

Positioning Yourself for Grant Renewal

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Positioning Yourself for Grant Renewal

The good news and the bad: you have a track record

- You have a foot in the door
- More is expected of you

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A new grant versus a renewal

- If the scope has changed significantly – you can change the title of a renewal, but it must be a logical progression
- If you really need to exceed the 20% cap on competing renewals - >20% increase over last year's budget is exceptional and must go to Council

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The Progress Report in a competitive renewal

- Replaces Preliminary Data section
- **MUST SHOW PRODUCTIVITY!!!!**
 - Did you accomplish the Aims?
 - Did you publish?

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A no-cost extension on your original grant

- A 12-month extension can be granted by your institution without NIH prior approval
- Can be helpful if you have some funds left and need more time to accomplish your Aims and/or publish

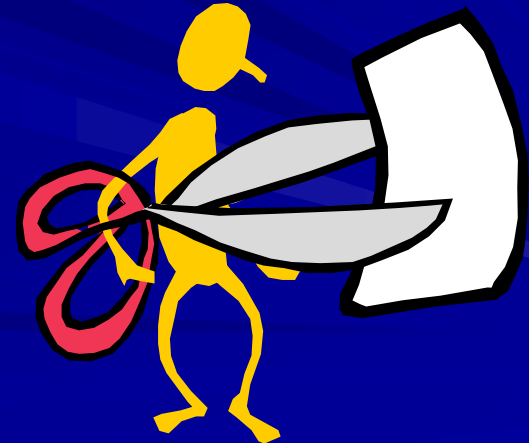
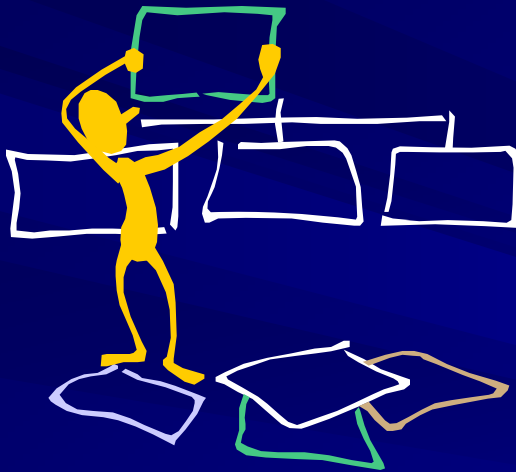
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Apply early...but not too early

- It may take 2-3 tries to get a competitive renewal
- Your renewal can only be funded after your initial grant ends

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Outline, Write, and Edit



Fischer and Zigmond
www.survival.pitt.edu

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- Write in paragraphs
 - 1 major idea per paragraph
 - topic sentences
 - initial paragraphs of section most important
 - clear and simple
- Lay out the text, add essential figures
 - indent paragraphs
 - skip line between paragraphs

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- Anticipate questions, provide answers = think like a reviewer!
- Provide alternate scenarios
- Know and use the NIH review criteria
 - significance
 - innovation
 - approach
 - investigator
 - environment

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- Get feedback and revise
- Once written, review for internal consistency
 - How did the ideas and experiments evolve during the writing of the application
 - Compare to your outline, modify accordingly
 - In writing the application, did you tie in your progress report

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Common reasons for poor scores

- Not innovative or important to the field
- Inadequate rationale/reasoning
- Uncritical approach
- Unfamiliar with literature
- Diffuse, superficial, unfocused research plan
- Overly ambitious
- Lacks experimental detail or experience with methods
- Uncertain future directions
- Ethical concerns

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Help

- Check out NIAID grants online tutorials
http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/grants/default_grants.htm
- Volunteer for a Study Section
- Contact your Program Officer
- Get a mentor who is willing to read your application – and be brutally honest

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