

# Overview of Clinical Research

## How to get Research Support

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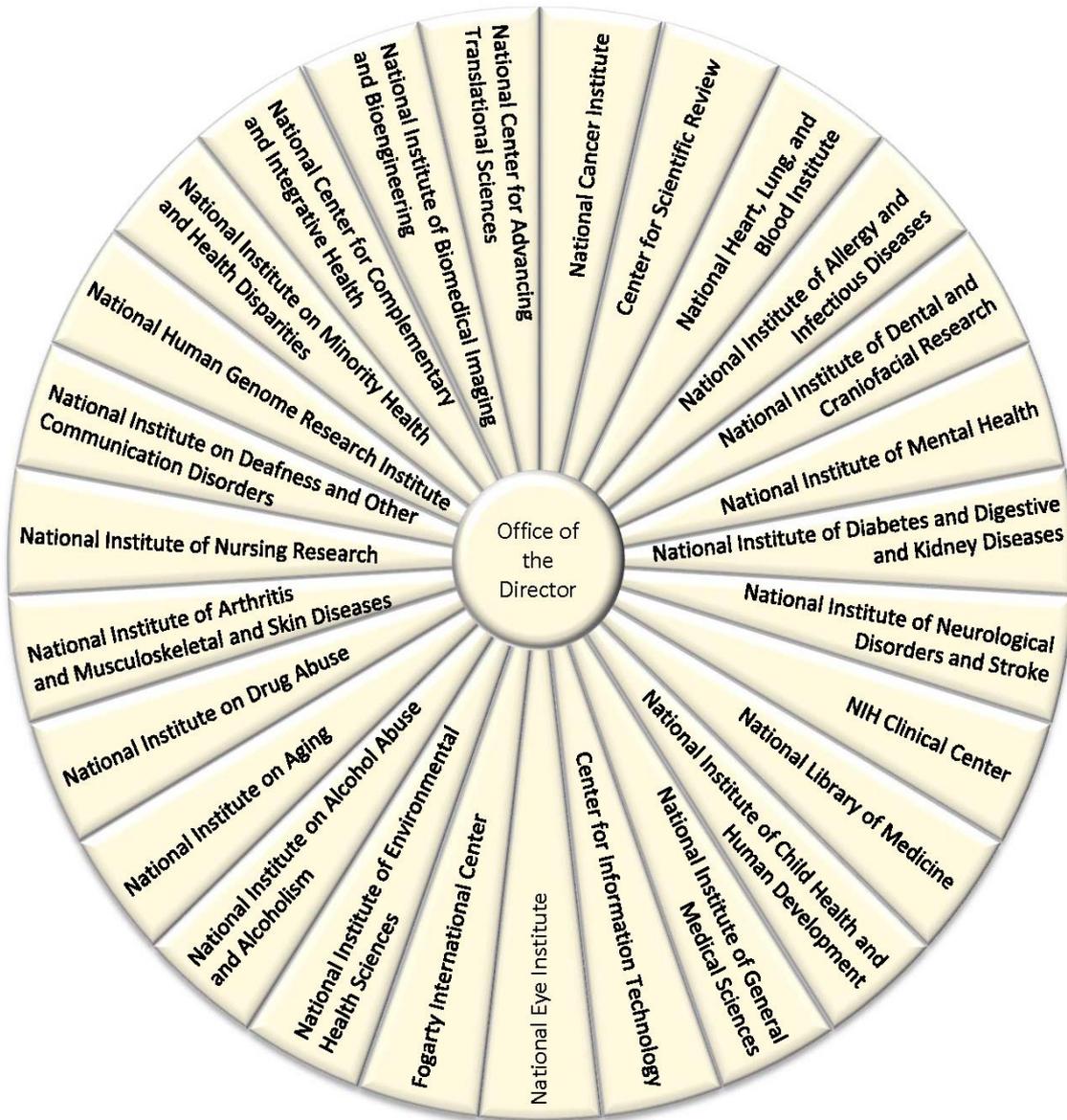
Co-Director

Tennessee Clinical and Translational Science Institute

# Resources

- The Grant Application Writer's Workbook by Robertson, Russel and Morrison. National Institute of Health Version (2023)
- Designing Clinical Research by Browner, Neman, Cummings, Grady, Huang, Kanaya, and Pletcher. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins (2023).

# National Institutes of Health



NIH's mission is to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce the burdens of illness and disability. The goals of the agency are:

- Foster fundamental creative discoveries, innovative research strategies, and their applications as a basis for ultimately protecting and improving health;
- Develop, maintain, and renew scientific human and physical resources that will ensure the Nation's capability to prevent disease;
- Expand the knowledge base in medical and associated sciences in order to enhance the Nation's economic well-being and ensure a continued high return on the public investment in research; and
- Exemplify and promote the highest level of scientific integrity, public accountability, and social responsibility in the conduct of science.

# Electronic Research Administration (eRA Commons)

The eRA Commons is an online interface where signing officials, principal investigators, trainees and post-docs at institutions/organizations can access and share administrative information relating to research grants.

<https://commons.era.nih.gov>

Status

ASSIST

Personal Profile

Internet Assisted Review (IAR)

Account Management (Admin)

eRA Commons
Track your application; manage and report on your federally funded award
Commons Help/Service Desk
866-504-9552 301-402-7469
Hours Monday-Friday, 7am-8pm EST

Recent News
Note: Users with Multiple eRA Commons Accounts: Users with multiple eRA Commons accounts should hold off on moving to two-factor authentication until 2024.
Note: eRA posts Deployment and Maintenance Calendar on the eRA Website.

