ABSTRACTS FOR GRANTS

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AN ABSTRACT

• Short concise overview of what the study is about, how it will be done, and why the study is INNOVATIVE or IMPORTANT
USES OF GRANT ABSTRACTS

Deciding WHERE to send proposal for review
Deciding WHO to assign it to for review
Provide reviewers with “nutshell” overview and mindset
Publication and retrieval from databases like CRISP
MOST IMPORTANT:

- Abstract is your chance to start SELLING your study
- Do NOT dash it off casually
• USE ALL AVAILABLE SPACE
  – MORE USEFUL to users
  – MORE HELPFUL to you
WRITING AN ABSTRACT

• Length (number of words) or available space ("must fit in this space") usually specified for you

• Print size/pitch also usually given
FORM OF ABSTRACT

• Usually narrative/single paragraph
• NO INDENTATION allows space for including more information
• If agency requests certain elements or internal headings, provide them
RULES FOR WRITING

• YOU CAN’T SAY EVERYTHING—

• BUT YOU SHOULD TOUCH ON ALL PARTS OF PROPOSAL
RULES, cont.

• Use numerals, even at start of sentence, to maximize space for content
RULES, cont.

- Abbreviations—write out first time and pair abbreviation with the term
- Avoid alphabet soup
- Do not include references
  - OK to say “Using Smith’s method” without reference
RULES, cont.

• Space will not allow for separate sentences on each aspect of study

• COMBINE things—
• 180 patients with type 2 diabetes will be randomly assigned to three groups receiving the telephone intervention, the educational booklets, or usual care.

• Tells n, design, interventions and control
• Can use some long complex sentences that would be too long for understanding if read aloud, but will be readable in print because of punctuation.
Build in INDICATORS OF QUALITY

• “Using instruments with established psychometric properties, “
• “Using Fox’s technique for obtaining reliable, valid stressful incidents, patients will describe problems in managing their diabetes.”
INNOVATION

• If your work features a new device or approach, this is a “hook” for reviewers
  – Using the new technique of X with its potential for overcoming the serious problem of Y, 50 samples of breast cancer tissue will be-------
INTERDISCIPLINARY team?

- “An interdisciplinary team (nurses, physicians, dietitians, pharmacists, and an epidemiologist) will---
“HOT BUTTON” TERMS

• Health disparities
• Culturally competent
• Innovative
• Cost benefit analysis
• KEEP UP TO DATE & READ RFA/RFP/PA carefully
PROGRAMMATIC Research

• IF your work is part of an identified ongoing PROGRAM, say so and PLACE the proposal within that program.
• This research will **advance the PI’s research program on providing culturally competent diabetes instruction for African American families** by testing X and adding a component of Y.

• OR “AS the third study in a series directed at providing---, this proposal will ----
PARTS OF ABSTRACT

• Background/significance, what is missing and needed
• Significance can be first, last, or at both ends of abstract
PARTS OF ABSTRACT

• ALWAYS include aims, hypotheses, or research questions

• METHOD

• PLANNED data analysis
  – BRIEFEST section, UNLESS a novel or innovative analysis is the thrust of the proposal
DISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES

• This advice has to be filtered through your knowledge of what your discipline prefers—
  – First, second, third person
  – Theoretical frameworks
ABSTRACTS TAKE PRACTICE

• Achieving detail in small space is not instant skill for most people
  – Collect abstracts
  – Ask more experienced person to review yours

IT WILL BE LAST THING YOU WRITE—but don’t do it in ten minutes!