

GETTING FUNDED

Writing a Successful Grant Proposal

Department of Otolaryngology Grand Rounds
Toronto General Hospital
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FACULTY OF MEDICINE

GRANT & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE VICE DEAN,
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

How to Position Yourself for Grant Funding Success

Networking and collaborations

Publishing productivity

Career age of researcher

Acting as a grant reviewer



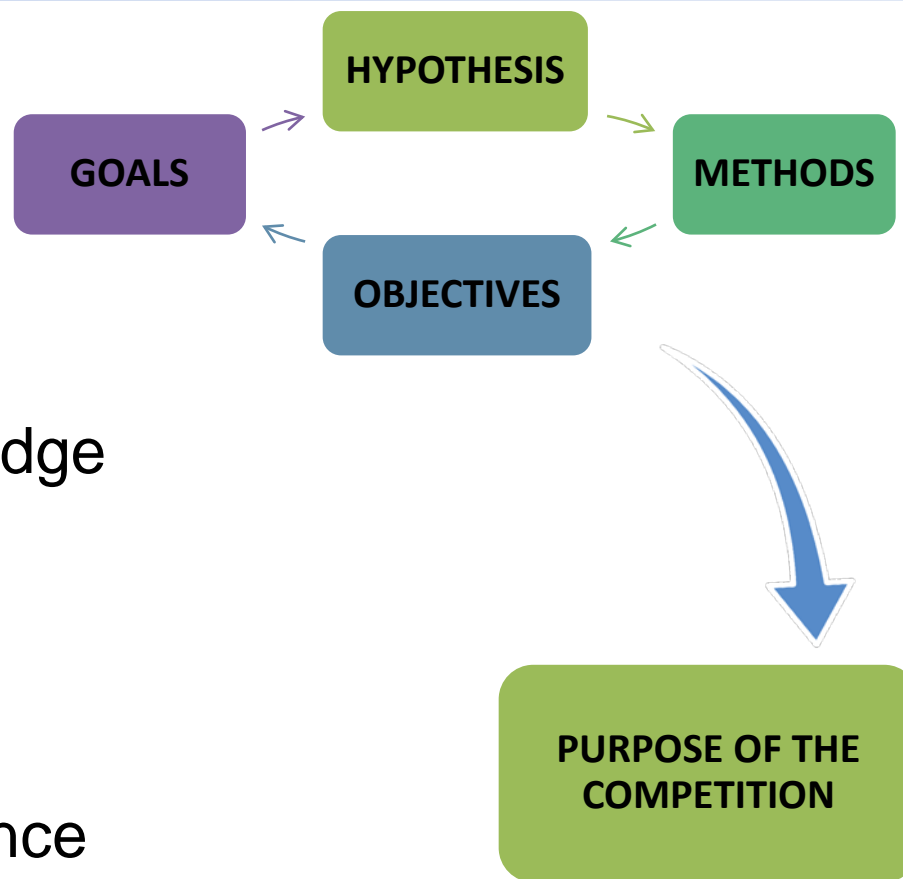
Why Fund Your Research?

Evidence-based, feasible

Novel, innovative, cutting-edge

Expertise

Impact, value and significance



What is Impact or Significance?

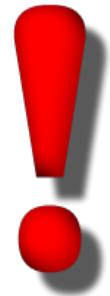
Solves a problem — a BIG problem

Fills a gap in knowledge, answers a question

What is the socio-economic cost of the problem?

Who is affected? Is the problem getting worse?

