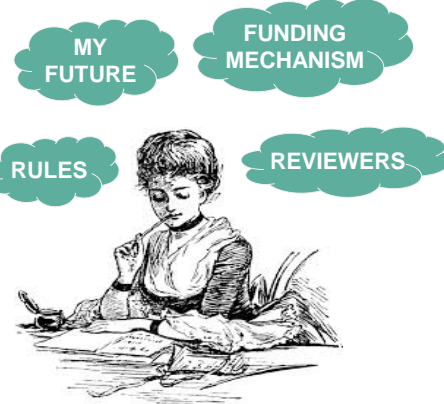


THE PORTRAIT OF AN INVESTIGATOR: One Pre-Award Team's Evolving Art and Science for the New Biosketch

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Background

Investigators applying for research sponsorship face a multi-dimensional critique from reviewers. The quality of the study aims and strategy will make or break a proposal, but a critical reviewer's decision could come down to the portrait of the research team. Recent changes to the NIH biosketch have presented barriers and opportunities to pre-award grant administrators.



A Yearbook Photo For Reviewers

"A picture's meaning can express ten thousand words." -Chinese Proverb



Yearbook Photo Examples (left to right):

House MD, Watson/Crick/Franklin/Wilkins & Pauling, Marie Curie, Robin Williams in Flubber, Anurudh Ganesan, Doogie Houser, MD²

QUESTIONS THAT YOUR PORTRAIT SHOULD ANSWER

- What drives you and why?
- How will you make an impact?
- How does your team work together?
- What is your career trajectory- potential or experienced?
- How will you lead future investigators to discovery?

NIH Review Criteria

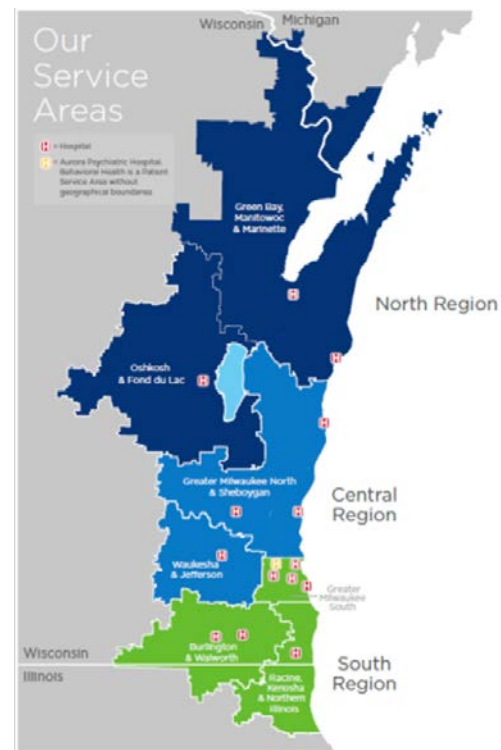
Are the investigators experienced in the performance of this type of project? Is there appropriate senior investigator and/or consultant support, where necessary?¹

