<u>**Write a compelling NIH Biosketch**</u>

<u>**Personal Statement**</u>

<u>Importance of writing a compelling Biosketch</u>
This document provides reviewers with the first details about <u>YOU</u> and <u>your qualifications</u> for your specific role in <u>THIS</u> grant application
Located in the early part of the assembled PDF file that reviewers receive, before the science (i.e., way-before the Specific Aims page and Research Plan section)
You want to set a positive tone about yourself to the reviewers

Read, and then follow, NIH's instructions!

<u>Personal Statement</u>

<u>Opportunity to tell a compelling, but short, story about YOU to sell yourself to the reviewers</u>
Limit to no more than half of a page, including up to four (4) products (in other words, limit to page one of the NIH Biosketch document; do not spill-over to the second page)
Start with: "I am uniquely qualified to lead this __ (K08; R01) grant application because…")

<u>Your chance to show</u>:
Your specific role in <u>THIS</u> grant application
Your specific expertise and contributions (strengths) to lead (e.g., PI) or participate in (e.g., Co-Investigator) <u>THIS</u> grant application
Related aspects of your training that show developing expertise
By showing these strengths, you will introduce the science of the grant application

<u>Your writing task is to compellingly, succinctly answer the following questions</u>:
Who are you? (in the context of <u>THIS</u> grant application)
What is the grant mechanism? (e.g., K08, R01)
Are you a special applicant? (e.g., early stage investigator, ESI; new investigator, NI)
What have you done that makes you qualified to fulfill your role in <u>THIS</u> grant application?
Who is your team and have you worked together (i.e., publications/products together)?
For K-type applications, who is your primary mentor, who are your other mentors, what are their mentoring qualifications, have you worked together (i.e., publications/products together)?

<u>NIH publications/products:</u>
Should be relevant to <u>THIS</u> grant application
List up to four (4) publications/products for the Personal Statement section
Products include publications, manuscripts accepted for publication, abstracts, pre-print server content, patents, analytical tools, teaching content, academic web sites (do not list the URL; do not list lab web site URL), etc.
Include publications/products with your primary mentor and/or mentoring team

<u>Write statements about suitability for your role:</u>
Written in present tense, with personal pronouns (I, my, me)
What have I done to lead to <u>THIS</u> grant application? Be specific (recent past)

<u>Write statements about suitability of your team (separate paragraph)</u>:
Written in present tense, with personal pronouns (We, our; specific names called-out)
What makes my team uniquely qualified for <u>THIS</u> grant application?

<u>For K-type applications, write where THIS grant application will lead (separate paragraph)</u>:
Example: K12 to K08, K23, etc.) or K-to-R (or equivalent)
Describe suitability of your primary mentor and mentor-team
Be specific with respect to the next grant, limiting focus to the next 5-year period after
   completion of <u>THIS</u> grant application

<u>Writing guidance</u>:
This is a story that needs to be engaging and pleasant to read
Be enthusiastic!
Use active language
Be precise (do not use vague words)
Do not use jargon because it annoys reviewers
Avoid abbreviations for the same reason; if abbreviations are used, define them
Seek input and revise, then revise, revise, revise!

<u>You may address lapses in productivity (be brief and matter-of-fact)</u>:
Family care responsibilities
Illness/Disability
Military service
Industry employment

<u>Typical weaknesses in Personal Statements</u>:
Written about the grant application (you should write about your and your team's
   qualifications)
Written generically (you should write about qualifications for <u>THIS</u> grant application)
Written about chronological events not tied to the <u>THIS</u> grant application (e.g., "When I was in
   college…")
Failure to write qualifications of your research team
Failure to write qualifications of your primary mentor and mentoring team
If the language belongs in a prayer (e.g., hope, believe, pray), delete that language
Not following the instructions (e.g., listing more than four (4) publications/products)

<u>Provide PubMed Central Identification Number (PMCID)</u>
PMCID takes the reader to the full publication (note: PMID takes the reader to the abstract
   only; NIH instructions are clear: do not use PMID!)
Digital object identifier (doi) also takes the reader to the full publication (if a PMCID has not
   been assigned because of the 12-month publication embargo before open access, provide
   the doi, which is immediately assigned)
Learn and use myNCBI (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/)
Suggest learning and using The Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae (SciENcv)
   (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/)