Midcareer Technical Workshop
Path to a Sustained Program of Research

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Module I: Establish & Sustain POR

- Definition
- Hallmarks
- Guideposts (Benchmarks)
- Strategies to Maintain POR Momentum
- Value of Program Director Guidance
- Competing Application Decision
- Interview with senior scientist
Competing Application Decision: Make Best Use of Annual Progress Reports

• Non-Competing Continuation Progress Reports can position you for a successful renewal
• Standard format, two page limit
  A. Specific Aims: No change without discussion with PD—will be carefully assessed
  B. Any results
  C. Significance and health impact of findings
  D. Plans for coming year
    1. Potential challenges
    2. Plans to address
• Review PREVIOUS year’s annual report before drafting current one

• Describe how you addressed any identified problems

• Report current status
Plan for Continuous Funding Stream

- Develop additional grant support as safety net
  - Ideally two or more concurrent grants
  - Offset of 2 or 3 years

- Consider alternative sources of funding
  - NIH not only source—also state/local/VA
  - Professional organizations—AWHONN/ONS
  - Private foundations—BC/BS, IAF other global
Plan for Continuous Funding Stream

• Plan to submit Competing Continuation EARLY

• Avoid gap in funding by submission 18-24 months before end of funding
  o Time for resubmission prior to project end
  o Capacity to maintain project staff

• **BUT** do not submit early if progress you have made will not be competitive
Competing Renewal Application Decision

• Determine if project findings justify competing renewal application

• Do results pave way for a research advance?
  o Will proposed project yield vertical step?
  o Or will it just repeat other research?
  o Is this the next logical step in your POR?
Competing Renewal Application Decision

- Goal: vertical as opposed to horizontal advance of known science

- Is there a potential future translational impact?

- Ideally develop renewal proposal in Year 4
  - Plan timeline accordingly so that key building blocks are available
  - Renewal proposal builds on what has been learned in current project
• Discussion with Program Director essential
  • One-two page concept paper
  • Schedule telephone discussion
  • Or face-to-face if in DC or at same meeting

• PD can help assess fit of proposed project with the strategic plan of the Institute

• PD can provide advice about planned timeline or methods
• What if results DO NOT SUPPORT further research along this line?
  • Discuss with research team, mentors, other respected scientists in your network
  • Remodeling parties with faculty colleagues
  • Formal consultation with experts
Competing Renewal Application Decision

• Do the results direct an alternate path?

• Do emerging unanticipated issues need to be addressed before the initial research question can be answered with sufficient rigor?

• Determine if submitting a new application is wiser course
• If period of funding expires, many universities will extend bridge funding
  • Enables continuity of research staff
  • Typically does not support researcher effort
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