

Some Helpful Hints for a Successful ONS Foundation Research Grant Application

One of the major goals of the ONS Research Agenda is to develop new researchers and to provide pilot funding so that ONS Foundation funded researchers can move on to applying for larger research grants from funding agencies such as NIH. The ONS Foundation has adopted the National Institutes of Health (NIH) scoring system along with the inauguration of the online grant application and review process. The use of the NIH scoring system will help to prepare ONS Foundation research grant applicants (and reviewers) for their research career and be consistent with NIH. The NIH scoring system includes comments and scores for five categories along with an impact score for the overall rating of the grant application. The ONS Foundation grant application indicates which of the fields address the five components of Significance, Investigators, Innovation, Approach and Environment. The ONS Foundation reviewers will be paying special attention to the Approach component by providing more in-depth feedback about methods and design in order to prepare applicants to go to the next level of funding.

Many of the links on the NIH website provide a helpful orientation to the grant writing/review process and the NIH scoring system.

Research Grant Writing Process

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cNRMscGfHo&feature=related>

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/writing_application.htm

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/grants_process.htm

The information in the “planning, writing and submitting” section of the above link will be helpful for research grant writers. Additionally, the ONS Foundation [Grant Writing Tips](#) were developed by the ONS Research Department through the experience of managing the ONS Foundation Research Grant Program.

Research Grant Review Administration Process

The ONS Foundation Research Grant submission and review process does not include all of the steps in the receipt and referral section of the NIH Grants Process link above (so the ONS Foundation process is shorter). The chair of the ONS Foundation Review Team assigns applications to reviewers in collaboration with the ONS Research Department. The ONS Foundation Research Grant Review Team structure and process is based on the NIH Scientific Review Group (SRG in the website link). The ONS Foundation Research Grant Review Team chair and co-chair make recommendations to the ONS Foundation Board of Trustees for funding based on the final priority scores of the reviewers and the ONS Research Agenda and Priorities. Once the ONS Foundation Board of Trustees approves the applications for funding, all

applicants are notified of the outcome of their application along with the detailed critiques and component scores from each of the three primary reviewers.

Research Grant Review and Scoring System

The NIH scoring system which has been adapted for use by the ONS Foundation is described in the following link:

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/guidelines_general/scoring_system_and_procedure.pdf

Note: The ONS Foundation does not use percentiles.

A helpful NIH video and PowerPoint presentation orienting reviewers to the NIH peer review system is in the following link:

http://enhancing-peer-review.nih.gov/application_changes_video.html

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer_review_process.htm

The ONS Foundation [Grant Review Worksheet](#) was modified from the NIH template, after discussion with the ONS Research Advisory Panel

The component of the NIH review criteria that is used for funding decisions is the Impact Score. The following link describes the Impact Score in more detail.

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/guidelines_general/impact_significance.pdf

http://enhancing-peer-review.nih.gov/docs/impact-significance_case_studies.pdf

Review Group discussion format and examples

There is an excellent summary of the research grant review group process at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfgzdLe92c0>

Questions?

Please call (412) 859-6298 or email (research@ons.org) the ONS Research Department at any time with your questions.