PATHWAY TO SUCCESS
Proposal Evaluation Criteria-1

• Significance
  – Does it address an important problem?
  – If Aims are achieved how will the problem be solved?

• Innovation
  – Are there novel concepts/approaches being brought on board?

• Approach
  – Is the overall strategy, methodology, analysis well reasoned and sound?
Proposal Evaluation Criteria-2

• Assembled Research teams
  – Are Investigators qualified?
  – Do they provide adequate time commitments?

• Research Environment
  – Is it well resourced in terms of research infrastructure
  – Adequate Institutional support
  – Unique features- study population, collaborative agreements etc

• Feasibility
  – Preliminary data
GRANTSMANSHIP

• Success based on generating good ideas aligned to specific call!

• However, there are several other aspects involved in the process, that if not well managed could derail or fail it.

• Here we go through NIH (used as example) call pillars that if not well managed could fail the exercise. So they must be tasked
Key Pillars-1

• Research Topic
  – An innovative grant idea goes a long way

Approach Strategy-
  Conceptualize it in terms of:
  – Alignment with funding call (*Call program officer*)
  – Scope
  – budget
  – Collaborators
  – etc
Key Pillars-1

• **Compatible Grant Calls**
  – Fit the organization’s mission and priorities
  – Match the organization’s capacity
  – Seek sustainable solutions/or knowledge to address important national/regional or global challenges

**Approach Strategy** - Careful search and selective pick of calls (Aided by):
  – Research Support Office (RSO)
  – Professional research networks
  – Mailing lists
  – Grant funding agency websites
Key Pillars-3

• Investigator Attributes:
  – Expertise about the research area, *(CVs go along way)*
  – Positive relationships and partnerships *(Letters of collaboration)*,
  – Knowledge of and access to organizational assets
    • Equipment, personnel, space to run the study
  – Access to those who make organizational decisions

Credit: Flat Icons
Key Pillars-4

• **Collaborators**: To be carefully recruited based on
  – Study objectives
  – Study activities
  – Technical expertise
  – Competing interests
  – Budget

• Collaborate but be sure to always **protect your interests**
Key Pillars-5

• **Budget:**
  – Must match requirements
    • Including Finance & Administration costs
    • Service the collaboration
  – Good practice to follow template

Credit: Freepik
Key Pillars-6

• **Research Environment:**
  – Organizational planning,
  – Organization’s management,
  – Organization’s Financial management
  – Organization’s relationships within the community
  – Protection of human subjects (ethics);
    Vertebrates, and Biohazards
Key Pillars-7

• **Timely Submission:**
  – Start early (Give enough time)
  – Be prepared to drop strugglers
  – Aim to submit with at least 2-3 days to the submission deadline
  – NB: many applications fall at this stage
Conclusion

• Going to require high level of organization

• Going to require planning

• Collaborator responsiveness- but you need to give them ample lead time

• Daunting task but just get on with it