

Writing a grant application: personal experience & perspective

Dr Lee Elaine Yuen Phin
Clinical Associate Professor
Department of Diagnostic Radiology
School of Clinical Medicine
LKS Faculty of Medicine, HKU



Follow the recipe

Pay attention to

- "Call for application"
 - open call and closing date (internal closing date)
- Read the guidelines carefully
 - even if you are a "seasoned" applicant
- Eligibility
- Thematic priorities
 - does your project fit into one of the thematic priorities?

Most important ingredient

The proposal

-novelty

-local relevance

-clinical translation



How to tell an effective story!

STORYTELLING RUBRIC

How to tell an effective story!





Reviewers

- Expert in the field but may not necessarily know your specific topic
- Busy individuals
- May have many proposals to get through
- Under pressure to identify and recommend proposals to support



Proposal

Introduction

- easy to follow and understand
- written succinctly
- include up-to-date literature review and summary
- what is/are currently available
- current practice

Proposal



**Research gaps &
clinical needs**



**How we can address
these.....**



Preliminary work

Proposal

- Identify the aims of the proposal and their respective hypotheses
- Don't include too many aims (unrealistic)
- Feasibility
- Explain clinical needs and identify the clinical relevance

Proposal

- Very important to showcase preliminary work
- To demonstrate the team's capability in delivery the proposed aims
- Both published and unpublished work should be included (even remotely related)
- For follow-up work, make sure there is continuity in the “story-telling”

Proposal



- Plan of investigation

subject recruitment (be realistic)

inclusion and exclusion criteria

sample size estimation (get help if you are not proficient)

Proposal

Detailed methodology:

- meticulous planning
- put yourself in the reviewer's shoes
- structured and easy to read
- aims separately described if possible but ensure continuity

Proposal

- Things may not always go accordingly to plan
- Identify potential problems or issues
- Think of contingency plans
- Make sure your collaborators can help when things go wrong (choose your collaborators wisely)

Budget



Study the guidelines carefully



Get help from research service +/- finance



Don't try to over-budget, ask what you need



Staff cost : does salary rank match with the responsibilities or abilities?

Grading for applications	Meaning
4 Recommended for support	Nil or very minor issues to address only
3 Recommended for support subject to clarifications / amendments	Minor revision and clarification required for a successful delivery
2 Not recommended for support at present	Major revision required for significant improvement
1 Not supported	Minimal impact on research/flaw in methodology/incomplete application/ out of scope of the fund



Grant Review Board

3. Recommended for support subject to clarifications/ amendments



Address all comments raised by GRB and specific reviewers



Get IRB approval early (ideally before you even hear from GRB)

Make sure title matches the one in the proposal



Use the template provided



Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing.

~Pele