Submit a Reference Letter

To provide a reference letter for a fellowship or career development applicant, see Submit a Reference Letter; Reference Letters.

LikeThis

LikeThis is a thesaurus-based search tool that allows you to find similar funded projects and publications.

SAMHSA

iEdison

## Summary of Research Award Programs\*

Activity Code	Program Description
R01	Research Project
R03	NIH Small Grant Program
R13	Conference
R15	NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)
R21	NIH Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Award
R25	Education Projects
U01	Research Project – Cooperative Agreements
U13	Conference - Cooperative Agreements
G07	Resources Improvement Grant
S10	Biomedical Research Support Shared Instrumentation Grants
DP1	NIH Director's Pioneer Award (NDPA)

\*This is not a comprehensive list of activity codes.

[https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/ac\\_search\\_results.htm](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/ac_search_results.htm)

# Research Designs

## Observational

Cross-sectional

Case Control

Cohort

## Experimental

Clinical Trial

Group Randomized Trial

# SF 424 Application

To apply for funding at the  
NIH use the SF 424  
application package

**FORMS H application packages incorporate the latest versions of the federal-wide forms managed by Grants.gov and must be used on dates on/after January 25, 2023**

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide.html>

**Follow the Directions – Follow the Directions**

# Features of the SF424 (R&R)

- The SF424 (R&R) is an application form that is comprised of common data elements developed for use by Federal agencies funding Research and Research-Related programs
- Also provides a consistent electronic submission process through Grants.gov

# Features of the SF424 (R&R)

- SF424 (R&R) data is arranged in components
- Not all components will be used for every **Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)**
- Agencies “construct” application packages for each FOA
- NIH will use several “standard” packages
- The FOA will indicate which components are required and which are optional
- Each FOA will have the appropriate application package attached
- A direct link is provided on each FOA in the NIH Guide

## Find Funding

### NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts

The NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts is NIH's official publication of notices of grant policies, guidelines and funding opportunity announcements (FOAs).

We publish daily and issue a [table of contents](#) weekly. Learn more [about the NIH Guide](#) and [subscribe to receive updates today!](#)

What's New

Active Funding Opportunities and Notices

Search

[Advanced Search](#)

Displaying: 1 to 25 of 14224 results

Results Per Page



Export to

Share Search

Save your Search

**Organizations**

- Issuing Only
- All
  - AHRQ
  - CDC
  - DHHS
  - FDA
  - HRSA
  - NASA
  - NIH
    - CSR
    - FIC

**Activity Code**

- All
- 332
- Admin Supp
- D43
- D71
- DP1
- DP2
- F30
- F31
- F32
- F33

**Type of Research**

- All
- Clinical Trials
- Non-Clinical Trials

Title	FOA/Notice Number	Issuing Organization	Release Date	Expiration Date	Activity Code
Notice of Change to Key Dates for RFA-NS-19-003 "BRAIN Initiative: Team-Research BRAIN Circuit Programs - TeamBCP (U19 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)"	NOT-NS-21-003	NINDS	Sep 24, 2020	N/A	N/A
Notice of Change to NIEHS target FOAs for NOT-HL-20-788 "Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Stimulating Intervention Research to Reduce Cardiopulmonary Impacts of Particulate Matter in Air Pollution among High-Risk Populations"	NOT-HL-20-015	NHLBI	Sep 24, 2020	N/A	N/A
Notice of Change to Key Dates for RFA-NS-19-002 "BRAIN Initiative: Team-Research BRAIN Circuit Programs - TeamBCP (U19 Clinical Trial Required)"	NOT-NS-21-002	NINDS	Sep 24, 2020	N/A	N/A
Notice of NIMHD Participation in PAR-20-302, "Tobacco Control Policies to Promote Health Equity (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)"	NOT-MD-20-028	NIMHD	Sep 24, 2020	N/A	N/A
NHLBI Announces Availability of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for RFA-HL-21-001 "Hybrid Effectiveness-Implementation Trials for Heart, Lung, Blood, and Sleep Diseases in the Inpatient Setting (U01 - Clinical Trials Required)"	NOT-HL-20-817	NHLBI	Sep 24, 2020	N/A	N/A
Pre-Application Webinar for NCATS RFA-TR-20-031 and RFA-TR-20-032, Basket Clinical Trials of Drugs Targeting Shared Molecular Etiologies in Multiple Rare Diseases	NOT-TR-20-038	NCATS	Sep 24, 2020	N/A	N/A
Notice of Correction to Application Submission Information for NOT-MD-20-025 "Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Simulation Modeling and Systems Science to Address Health Disparities"	NOT-MD-20-030	NIMHD	Sep 24, 2020	N/A	N/A

# Parent Announcements (For Unsolicited or Investigator-Initiated Applications)

Parent announcements are broad funding opportunity allowing applicants to submit investigator-initiated applications for specific [activity codes](#). They are open for up to 3 years and use [standard due dates](#).

Not all NIH Institutes and Centers participate on all parent announcements. Before submitting your application, make sure the NIH Institute or Center that might be interested in your research is listed as a participating organization in the announcement.