Research must have tangible value



The Grant Proposal



Section-by-Section



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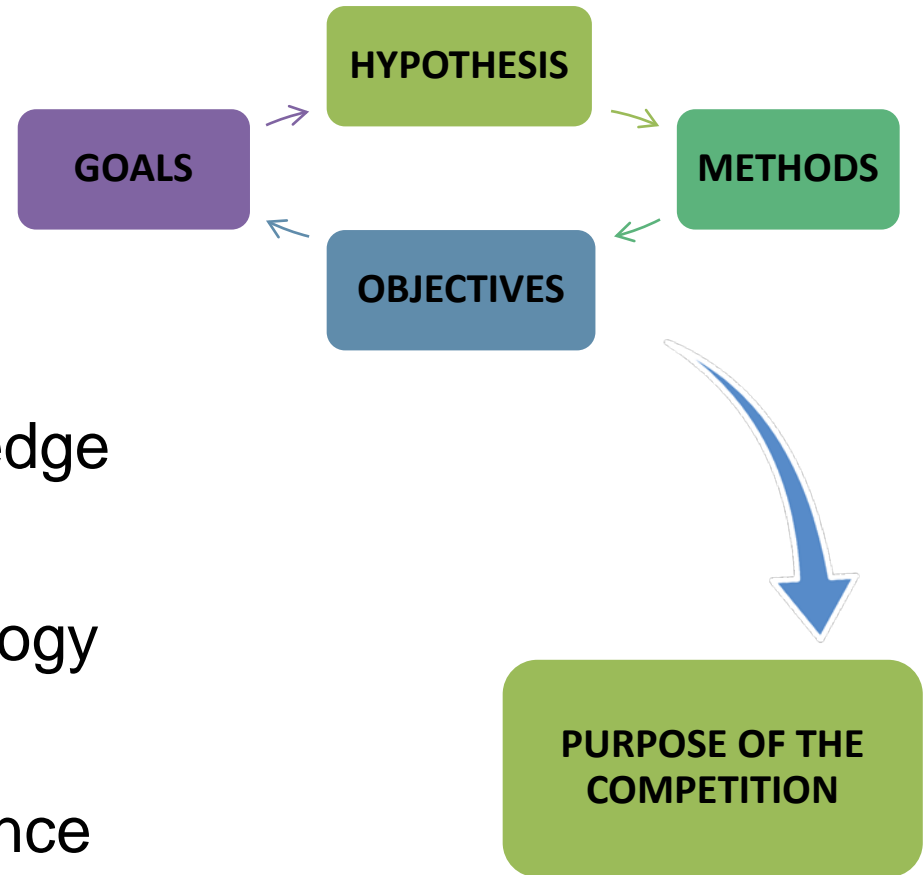
Why Fund Your Research?

Evidence-based, feasible

Novel, innovative, cutting-edge

Expertise, strong methodology

Impact, value and significance



Summary

Overall goal

Background and rationale for the research

Objectives/Aims,
with a brief overview of the Methodology for each Aim

Core expertise

Expected outcomes and impact



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Goals, Hypothesis, Objectives

Overall goals

Hypothesis / Rationale

Objectives / Specific Aims



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Problem, Gap, Question

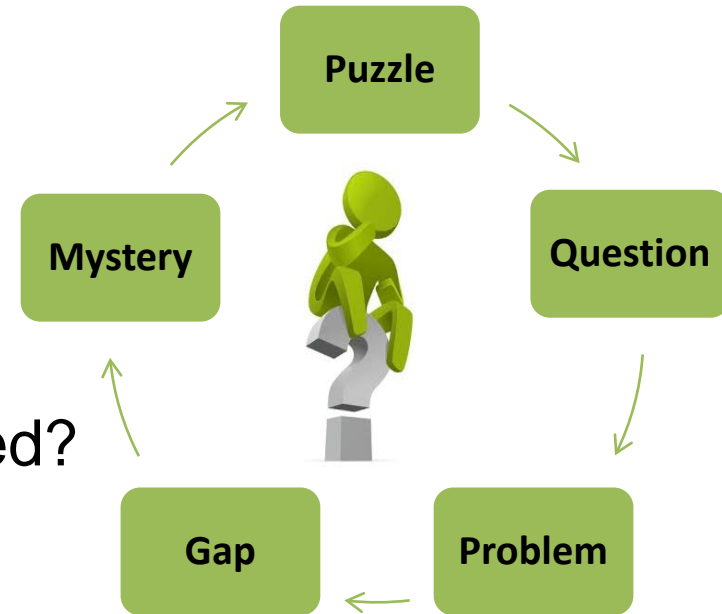
Identify the problem

Describe the gap in knowledge

What is the question to be answered?

Provide background and context

What is the current state of knowledge?



Impact and Significance

Stay focused directly on the problem

How does your research advance healthcare,
health knowledge / systems / outcomes?



Ensure contributions will be relevant, substantive,
realistic, and directly stem from your research



Research Approach / Methods

Aim-by-Aim, describe your methods, e.g.:

AIM 1: *We will assess the occurrence of dysphagia in patients with Parkinson's disease by using patient symptom questionnaires and measuring anxiety levels.*

Methods:

Ensure each method is feasible and fits with goals and aims

ALWAYS include potential challenges and pitfalls

Set out alternative strategies



Timeframe, Milestones

Provide a projected timeframe for each Aim – Gantt Chart

Activity	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Hire & Train Research Assistant												
Research Ethics Board Approval												
Aim 1: Participant Recruitment												
Aim 2: Data Collection & Transcription												
Aim 3: Data Analysis												
Publish Results, Attend Conference												
Seek Funding for Phase 2												

How will your progress and success be measured?

