



NIH Rigor & Transparency Requirements

Updates in the SF424 Guide for Grants.gov Applications

Full guide available here: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/SF424_RR_Guide_General_VerC.pdf

1. The Significance and Approach sections of the Research Strategy have many new requirements focusing on rigor and transparency. *See section 5.5 PHS 398 Research Plan Form pages I-133 to I-136.* The new language is as follows:

a. Significance: Describe the scientific premise for the proposed project, including consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of published research or preliminary data crucial to the support of your application.

b. Approach:

i. Describe the experimental design and methods proposed and how they will achieve robust and unbiased results.

ii. Explain how relevant biological variables, such as sex, are factored into research designs and analyses for studies in vertebrate animals and humans. For example, strong justification from the scientific literature, preliminary data, or other relevant considerations, must be provided for applications proposing to study only one sex.

iii. If your study involves human subjects, you are expected to explain how relevant biological variables are important to the proposed experimental design and analyses. The sections on the Inclusion of Women and Minorities and Inclusion of Children can be used to expand your discussion on inclusion and justify the proposed proportions of individuals (such as males and females) in the sample.

2. The Other Attachments Section should now include Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources document, when applicable. Briefly describe methods to ensure the identity and validity of key biological and/or chemical resources used in the proposed studies.

a. Key biological and/or chemical resources may or may not be generated with NIH funds and: 1) may differ from laboratory to laboratory or over time; 2) may have qualities and/or qualifications that could influence the research data; and 3) are integral to the proposed research. These include, but are not limited to, cell lines, specialty chemicals, antibodies, and other biologics.

b. Standard laboratory reagents that are not expected to vary do not need to be included in the plan. Examples are buffers and other common biologicals or chemicals.

Other major SF424 updates can be found here: <http://osra.weill.cornell.edu/pdf/NIH%20UPDATES.pdf>



Weill Cornell
Medicine

Updates in the Research Performance Progress Report Guide

Full guide available here: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/rppr/rppr_instruction_guide.pdf

1. Rigor and Transparency requirements language is inserted within Section B: Accomplishments.

2. Section B2 on accomplished goals during the reporting period now requires the following:

Goals are equivalent to specific aims. In the response, emphasize the significance of the findings to the scientific field. **Include the approaches taken to ensure robust and unbiased results.**

3. Section B6 on goals to accomplish in the next reporting period now requires:

Describe briefly what you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals and objectives. **Discuss efforts to ensure that the approach is scientifically rigorous and results are robust and unbiased.**