**SPECIFIC AIMS OUTLINE**

*use an outline to get your ideas on paper and then get feedback*

Based on The Grant Application Writer’s Workbook by Russell and Morrison

More information: <http://www.grantcentral.com/downloads.html> (Create Your Bullet Outline)

**IS THE QUESTION IMPORTANT?**

* Opening Sentence – Interest-grabbing sentence that establishes the relevance of your proposal to human health (or the mission of the funding agency)
* Current Knowledge – Succinctly summarize the most important facts known about the topic of your proposal
* Fact #1
* Fact #2
* Gap in the knowledge base – This drives your proposal

**WHAT IS THE OVERALL GOAL?**

* Long-term goal – ‘Big picture’ of your research must be relevant to NIH’s mission
* ‘My *long-term goal* is to…’
* Objective of this proposal – Must fill the gap identified above
	+ ‘The overall *objective* of this application is to…’
* Central Hypothesis – Gives direction – FOCUS – to the research
* ‘My *central hypothesis* is that…’
* Evidence in support of your hypothesis
* Preliminary data
* Support from the literature
* Rationale – What will become possible after the project is completed
* ‘The *rationale* that underlies the proposed research is that…’

**WHAT SPECIFICALLY WILL BE DONE?**

* Specific Aims – Deliberately broad and open-ended BUT then followed by a focused working hypothesis
* AIM 1:

Working hypothesis #1:

Method

* AIM 2:

Working hypothesis #2:

Method

**WHAT IS THE EXPECTED PAYOFF?**

* Expected outcomes – What can be expected from your research?
* Specific expected outcomes for each aims
* Collective outcome if you attain the overall objective of your proposal
* Expected advancement of the field
* Advancement of your career towards an independent scientist (important for NIH Fellowships F31/F32 and K Awards)