The following Parent Announcements are available (sorted by Activity Code):

[ [Research \(R\)](#) | [Research Training \(T\)](#) | [Career Development \(K\)](#) | [Fellowships \(F\)](#) | [Admin Supplements](#) | [Post-award Administrative Action](#) ]

Research (R) Announcements

Activity Code(s)	Title	Announcement Number	Issuing Organization	Release Date	Open Date	Expiration Date
<a href="#">R01</a>	NIH Research Project Grant (Parent R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)	<a href="#">PA-20-185</a>	NIH	05/05/2020	05/05/2020	05/08/2024
<a href="#">R01</a>	Research Project Grant (Parent R01 Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required)	<a href="#">PA-20-184</a>	NIH	05/05/2020	05/05/2020	05/08/2024
<a href="#">R01</a>	Research Project Grant (Parent R01 Clinical Trial Required)	<a href="#">PA-20-183</a>	NIH	05/05/2020	05/05/2020	05/08/2024
<a href="#">R03</a>	NIH Small Research Grant Program (Parent R03 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)	<a href="#">PA-20-200</a>	NIH	05/07/2020	05/16/2020	05/08/2024
<a href="#">R13</a>	NIH Support for Conferences and Scientific Meetings (Parent R13 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)	<a href="#">PA-21-151</a>	NIH	02/10/2021	03/12/2021	01/08/2024

[https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/parent\\_announcements.htm](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/parent_announcements.htm)

# Features of the SF424 (R&R)

- A complete application to NIH will include a combination of (R&R) components & PHS 398 components
- The applicant **must** complete the application using the package attached to that particular FOA
- Applicants can *not* use any sample form packages or form packages from other announcements
- Applicants will complete data entry in all necessary components and upload appropriate attachments

# Features of the SF424 (R&R)

- SF424 (R&R) Components include:
  - SF424 (R&R)—*An application cover component*
  - Research & Related Project/Performance Site Location
  - Research & Related Other Project Information
  - Research & Related Senior/Key Person
  - Research & Related Budget
  - Research & Related Personal Data (*NIH will not use*)
  - R&R Subaward Budget Attachment Form
  - SBIR/STTR Information

# Features of the SF424 (R&R)

- NIH requires additional data collection to accommodate the unique information required for review of its biomedical research portfolio. Therefore, NIH has also developed agency-specific components (titled PHS 398):
  - PHS 398 Cover Letter File
  - PHS 398 Cover Page Supplement (*supplements the R&R Cover*)
  - PHS 398 Modular Budget
  - PHS 398 Research Plan

It's the OMB-cleared data collection instrument that gives NIH the authority to request these additional data elements

# Features of the SF424 (R&R)

- Application components include specific data fields as well as multiple attachments
- NIH requires PDF for text attachments
  - Attachments can be generated using any word processing software but will need to be converted to PDF before they can be attached to the application form

- SF424 RR
    - 1
    - 2
  - RR Performance Sites
    - 1
  - RR Other Project Informati
    - 1
  - RR Key Persons
    - 1
  - RR Budget
    - 1
    - 2
    - 3
    - 4
  - PHS Human Subjects and C
    - 1
  - PHS 398 Modular Budget
    - 1
  - RR Subaward Budget Attac
    - 1
  - PHS 398 Cover Page Suppl
    - 1
    - 2
  - PHS 398 Research Plan
    - 1
  - PHS Assignment Request
    - 1
- Proposal Summary**
- Summary
- Proposal Management**
- Permissions
  - Electronic Submission
  - Proposal History
  - Export

Johnson-NIH-Weight-Loss-in-Underserved-Groups

## PHS 398 Research Plan

Please attach applicable sections of the research plan below.

	Final	Draft	
<b>0. Composite</b> <span style="font-size: small;">?</span>	No final --	No draft --	<input type="button" value="Add"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/>
<b>1. Introduction to Application</b>	<a href="#">Introduction</a> <small>1P   PDF   211.64KB</small>	No draft --	<input type="button" value="Manage"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/>
<b>2. Specific Aims</b>	<a href="#">Specific Aims</a> <small>1P   PDF   216.1KB</small>	No draft --	<input type="button" value="Manage"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/>
<b>3. * Research Strategy</b>	<a href="#">Research Strategy</a> <small>12P   PDF   508.37KB</small>	No draft --	<input type="button" value="Manage"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/>
<b>4. Progress Report Publication List</b>	No final --	No draft --	<input type="button" value="Add"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/>
<hr/>			
<b>Other Research Plan Sections</b>	Final	Draft	
<b>5. Vertebrate Animals</b>	No final --	No draft --	<input type="button" value="Add"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/>
<b>6. Select Agent Research</b>	No final --	No draft --	<input type="button" value="Add"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/>
<b>7. Multiple PHS/NIH Leadership Plan</b>	No final --	No draft --	<input type="button" value="Add"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/>

Error (1) / Warning (4) / Info (0)    NIH    Final Review

# SF 424 Application

## Title of Application

Descriptive

200 character length including spaces

Revisions have the same title

Helps direct your application

## Cover letter

Used to assign to review group

Used to assign to institute or center

# SF 424 Application

Paper size – 8 1/2 x 11

Page Margins – one half inch

Standard single column format

Figures may be in color

# SF 424 Application

## Font

11 point or larger in black font

## Typeface

Arial

Linotype

Helvetica

Georgia

Palatino

15 characters per sq inch

Single spaced

No headers or footers (these are system generated)