What does the study add to existing research, and what are your next steps for future research?



Expertise, Experience, Resources

Describe your own strengths and strengths of your team

Outline how your expertise is ideal to deliver on your goals, objectives, aims

Explain how your research environment is a good fit to successfully conduct the work



Align your experience with your methods and approaches



Title

Is the first introduction to your work

Don't waste words like "The Study of...."

Be specific, for example, state

- ***Study design: variables and study population***
- ***Main concept and study population***
- ***Main concept***

***Zen and the Art of
Motorcycle Maintenance***





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DEPARTMENTS, INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

FUNDS FOR RESEARCH, TRAINING, AND AWARDS ▾

CIHR Updates

What's New in Research Funding

Internal Grant Programs

Upcoming Awards Deadlines

Summer Student Program Information

Recently Awarded Research Grants

RESEARCH ETHICS >

RESEARCH MAILING LIST

RESEARCH POLICIES

RESEARCH RESOURCES >

RESEARCH SERVICES >

What's New in Research Funding

Page last updated April 13, 2016.

We are pleased to assist the research community in identifying potential sources of funding through the provision of information posted here:

- All Applicants submitting through the University of Toronto MUST have submitted their application information online via the [My Research Applications](#) (MRA) portal. This is an online submission process to obtain institutional approval on research applications. Please note that you will be required to upload a copy of the application to this online submission. Please complete this step as early as possible and at least several days ahead of the deadline to insure all approvals are obtained on time. Please visit the OVPRI's [MRA webpage](#) for complete information on this process.
- Please note, all grants requiring the Dean's signature should be brought to the Faculty of Medicine Research Office in the Medical Sciences Building, Room 2331 to the attention of Cindy Faber cindy.faber@utoronto.ca.
- Also, our office offers a grant editing service for researchers submitting proposals to tri-council or any other funding agency. For more information, please contact Della Saunders della.saunders@utoronto.ca.
- Recently received news and updates are posted below and sent via email to our LISTSERV. To join click [here](#).

Comprehensive funding opportunities may be searched through these links:

- [Pivot Funding Opportunities Database](#)
 - [How to Use Pivot: One-Page Overview](#)
- [University of Toronto Research & Innovation "Find Funding"](#)
- [University of Toronto Research & Innovation Awards, Honours & Prizes Opportunities Database](#)
- [Sign up for University of Toronto Research & Innovation "Research Alerts!"](#)

Recently Received News and Updates:

April 13, 2016

- [CIHR Strategic Training for Advanced Genetic Epidemiology \(STAGE\) Program](#). CIHR STAGE is Canada's first formal training program in Genetic Epidemiology and Statistical Genetics. The program offers new training and career development opportunities designed to cross-train individuals at the interface of genetics and population health sciences in genetic epidemiology and statistical genetics—two disciplines currently facing a massive shortage of qualified individuals in Canada and elsewhere. The overall goal is to improve prevention and management of complex diseases by increasing capacity in genetic epidemiology and statistical genetics research.

Deadline for applications: May 27, 2016

Looking for Funding Opportunities

UofT Vice President Research and Innovation Office

<http://www.research.utoronto.ca/>

➡ Secure Research Funding

<http://www.research.utoronto.ca/faculty-and-staff/secure-research-funding/>

➡ Research Alerts – sign up for notifications

https://alerts.research.utoronto.ca/index.php/alert/public_alerts

PIVOT Funding Database

<http://www.pivot.cos.com>

Subscription purchased by U of T

Funding opportunities curated by Community of Science



Practice Management

Resources

[Quality Improvement](#)

[Clinical Data Registry](#)

Research

[Research Outcome Tools](#)

[CORE Grants](#)

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[Reimbursement](#)

[Inquiries](#)

CORE Grants

The Centralized Otolaryngology Research Efforts (CORE) grants program is a collaboration of several societies, foundations, and industry supporters focused on providing support for research in the field of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery. Since 1985, CORE has played a vital role by awarding more than 600 grants and more than \$10 million for research projects, research training, and career development to further the specialty of otolaryngology. These grants, ranging in award size from \$5,000 to \$80,000, have been essential for increasing the research base for otolaryngology.

