



Getting Science Grants

By Thomas R. Blackburn

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As a research scientist, your ability to win outside funding has never been more important.

Your potential to attract resources can often make the critical difference when you are being considered for appointment, tenure, and promotion in your profession.

Getting Science Grants is your hands-on guide to writing compelling proposals that will attract funding. This book provides a step-by-step process for writing grants to support your research projects while it offers you an insider's look at the motivations and inner workings of the scientific grantmaking community.

Here's what you'll find in *Getting Science Grants*:

- 1. How research funding works:** Four stages of proposal review; scoring, proposal ranking, and funding rates; The difference between reviews and rankings; Tie-breakers; The earmarks of an excellent proposal; Being realistic without playing it safe; Your work's impact and the aims of the grant program; Working with a co-investigator.
- 2. Researching funding sources:** Search engines and their dysfunctions; Talking to agencies; Funding sources beyond agencies; Matching agency priorities; Using research grants to buy equipment; Grants for faculty at undergraduate institutions.
- 3. The title, the abstract and the narrative:** Practice in writing titles; Crafting the abstract; The narrative: Bibliography, impact, hypotheses and methods, non-technical impacts; Getting a reality check.
- 4. Budgets and supporting information:** How much should you ask for? Major budget categories: salaries, capital equipment, travel, indirect costs, miscellaneous costs. Cost sharing, budget justification, timelines, your CV, the institutional setting. Ethical and strategic considerations: recommending reviewers, pending proposals, appendices and add-ons, length limits, deadlines.
- 5. Achieving Excellence:** Earmarks of a "Poor" proposal; "Fair" proposals; "Good" proposals: what the heck is "lack of focus," anyhow?; The heartbreak of "Very Good" proposals; "Excellent" proposals: not just free of flaws.
- 6. Post-Submission Strategies:** Parallel submissions; Research without grants; Keeping up to date; How to respond to denial of funding.
- 7. Managing Your Grants:** Keeping track of money, time, and people; Reporting; Publishing; Proprietary information; Unforeseen developments: transferring grants, use of capital equipment, changes in the direction or emphasis of your research, no-cost extensions; Writing the next proposal.

Resources: Checklist; Bibliography; Companion [web site](#) .