# SF 424 Application

## PDF

When validating page limits, the eRA Commons will not count the white space created by breaking the text into separate files for uploading

# **SF 424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance**

## **Sections of SF 424 Application**

Biographical Sketch

Project Summary / Abstract

Project Narrative

Bibliography and References Cited

Facilities and Other Resources

Equipment

Budget and Budget Justification

Planned Enrollment Report

Project / Performance Sites Locations

Cover letter

# SF 424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance

## PHS 398 Research Plan

1. Introduction to Application (Resubmissions)
2. Specific Aims
3. Research Strategy
  - a. Significance
  - b. Innovation
  - c. Approach
    - i. Introduction
    - ii. Research Design
    - iii. Expected Outcomes
    - iv. Potential Problems and Alternative Approaches
  - d. Timeline

# **SF 424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance**

## **PHS 398 Research Plan**

4. Progress Report Publication List
5. Protection of Human Subjects
6. Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Children
7. Vertebrate Animals
8. Select Agent Research
9. Multiple PD/PI Leadership Plan
10. Consortium/ Contractual Arrangements
11. Letters of Support
12. Resource Sharing Plan
13. Appendix

# SF 424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance

Introduction – used with resubmissions (1 page)

Specific Aims (1 page)

- Goals of project
- Concise
- Feasible
- Expected outcomes (Primary and Secondary)
- Specific objectives – test hypothesis
- Safety concerns

**Make sure your hypothesis is testable**

# Specific Aims

Provides the overview of the entire project

Becomes the template for grant

Persuade reviewers that the project is important, feasible and will advance the state of the science

Aims should describe something you can measure

# Clinical Trial Specific Aims

- Background of Problem
- Overall approach
- Intervention
- Outcomes (Disease, Surrogate, etc)
- Type of Participant
- General purpose and specific purpose
- Parameters to be measured

# SF 424 (R&R) Application for Federal Assistance

## Research Strategy (12 pages)

### Significance

Importance of the problem

### Innovation

How will project move field forward

### Approach

How will you do the project

Potential problems and solutions

# Research Strategy - Significance

Present and critically evaluate current knowledge

State what is not known – research gaps

Relate how the current project will answer the questions of what is not known

Write this section as if the reviewer does not know your topic area

# Research Strategy - Innovation

What makes your project different

How is your project different from previous work

Describe how your project is different from the status quo

Address how your project is important to an NIH relevant problem

**Significance and Innovation used to be the old Background section**

# Research Strategy - Approach

Description of how to accomplish your specific aims

Rational of procedures to carry out the study

Be specific and detailed

Be consistent with yourself

Spell check your grant

# Research Strategy - Approach

- Characteristics of the participants
- Recruitment plans
- Allocation of participants to groups
- Blinding
- Study treatment
- Outcome measures / efficacy measures
- Safety
- Quality Control
- Timetable

# Research Strategy - Approach

- Visit schedule
- Sample size and power
- Data Collection
- Database
- Data entry
- Data analysis
- Control of bias and confounding
- Participant adherence
- Safety / Adverse events
- Informed consent issues
- Staff and training issues

# Inclusion / Exclusion Criteria

## Characteristics of participants

- Age
- Gender
- Weight
- Behaviors
- Etc

## Characteristics of the disease or treatment

- Disease being evaluated
- Previous treatments
- Washout periods
- History of other diseases
- Present clinical status

# Inclusion / Exclusion Criteria

## Other Factors

- Participant cooperation
- Participation in another trial
- Occupation
- Geographical location
- Language
- Etc

## Evaluation during screening

- Laboratory tests
- ECGs
- Physical Exam
- ETT
- Etc

# Recruitment

Always takes longer than you project

Always is more expensive than you think it will be

Difficult to recruit certain subgroups

Multiple strategies are often needed

Monitoring and Readjustment of recruitment plans during recruitment is necessary and important

Meeting Sample size and recruitment goals (gender and racial goals)

Generalizability

# Study Treatment or Interventions

- Dosage forms and formulations
- Dispensing study medications
- Dosing schedule and increments
- Route of administration
- All components
- Length of intervention
- Withdrawal of study medications
- Issues with placebo

**Medically justifiable / ethical**  
**Reasonable doubt about efficacy**

# Outcome Measures

## Types of Outcomes to be Evaluated

- Objective outcomes (laboratory test)
- Subjective outcomes (QOL questionnaire)
- Surrogate outcomes
- Disease outcomes

## Timing of Outcome Assessment

- Schedule of Activities
- Time to observe the effect

## Multiple Outcome Measures

- Adjust level of significance

# Outcome Measures

## Desired Characteristics of Outcome Measures

- Free of Measurement or Ascertainment Bias
- Chosen before the start of the data collection
- Capable of being observed independent of treatment assignment

# Study Measures

## Desired Characteristics of Study Measures

- Easy and rapid to administer and interpret
- Little or no training to administer or interpret
- Sensitive to change elicited by the intervention
- Low rate of false positive or false negatives
- May be used multiple times without a training effect on participant
- Results are reproducible and valid
- Interpretation correlates with other clinical parameters of interest

# NIH PROMIS

PROMIS<sup>®</sup> stands for Patient Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System, which is a system of highly reliable, precise measures of patient–reported health status for physical, mental, and social well–being.