The CORE program brings greater scale and less fragmentation and overlap to otolaryngology-head and neck surgery research opportunities, reduces the aggregate costs of the individual grant programs, and enables a comprehensive overview of the spectrum of promising otolaryngology and head and neck surgery research/researchers to promote to NIH and other agencies.

CORE PROGRAM PARTNERS

The CORE grants program is a collaboration between the AAO-HNSF, specialty societies and industry sponsors to provide a uniform centralized research grant application, review and administration process. The CORE program partners are:

American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy (AAOA) Foundation

American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNSF)

American Head and Neck Society (AHNS)

American Neurotology Society (ANS)

American Rhinologic Society (ARS)

American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology (ASPO)

Cook Medical

The Educational and Research Foundation for the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive

Surgery (A.A.F.R.S.)

Looking for Funding Opportunities

NIH – National Institutes of Health

<http://www.nih.gov/>

Largest source of research funding in the world

Hints for applying to NIH –

Set yourself apart from what a US researcher can do

Propose a study not likely to be done by a US researcher

Be a co-PI with a US-based PI

Ensure extra time to navigate NIH forms

Email or phone the Program Officer





[Learn more >](#)

Check out new features on the NIDCD website

More than 1 in 20 U.S. children
have dizziness & balance
problems

2015-2016 NIDCD Seminar
Series

News >

- ≡ [NIDCD launches enhanced website \(3/04/2016\)](#)
- ≡ [More than 1 in 20 U.S. children have dizziness and balance problems \(1/27/2016\)](#)
- ≡ [December 10 Speaker Series Talk: "How NIDCD research is preventing or reversing hearing loss" \(11/24/2015\)](#)
- ≡ [NIH researchers pinpoint additional gene tied to persistent stuttering \(11/06/2015\)](#)
- ≡ [Problems with ability to smell or taste common in middle-aged and older adults \(10/29/2015\)](#)

[More News >](#)

Health Information >



Hearing



Balance



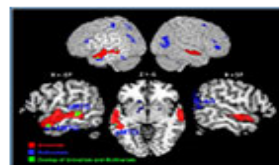
Taste and Smell



Voice, Speech, and
Language

Research >

- ≡ [Extramural Research \(Grantee Programs\)](#)
- ≡ [Intramural Research \(NIDCD Labs\)](#)
- ≡ [Clinical Studies](#)



Funding >

- ≡ [Types of Funding](#)
- ≡ [How to Apply](#)



@NIDCD on Twitter



¿Se puede prevenir la pérdida de audición inducida por el ruido?
1.usa.gov/1RKJ7AM

Key Ways to Improve Grant Funding Success

- 1) Collaborate and network**
- 2) Discuss research proposal with peers**
 - Start formulating the idea 6 months ahead of the deadline**
- 3) Write clearly and effectively**
 - Start writing 3 months ahead of the deadline**
- 4) Apply. Apply. Apply**



A few hints for good writing



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Consistency

Remember your reader is likely a busy distracted reviewer

Aim for consistent writing and organization

Acronyms

Spelling – healthcare/health care, twelve/12

Organizing Sections

- Subsection headings
 - *More subheadings*
 - 1) Indented lists



Clarity

Use of “it”, “this” or “they” can be confusing and ambiguous

Often best to repeat the word “it” represents

“A lab at Toronto General will be assisting the team.”

“It has done these tests previously”.



“The lab has done these tests previously”.



People

Define categories for gender/sex/ethnicity;
why are the categories important?

Use humanizing terms for patients such as
Person with diabetes, rather than *diabetic*

Intersperse terms such as
Participant, Individual, People, Patient

Don't overuse the term "Subject"



Avoid

Overusing the same word in the same paragraph

Unnecessary words – indeed, really, actually, very, notably

Redundancies – new innovation, already existing

Complicated, long sentence constructions



Using “that” unnecessarily – *We found that a marker that we identified as a primary signature distinguished cells that would...*



Keep it simple

Use plain English, simple English

If	→	In the event that
Many	→	A large number of
When	→	On the occasion of
Because	→	In light of
Tend to	→	Have a tendency to
Using	→	Upon usage of
4 days	→	A period of 4 days
Received	→	In receipt of
Although	→	In spite of the fact that



Thank you!

All the best for funding success!

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