Opportunity

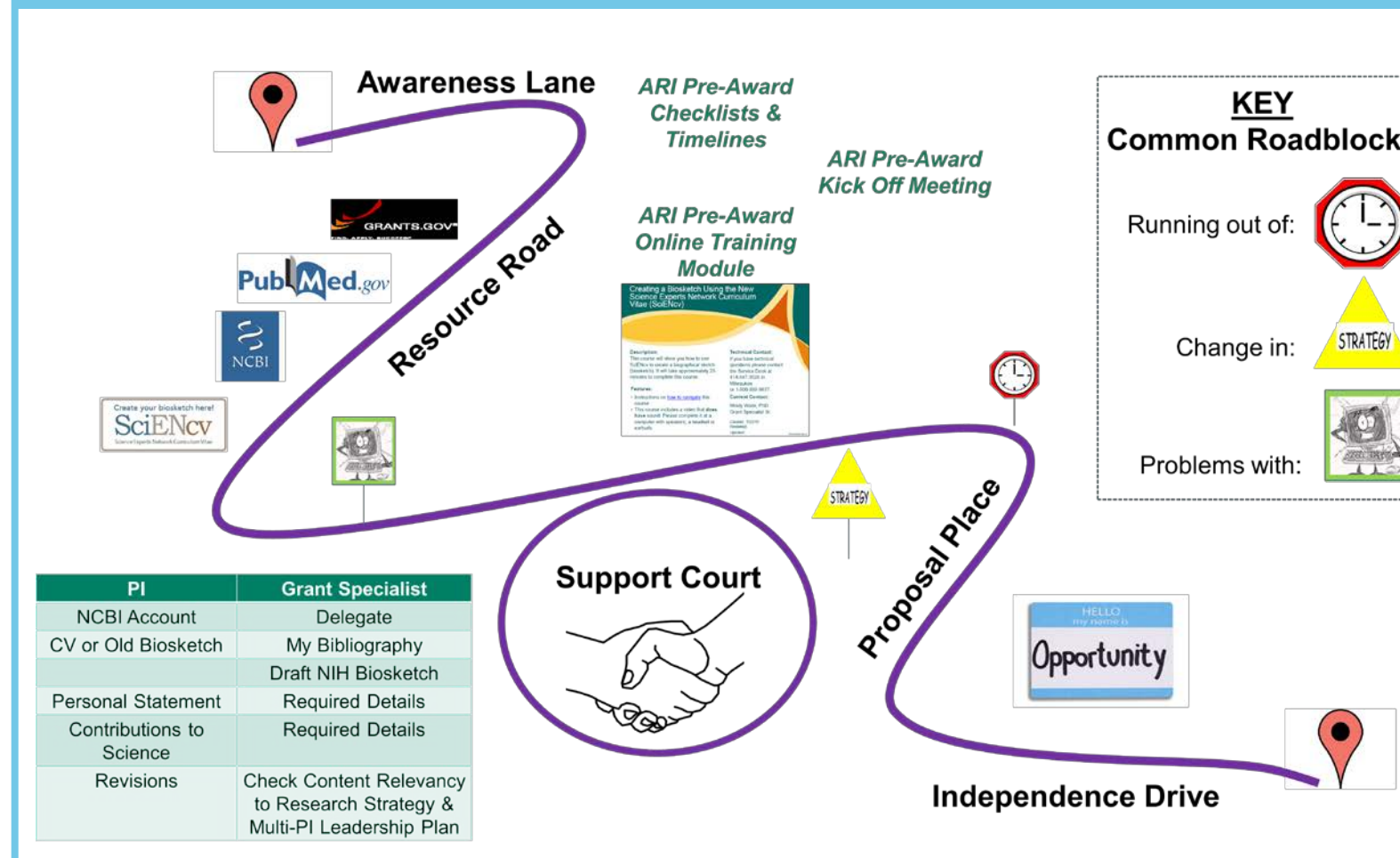
Developing, enhancing educational opportunities, and relationship building have been key elements to pre-award support with the new NIH Biosketch. These same areas remain the key opportunities for improvement with a goal of investigator's gaining independence in ongoing relevance, control and maintenance.

Environment

Aurora Health Care, through the Aurora Research Institute's (ARI) Sponsored Programs Office, continues to expand the number of basic, clinical and translational researchers being supported. Our centralized office provides individualized assistance to enhance competitive proposals and PI biosketches. Pre-award grant specialists primarily work with clinically focused early stage large, integrated not-for-profit health care system.



Pre-award Road Map



Key areas that our pre-award team has found education and support needs in include:

- **Awareness Lane:** Raising awareness of the new NIH Biosketch and the significant differences from past formats.
- **Resource Road:** Providing and orienting investigators to the available resources (NCBI, SciENcv, PubMed, etc.) and encouraging independent resource use.
- **Support Court:** Providing support through education on important content that must be addressed in the biosketch which should both be tailored to the funding announcement/project and multiple PD/PI leadership plans (if relevant)

There are common road blocks that have been encountered during the development process. These include: running out of time, a major change in strategy, and problems with technology.

References:

1. Rockey, S. Implementing the Modified NIH Biosketch Format. Rock Talk Blog, 11/26/2014. <https://hexus.od.nih.gov/all/2014/11/26/implementing-the-modified-nih-biosketch-format/> as accessed on 3/16/2017.
2. Google Images; various sites <https://images.google.com/> as accessed on 3/16/2017.