- Comparability – measures are standardized
- Reliability and Validity tested

<http://www.nihpromis.org/about/overview>

# NIH PROMIS

- Physical Health
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Fatigue
- Sleep
- Social Function
- Pain
- Global Health

# NIH Toolbox

NIH Toolbox is a multidimensional set of brief measures assessing cognitive, emotional, motor and sensory function from ages 3 to 85, meeting the need for a standard set of measures that can be used across diverse study designs and settings.

NIH Toolbox monitors neurological and behavioral function over time, and measures the domain constructs across developmental stages. This facilitates the study of functional changes across the lifespan, including evaluating intervention and treatment effectiveness.

<http://www.nihtoolbox.org/Pages/default.aspx>

# NCI Diet History Questionnaire

The Diet History Questionnaire (DHQ) is a freely available food frequency questionnaire (FFQ) developed by staff at the Risk Factor Monitoring and Methods Branch (RFMMB) at NCI.

<http://appliedresearch.cancer.gov/dhq2/>

# Study Visits

- Obtain Informed Consent
- Determine Eligibility and Interest
- Assign to study intervention
- Provide study intervention or medication
- Collect outcome data
- Collect safety data

# Study Visits

- Phone Visit
- Screening Visit
- Baseline or Randomization Visit
- Follow-up Visit

# TARGET Schedule of Activities

Activities	SV	BV	6 month	12 month	24 month
Eligibility Assessed	X	X			
Informed Consent <sup>1</sup>	X	X			
Contact Information	X	X	X	X	X
Demographics	X				
Medical History / Medications Used	X				
Orientation to Group Assignment		X			
Diet and Physical Activity Questionnaires	X	X	X	X	X
Smoking Questionnaires	X	X	X	X	X
Other Questionnaires		X	X	X	X
Exhaled Carbon Monoxide	X	X	X	X	X
Salivary Cotinine <sup>2</sup>			X	X	X
Vital Signs including BP	X	X	X	X	X
Weight / Height	X	X	X	X	X
Waist and Hip Circumferences		X	X	X	X
Interval Medical History/ Medications Used / Adverse Events Assessed		X	X	X	X
2-week Diary run-in <sup>3</sup>	X				

# Randomization

Method to allocate participants to a group

Creates comparable groups

Reduces bias and confounding

Need to have clinical equipoise to randomize

Block randomization is commonly used

Stratified randomization is often used in multicenter clinical trials

# Equipoise

**Clinical equipoise**, also known as the **principle of equipoise**, provides the ethical basis for medical research that involves assigning patients to different treatment arms of a clinical trial

Means that there is genuine uncertainty over whether a treatment will be more beneficial than the control or comparison condition.

We don't already know the answers to the questions we are asking in the clinical trial

# Random Number Generator

Research Randomizer is a free resource for researchers and students in need of a quick way to generate random numbers or assign participants to experimental conditions. This site can be used for a variety of purposes, including psychology experiments, medical trials, and survey research. Since 2007, the site has generated **945 million** sets of random numbers.

<https://www.randomizer.org/>

# Masking or Blinding

Masking or blinding in a clinical trial involves keeping information about the intervention group assignment from either participants, staff, investigators, or DSBM members

Reduce certain types of bias (i.e. observer bias)

Placebo

# Retention

Failure to retain increases risk to study validity

Concerning if there is differential retention

Incomplete follow-up may increase risk of bias

- Drop-outs are different from those who do not
- Less than 5% leads to little bias

Must account for lost-to-follow-up in power calculations

Have the best retention rate possible

- greater than 20% lost threatens validity

# How to Improve Retention

Recruit a committed participant

Active monitoring plan to recognize problems

Active interest in participant

- Birthday cards
- Retention events
- Incentives

Make study visits convenient and valuable

# How to Improve Retention

Have adequate contact information

Address

Phone number (home, cell, work)

Known associate to contact for information

Social media (Facebook, twitter)

Social Security Number (NDI)

# Quality Control

## Clinical Level

- Training
- Certification / Recertification
- Manual of Operations

## Data Level

- Data Entry
- Data Audits / Edits
- Independent Measurement and Readings
- Repeat Measures

## Laboratory Level

## Performance Monitoring

- Monitor secular trends
- Site visits

# Rigor and Transparency

Scientific Premise

Rigorous experimental design

Consideration of relevant biologic variables (gender)

Authentication of Key Biological and / or chemical resources

[https://grants.nih.gov/reproducibility/module\\_1/presentation.html](https://grants.nih.gov/reproducibility/module_1/presentation.html)

