

NIH—New Requirements for Biographical Sketches

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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**
 - <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-15-032.html>
- **New Biographical Sketch Format Required for NIH and AHRQ Grant Applications Submitted for Due Dates on or After May 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**



Background

- **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.”**



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**



The New Format—For Students

- The new format
- <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/applicant-fellowbiosketch.docx>
- 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



The New Format—For Students

- **Additional instructions for**
 - **Pre-doc Applications**
 - **Post-doc Applications**



The New Format—For Researchers and Faculty

- The new format
- http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/SF424R-R_biosketchsample_VerC.docx
- 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



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.



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.



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**



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



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.**



Biosketch FAQs

- http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/faq_biosketches.htm#4382
- “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.



SciENCv

- <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/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>



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



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**

