SPECIFIC AIMS
My general field of study is __________________ because ________________________________
(high incidence/lack of therapy/cost of current treatment, etc.) ____________________________.

Over the long term, I hope to (examine, prove, study, etc.) ________________________________
___________________________________________.

Currently, the problem/gap with this line of study is _________________________________.

I plan to address this gap by _________________________________.

My proposed studies are based on the hypothesis that _________________________________.

The validity of this hypothesis will be proven by the following aims:

1. Determine (evaluate, examine the role of . . .) _________________________________.

2. _________________________________.

3. _________________________________.

The methods/techniques we will use include: _________________________________.

The relevance of my work to public health is _________________________________.

The impact that the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved is __________

___________________________________________.

SIGNIFICANCE

This study is significant because it addresses the important problem or critical barrier to progress of

__________________________________________________________________________________________.

__________________________________________________________________________________________.

If project aims are achieved,

• scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice will be advanced/improved by (specify in what ways) ____________________________________________________________________________.

• the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventive interventions that drive this field will be changed by (specify in what ways)__________________________________________________________________________________________.

INNOVATION

This project is novel/original/innovative because

• it challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by using novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions

• it employs novel concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions (novelty may apply in one field of research or in a broad sense)

• it proposes a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions

Choose one or more, and describe how the proposed project fulfills the criterion/criteria.

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________
APPROACH

The overall strategy for the project is__________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________.

The project’s methodology and analyses have been adequately developed and are appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of this project in a timely and efficient manner because _________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

Expected results/benchmarks for success include _________________________________________________.

Potential problems include_______________________________________________________________

Alternative strategies for overcoming these problems include____________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________

If the project involves clinical research, prepare to justify, in terms of the scientific goals and proposed research strategy, the plans for 1) protection of human subjects from research risks and 2) inclusion of minorities and members of both sexes as well as the inclusion of children.

INVESTIGATOR

The Principal Investigator/Project Director (PI/PD), especially if an Early Stage or New Investigator, has appropriate training and experience in ____________________________________________________________and therefore is well suited to carry out this work. If an established investigator, the PI/PD has demonstrated an ongoing record of field-advancing accomplishments, including ______________
______________________________________________________________________________________

If the project is collaborative or involves multiple PI/PDs, summarize how (1) the excellent cadre of investigators, co-investigators, collaborators, and other researchers assembled for the project brings together complementary and integrated expertise as well as (2) the leadership approach, governance, and organizational structure, appropriate for achieving the project’s aims:____________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
ENVIRONMENT

The scientific environment in which the work will be done will contribute to the probability of success through (specify in what ways, e.g., institutional support, equipment and other physical resources, and intellectual rapport)  

Laboratory facilities include

For Early Stage Investigators (ESIs), describe

- institutional investment in investigator’s success (e.g., resources for classes, travel, training);
- collegial support (e.g., career enrichment programs, assistance and guidance in the supervision of trainees involved with ESI project, and availability of organized peer groups);
- logistical support (e.g., administrative management and oversight and best practices training);
- financial support (e.g., protected time for research with salary support).

The proposed project will benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements, including

In our clinical practice, we see more than (give number) patients with this syndrome/disease/symptom complex, which will ensure the enrollment of an adequate number of study participants/collection of research samples/creation of tissue bank/development of clinical database/etc.

We have institutional support in the form of

- start-up salaries for new hires
- new equipment
- expanded laboratory space
- core resources
- cost sharing (etc., choose one or more)

Attached you will find a Letter of Support from my departmental chair, indicating that I will have ______ percent protected research time if funded.

REMEMBER: Your proposal will be given an Overall Impact Score, which assesses the project’s likelihood (derived from investigator, approach, and environment criteria) to exert a sustained, powerful influence (derived from significance and innovation criteria) on the research field(s) involved.