<https://grants.nih.gov/policy/reproducibility/guidance.htm>

4 AREAS OF FOCUS	WHAT DOES IT MEAN?	WHERE SHOULD IT BE INCLUDED IN THE APPLICATION?
<b>Rigor of the Prior Research</b>	<p>A careful assessment of the <b>rigor of the prior research</b> that serves as the key support for a proposed project will help applicants identify any weaknesses or gaps in the line of research.</p> <p>Describe the strengths and weaknesses in the rigor of the prior research (both published and unpublished) that serves as the key support for the proposed project.</p> <p>Describe plans to address weaknesses in the rigor of the prior research that serves as the key support for the proposed project</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*See related <a href="#">FAQs</a>, <a href="#">blog post</a></p>	<p><b>Research Strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Significance</li> <li>➤ Approach</li> </ul>
<b>Scientific Rigor (Design)</b>	<p><b>Scientific rigor</b> is the strict application of the scientific method to ensure robust and unbiased experimental design, methodology, analysis, interpretation and reporting of results.</p> <p>Emphasize how the experimental design and methods proposed will achieve robust and unbiased results.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*See related <a href="#">FAQs</a>, <a href="#">blog post</a>, <a href="#">examples from pilots</a></p>	<p><b>Research Strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Approach</li> </ul>
<b>Biological Variables</b>	<p><b>Biological variables</b>, such as sex, age, weight, and underlying health conditions, are often critical factors affecting health or disease. In particular, sex is a biological variable that is frequently ignored in animal study designs and analyses, leading to an incomplete understanding of potential sex-based differences in basic biological function, disease processes and treatment response.</p> <p>Explain how relevant biological variables, such as the ones noted above, are factored into research designs, analyses, and reporting in vertebrate animal and human studies. Strong justification from the scientific literature, preliminary data or other relevant considerations must be provided for applications proposing to study only one sex.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*See related <a href="#">FAQs</a>, <a href="#">blog posts</a>, <a href="#">article</a> </p>	<p><b>Research Strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Approach</li> </ul>
<b>Authentication</b>	<p><b>Key biological and/or chemical resources</b> include, but are not limited to, cell lines, specialty chemicals, antibodies and other biologics.</p> <p>Briefly describe methods to ensure the identity and validity of key biological and/or chemical resources used in the proposed studies. These resources may or may not have been generated with NIH funds and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• may differ from laboratory to laboratory or over time;</li> <li>• may have qualities and/or qualifications that could influence the research data;</li> <li>• are integral to the proposed research.</li> </ul> <p>The authentication plan should state in one page or less how you will authenticate key resources, including the frequency, as needed for your research. Note: Do not include authentication data in your plan.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*See related <a href="#">FAQs</a>, <a href="#">blog post</a>, <a href="#">examples</a></p>	<p><b>Other Research Plan Section</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Include as an attachment</li> <li>➤ <u>Do not include</u> in the Research Strategy.</li> </ul>

# Safety

## How to evaluate safety?

- Chemical laboratory test
- Clinical examination
- Probe for adverse reactions v. self-report
- Psychological test
- Other testing (ECG, X-Ray, etc)

## Timing of Safety evaluations

### Adverse Events (AEs)

- Termination of study intervention
- Serious Adverse Events
- Death

### Reporting AEs

- IRB
- Sponsor

# Sample Size and Power

Get help from a biostatistician

**BERD Clinic**

<https://tnctsi.uthsc.edu/consultation-and-services/biostatistical-support/berd-clinic/>

**Online tools to calculate sample size and power**

<https://www.qualtrics.com/blog/calculating-sample-size/>

# Data Analysis Plan

- Exploratory Analyses
- Descriptive Analyses
  - Summarize findings
  - Describe sample
- Inferential Analyses
  - Draw conclusions

Intent to Treat Analysis

# Data Analysis Plan

## Subgroup Analyses

- Gender and Race

Missing Data – try to have very little missing

# Human Subjects

Human subject - means a living individual about whom an investigator (whether professional or student) conducting research obtains

- (1) data through intervention or interaction with the individual; or
- (2) identifiable private information.

# Human Subjects

Includes use of human organs, tissues, residual diagnostic specimens, DNA, and body fluids

Includes graphic, written, or recorded information from living individuals

# SF 424 - Protection of Human Subjects

1. Risks to the Subject
  - A. Human Subject Involvement and Characteristics (Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria)
  - B. Sources of Material
  - C. Potential Risk
  
2. Adequacy of Protection Against Risk
  - A. Recruitment
  - B. Informed Consent / IRB / Data Safety Monitoring Plan
  - C. Protection Against Risk
  
3. Potential Benefits of Proposed Research to Subject and Others
  
4. Importance of the Knowledge to be Gained

## Training on the Protection of Human Subjects

- All key individuals responsible for designing and conducting this research project have received education on the protection of human research participants. Staff hired in the future will also receive this training prior to interacting with study participants. Therefore, we believe that our proposal follows the standards and requirements on the protection of human research participants.

## Good Clinical Practice (GCP) Training

- All key individuals responsible for designing, conducting or managing this research project have received education on Good Clinical Practice (GCP) consistent with the principles of the International Conference on Harmonization per the NIH Policy (Notice Number NOT-OD-16-148). Staff hired in the future will also receive this training prior to interacting with study participants.

# IRB Approved Version of Consent Form

- As **required by the Revised Common Rule**, you are required to post an IRB-approved version of the study consent form that has been used to enroll participants on a public federal website such as <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov> designated for posting such consent forms.
- As required, the form will be posted after recruitment closes and no later than 60 days after the last study visit by any subject, as required by the protocol.

# Phase III Clinical Investigation

As defined by NIH, a broadly based prospective Phase III clinical investigation (usually involving several hundred or more human subjects) to evaluate an experimental intervention in comparison with a standard or control intervention or to compare two or more existing treatments.

The definition includes pharmacologic, non-pharmacologic, and behavioral interventions given for disease prevention, prophylaxis, diagnosis, or therapy.

