NIH—New Requirements for Biographical Sketches

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  - Research Administration Advisor—Pre-Award
Overview

- NIH’s new Biographical Sketch Requirements
- The Announcement
- The New Required Format
- Tools (SciENcv)
- Context within NIH Applications
The Announcement

• NIH NOT-OD-15-032

• New Biographical Sketch Format Required for NIH and AHRQ Grant Applications Submitted for Due Dates on or After May 25, 2015

Updated 03/25/2015
The Announcement

• The revised forms and instructions are now available on the SF 424 (R&R) Forms and Applications page

• Different Requirements for:
  – A. Individual fellowships, R36 dissertation grants, and diversity supplements
  – B. All other application types
Dr. Sally Rockey, NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research:

- "primary focus of the new NIH biosketch will be:
  - the magnitude and significance of the scientific advances associated with a researcher’s discoveries
  - the specific role the researcher played in those findings."

- "This change will help reviewers evaluate you not by where you’ve published or how many times, but instead by what you’ve accomplished."

Updated 03/25/2015
The New Format—For Students

- Individual fellowships, R36 dissertation grants, and diversity supplements
  - Use the Fellowship Application Biographical Sketch Format Page and related pre-doc and post-doc instructions and samples

Updated 03/25/2015
The New Format—For Students

• The new format

• See Handout
  – Limited to FIVE pages
The New Format—For Students

• A. Personal Statement
  – Specific instructions for R36 applicants and Diversity Supplement Applicants

• B. Positions and Honors

• C. Contributions to Science—The NEW Item

• D. Scholastic Performance

Updated 03/25/2015
The New Format—For Students

- Additional instructions for
  - Pre-doc Applications
  - Post-doc Applications
The New Format—For Researchers and Faculty

- The new format
- See Handout
  - Limited to FIVE pages
The New Format—For Researchers and Faculty

- research grant applications, career development, training grant, and all other application types
- Use the “General” Biographical Sketch Format Page and related samples and instructions

Updated 03/25/2015
The New Format—For Researchers and Faculty

- A. Personal Statement
- B. Positions and Honors
- C. *Contributions to Science*—The NEW Item
- D. Research Support
The New Format—For Researchers and Faculty

• A. Personal Statement

• Briefly describe why you are well-suited for your role in the project described in this application. The relevant factors may include aspects of your training; your previous experimental work on this specific topic or related topics; your technical expertise; your collaborators or scientific environment; and your past performance in this or related fields.
The New Format—For Researchers and Faculty

• A. Personal Statement (continued)
  • Also, you may identify up to four peer reviewed publications that specifically highlight your experience and qualifications for this project.
  • If you wish to explain impediments to your past productivity, you may include a description of factors such as family care responsibilities, illness, disability, and active duty military service.

Updated 03/25/2015
The New Format—For Researchers and Faculty

• B. Positions and Honors
  • List in chronological order previous positions, concluding with the present position.
  • List any honors.
  • Include present membership on any Federal Government public advisory committee.

Updated 03/25/2015
The New Format—For Researchers and Faculty

• C. Contribution to Science
  • Briefly describe up to five of your most significant contributions to science.
  • For each contribution, indicate:
    – the historical background that frames the scientific problem
    – the central finding(s)
    – the influence of the finding(s) on the progress of science or the application of those finding(s) to health or technology
    – and your specific role in the described work

Updated 03/25/2015
The New Format—for Researchers and Faculty

• C. Contribution to Science (continued)
  • For each contribution, reference up to four peer-reviewed publications OR other non-publication research products
    – audio or video products
    – patents
    – data and research materials
    – databases
    – educational aids or curricula
    – instruments or equipment
    – models
    – protocols
    – and software or netware
  • that are RELEVANT to the described contribution
The New Format—For Researchers and Faculty

- C. Contribution to Science (continued)
  - The description of each contribution should be no longer than one half page including figures and citations.
  - ALSO provide a URL to a full list of your published work as found in a publicly available digital database such as SciENcv or My Bibliography.

Updated 03/25/2015
The New Format—For Researchers and Faculty

• D. Research Support
  • List both selected ongoing and completed research projects for the *past three years* (Federal or non-Federally-supported).
  • *Begin with the projects that are most relevant to the research proposed in the application.*
  • Briefly indicate the overall goals of the projects and responsibilities of the key person identified on the Biographical Sketch.
  • *Do not* include number of person months or direct costs.

Updated 03/25/2015
Biosketch FAQs

- “Is a link to a full list of published work required in the new biosketch format?”
  - No. The link to a full list of published work as found in a publicly available digital database such as MyBibliography is allowed, but not required.

Updated 03/25/2015
SciENcv

- Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae (SciENcv)
SciENcv

• a new electronic system that helps researchers assemble the professional information needed for participation in federally funded research.
• SciENcv gathers and compiles information on expertise, employment, education and professional accomplishment.
• Researchers can use SciENcv to create and maintain biosketches that are submitted with grant applications and annual reports.
• SciENcv allows researchers to describe and highlight their scientific contributions in their own words.
SciENcv

- YouTube Tutorial
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PRWy-3GXhtU&feature=youtu.be

Updated 03/25/2015
Why is this Biosketch important?

• Reviewers use the Biographical Sketches to determine the suitability and experience of the INVESTIGATORS
• One of the five REVIEW CRITERIA
  – Significance
  – Investigators
  – Innovation
  – Approach
  – Environment

Updated 03/25/2015
Why is this Biosketch important?

- NIH has moved away from a “one-Biosketch fits all applications” model
- Biosketches are CRITICAL to the review process
- They have to be TAILORED to the particular application
Takeaways

• Identify the roles of your collaborators and personnel early
  – Senior/Key Persons have to include a biosketch

• The level of detail required is going to be
  – More complex
  – Even more specific to the particular application