

Grant Writing: Tips for Success

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Do your homework

- Find the right funder (HRB, SFI, IRC, Wellcome)
 - sign up to get alerts
- Attend briefing sessions.
- It's worth getting to know funder personnel.



Prepare

- Aim for the most appropriate calls and streams e.g. PHHSR, POR.
- Getting started is tough! Get experience of research project management.
- Make friends with people who have a track record!



Gearing up for battle

- Refining the focus - tension exists between innovative versus less exciting but important and unanswered questions. Talk to funders and key researchers.
- Make sure you have the required expertise in your team such as IT, health economists, methodologists & statisticians – especially for treatment studies.



The Application – Important Lesson 1

- **Start early** and allow time for budgets, collaborator forms, letters of support, multiple approval stages, validation checks and auto-detect of missing or incorrect data.

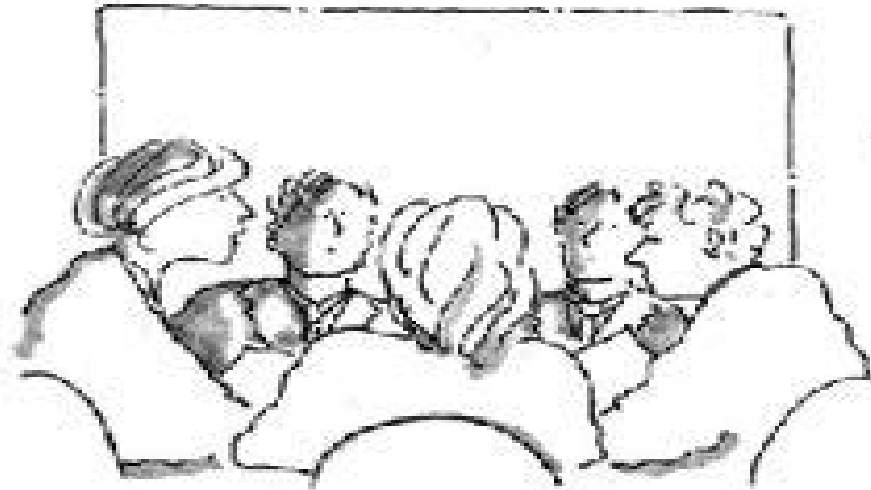


The Application – Important Lesson 2

- **Read the call document carefully!**
 - Reflect the objectives in the call documents.
 - Talk the talk - use the terminology in the call e.g. Public Patient Involvement, Pilot v Feasibility, Societal impact etc.



The Application – Important Lesson 3



“Agreed. We fund only those proposals
we can understand.”



The Application

- Write for a non-specialist audience.
- Be concise and precise – word limits can be constraining.
- Be really clear about methodological details.
- Be realistic when outlining KPIs.



The Application

- Budgets in grant proposals don't go very far and overheads consume a big slice of budget.



"I was close to a breakthrough when the grant money ran out."



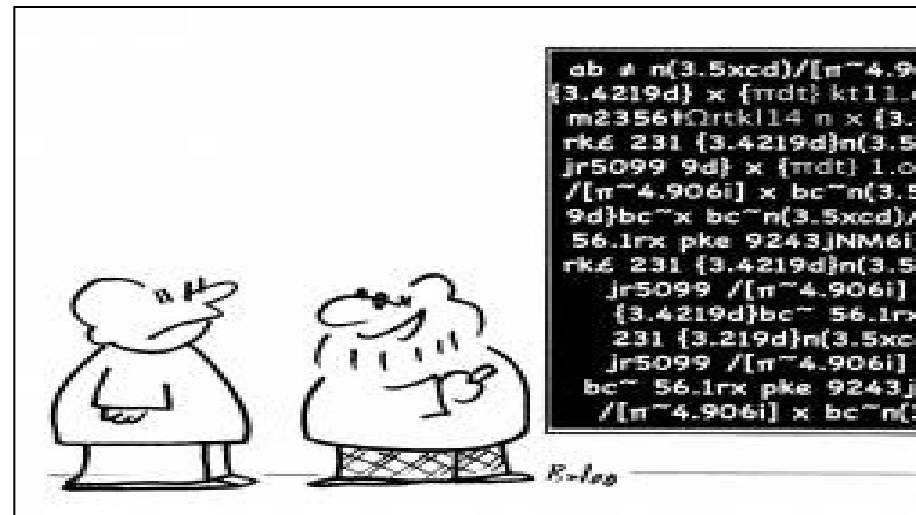
Outcomes

- Move towards “right of reply”.
- Resubmissions are sometimes allowed.
- Reviews can be contradictory – a bad review can sink you! The problem of “regression to the mean”
- If successful, personnel recruitment is slow!



Remember

- It's a combination of strategy, timing, perseverance and luck!
- Get thick skinned! Failure is the norm!
 - Personal hit rate is approximately 1 in 5.
- Don't despair – recycle and stockpile!



"It's a foolproof formula for writing grant applications."



QUESTIONS????