Community trials and other population-based intervention trials also are included

**Phase III Clinical trials need a DSMB**

# SF 424 Application

## NIH Defined Phase III Clinical Trial

Plans to conduct valid analyses among gender and racial subgroups

Plans to include all gender and racial subgroups

To define racial and ethnic groups must be prepared to ask the participants 2 questions

# NIH Standard for reporting Ethnicity and Race

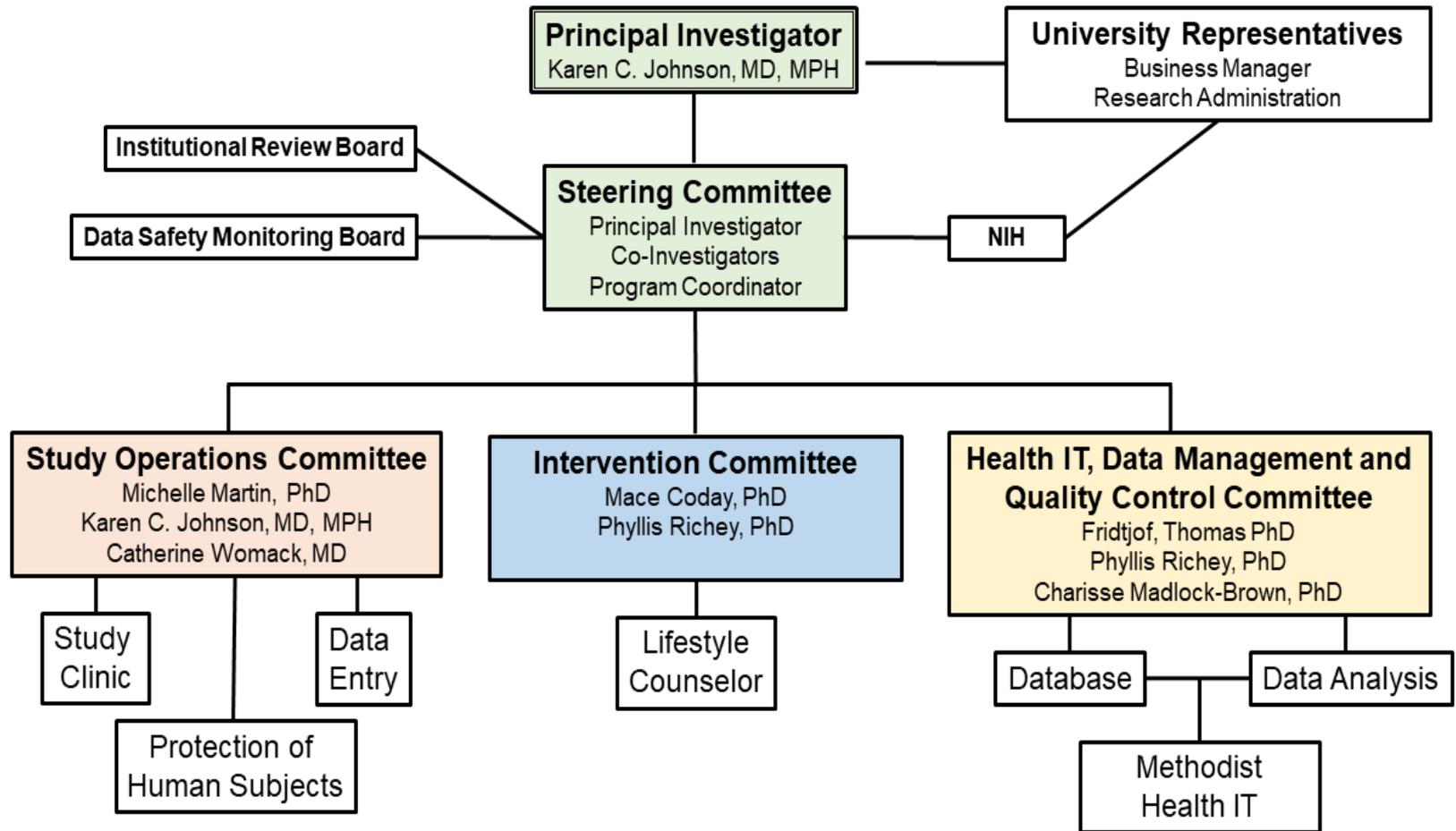
NIH minimum standards for maintaining, collecting, and presenting data on race and ethnicity for all grant applications, contract and intramural proposals and for all active research grants, cooperative agreements, contract and intramural projects.

Ethnicity – Hispanic or Not Hispanic

Race –  
American Indian or Alaska Native  
Asian  
Black or African American  
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander  
White  
Other

**Must allow participant to choose all that apply for racial category.**

# Overall Structure of Study Team



# Protocol Synopsis

Brief Summary

Study Design

Outcome measures

Statistical Design and Power

Subject Participant Duration

Will the Study use FDA-regulated intervention?

