CHECKLIST FOR YOUR RESEARCH PROPOSAL
(Test for Success)

Hypothesis

Is this hypothesis important in this particular sphere of investigation?	YES _____	NO _____
Is my hypothesis as stated, testable by feasible procedures?	YES _____	NO _____

Aims

Are my specific aims logical?	YES _____	NO _____
Have I chosen them carefully?	YES _____	NO _____
Have I defined them well?	YES _____	NO _____
Have I stated them clearly?	YES _____	NO _____
Are the specific aims reasonable?	YES _____	NO _____
Are the specific aims attainable?	YES _____	NO _____

Background

Did I thoroughly collect the information for the background?	YES _____	NO _____
Did I review this information critically?	YES _____	NO _____
Have I logically organized the data and events that led to the present proposal?	YES _____	NO _____
Have I proved that I am sufficiently familiar with this type of research by demonstrating a thorough understanding and balanced knowledge of the pertinent literature?	YES _____	NO _____
Have I emphasized or clarified discrepancies found in the literature?	YES _____	NO _____

Significance of Proposal

Will the results of my research fill a defined gap in our knowledge?	YES _____	NO _____
Will it advance our understanding of this subject?	YES _____	NO _____
Will it facilitate the development of valuable techniques?	YES _____	NO _____

Will the results of my research facilitate the development of experimental models? YES _____ NO _____

Will it lead to reasonable treatment for some pathologic condition? YES _____ NO _____

Is my work important in relating my specific objectives to the hypothesis? YES _____ NO _____

Is the work likely to yield new conclusions that will have general biological value or practical clinical significance? YES _____ NO _____

Preliminary Work

Have my preliminary experiments demonstrated that the methods, procedures, techniques, and protocols are feasible? YES _____ NO _____

Are they adequate and appropriate? YES _____ NO _____

Have my preliminary experiments demonstrated that my hypothesis is readily testable? YES _____ NO _____

Qualifications of Investigator

Have my educational background, research experience, and preliminary demonstrated that:

I am qualified to perform the study? YES _____ NO _____

I have potential for doing productive work? YES _____ NO _____

I have the technical competence and skills needed for the proposed work? YES _____ NO _____

My results would be reliable and inspire confidence in my peers? YES _____ NO _____

Design

Is my design appropriate? YES _____ NO _____

Is my design valid? YES _____ NO _____

Is my design straightforward? YES _____ NO _____

Is my design well organized? YES _____ NO _____

Is my design logically conceived? YES _____ NO _____

Is my design lucidly described?	YES _____	NO _____
Are my methods reasonable?	YES _____	NO _____
Are my methods appropriate for the proposed investigation?	YES _____	NO _____
Are my methods carefully documented?	YES _____	NO _____
Are my methods well established?	YES _____	NO _____
Are my methods under my technical control?	YES _____	NO _____
Are my methods promising?	YES _____	NO _____
Are my methods clearly described?	YES _____	NO _____
Do the methods correspond to the specific aims?	YES _____	NO _____
Am I using innovative procedures to overcome difficult technical problems?	YES _____	NO _____
Are these innovative procedures feasible and well within my competence and experience?	YES _____	NO _____
Do these procedures have obvious and clearly described advantages over the standard techniques now in use?	YES _____	NO _____

Problem Solving

Have I anticipated and adequately discussed potential difficulties and obstacles in the approach I have chosen?	YES _____	NO _____
Have I carefully considered the advantages and disadvantages of each method?	YES _____	NO _____
Have I recognized the limitations of the methods and how these limitations can influence the anlysis and interpretation of the experimental results?	YES _____	NO _____
Am I fully aware of the difficulties that I may encounter in implementing the experimental plan and the specific methods?	YES _____	NO _____
Have I convinced the reviewers that I will be able to circumvent anticipated, as well as unexpected difficulties?	YES _____	NO _____

Have I proposed logical and appropriate alternatives to any experimental obstacles that might be encountered?	YES _____	NO _____
Have I developed my research plan in a carefully focused step-by-step, straight-forward manner?	YES _____	NO _____
Have I demonstrated that I have a clear understanding of the order or sequence of experiments as I will conduct them?	YES _____	NO _____
Have I demonstrated an awareness of the underlying principles and the associated complexities of the area under study to ensure that I interpret my results appropriately?	YES _____	NO _____