

# Specific Aims / Review Criteria Worksheet

## 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

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If project aims are achieved,

- scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice will be advanced/improved by (specify in what ways) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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## 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.

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## 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.**