Dissemination Plan

# SF 424 Application

## Inclusion of Children

Child is defined as a person under the age of 21

Can exclude children if:

1. Research topic is not relevant
2. Law barring children
3. Knowledge being sought is already available for children
4. A separate age-specific study is warranted
5. Insufficient data to judge the risk in children

# SF 424 Application

## Inclusion of Women and Minorities

Must justify if excluding anyone

## Inclusion across the Lifespan

Includes all ages (children to seniors)

# SF 424 Application

Vertebrate Animals

Select Agent Research

Hazardous biologic agents and toxins  
Threat to the safety

Multiple PD / PI Plan

Making decisions  
Resolving conflict  
Plan if PI leaves the institution

# SF 424 Application

Consortium / Contractual Arrangements

Letters of Support

All investigators

Administrators from UT

Collaborators

Others

Data Management and Sharing Plans

Data Sharing

Sharing Model Organisms

Genomic Data Sharing

<https://sharing.nih.gov/data-management-and-sharing-policy>

# SF 424 Application - Appendix

Applicants are prohibited from using the appendix to circumvent page limitations in any section of the application for which a page limit applies.

# SF 424 Application

## Appendix

### Publications

Manuscripts – accepted not published

Patents

Surveys / questionnaires / data collection

Protocols / informed consent documents

Videos

**Do not include digital photographs or publications  
that are publicly accessible**

# Planned Enrollment Report

This report format should NOT be used for collecting data from study participants.

Study Title:

Domestic/Foreign: Domestic

Comments:

Racial Categories	Ethnic Categories				Total
	Not Hispanic or Latino		Hispanic or Latino		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
American Indian/ Alaska Native					0
Asian					0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander					0
Black or African American					0
White					0
More Than One Race					0
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	0	0

# Biosketch

5 pages or less

eRA Commons User Name

Education and Training

Format

## A. Personal Statement

1. Ongoing Research Support

## B. Positions and Honors

## C. Contribution to Science

1. Statement of contribution in area followed by up to 4 publications **with PMCID numbers** if available
2. Full list of published work website

**OMB No. at top with date approve through on it**

# SF 424 Application

## Project Summary / Abstract

Summary of Proposed activity

No longer than 30 lines of text

## Project Narrative

Description of the relevance of research to public health

2-3 sentences long

## References Cited

Bibliography

PMCID reference number or PMID number

## Facilities and Other Resources

Used to assess the capability of the  
organizational resources available to  
perform the effort proposed

**Equipment** already available

# Project Summary / Abstract

Brief Literature review

Highlight research gaps

What needs to be done

What you propose to do

State hypothesis – primary outcome

State specific aims

No more than 30 lines of text

**Do not put confidential Information in this section**

# Project Narrative

Public Health relevance of the project

No more than 2-3 sentences

Written in plain language understandable by general public

Describe how, in the short or long term, the research would contribute to: the fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems, and/or the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability.

**Published on the NIH Reporter**

# Facilities and Other Resources

Department

University / College

Support Staff

Research Space

Office Space

Existing Equipment

Partners

Computer and Data Management Resources

Other UT resources (library)

Laboratory

Animal

Core facilities available

## **Additional Questions you will have to answer**

**Is proprietary / privileged information included in the application?**

**Does this project have an actual or potential impact on the environment?**

**Is the research performance site designated as an historical site?**

**Does this project involve activities outside the US?**

# Tennessee Clinical and Translational Science Institute



Home > TN-CTSI > Research Resources

About

Consultation & Services

Research Resources

Training & Education

Collaboration

Quick Links

## Research Resources

The Tennessee Clinical and Translational Science Institute (TN-CTSI) is committed to providing high quality resources to support researchers. Resources include support with research design and biostatistics, informatics, project management, and clinical research coordinators.

Biostatistics and Study Design Support

The Clinical Trials Governance Board (CTGB)

Center for Biomedical Informatics (CBMI)

Center for Leading Innovation and Collaboration (CLIC)

NIH Resources

Fundamentals of the NIH Grant Process and Need to Know Resources

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czS19f5Di\\_l&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czS19f5Di_l&feature=youtu.be)

NIH Presentations

Including Diverse Populations in NIH-funded Clinical Research [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fYoNnlt\\_f1o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fYoNnlt_f1o)

An Overview of NIH Policies on Human Subjects <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPWxPgR-vww>

2020 NIH Virtual Seminar Presentation Materials <https://grants.nih.gov/virtual-seminar-2020/presentations.html>

# NIH Resource Links

## TN-CTSI Website

- **Application Process:** <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide.html>
- **Biosketch Formatting:** <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>
- **Budget:** <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-and-write/develop-your-budget.htm>
- **Formatting your Application:** <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-and-write/format-attachments.htm>
- **Preparation:** <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/prepare-to-apply.htm>
- **Reference Letters:** <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/submission-process/reference-letters.htm>
- **Submitting the Application:** <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/submit.htm>
- **Writing your application:** <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/write-application.htm>

# NIH Research Training Website

<https://researchtraining.nih.gov>

**NIH** National Institutes of Health  
Research Training and Career Development

Division of Biomedical Research Workforce

SEARCH  

Intramural  Contact Us

About DBRW

Career Path

Programs

Institute/Program Matrix

Resources

NIH programs help to prepare  
the skilled, creative and diverse  
biomedical research workforce of  
tomorrow



Undergraduate and  
Postbaccalaureate  
Education

Predoctoral Training/  
Clinical Doctorate

Postdoctoral Training/  
Clinical Residency

Early Research Career  
Development

Investigator  
Development and  
Mentoring

- ▶ **Launched in 2015**, one stop for funding opportunities
- ▶ **Useful resource** for trainees, postdocs, potential K award applicants and early stage faculty

# Questions