.htm), FAQ #15).

Next steps will differ, depending on whether you are an early-stage or established investigator. The need for such a division stems from the way that the INVESTIGATOR(S) core-review criterion is characterized in the *Application Guide* (see text box at the bottom of the third page of this Chapter). One consideration cuts across both groups, however: Our earlier warning in this Chapter against self-aggrandizement, which we offered in our discussion of the Personal Statement section, is just as applicable here. Claims of scientific contributions must be objective, specific, and credible or they will be discounted, or even rejected, by reviewers.

### Established Investigators

Inventory what you have contributed to your field, i.e., make a list of the vertical advances that your work has enabled. To be meaningful, scientific contributions for established investigators must be ones that vertically advance a field. Verification of this assertion comes from the *Application Guide*’s description of the INVESTIGATOR(S) core-review criterion, which we quoted in the text box near the start of this section. Create a title for each that reads like a newspaper headline: The fewest, most informative words that will immediately attract interest. We recommend that you include a title for each contribution, even though it is not a part of NIH’s instruc-