# F30/F31/F32/F33 Review

If you cannot access the hyperlinks below,

visit http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/critiques/f_D.htm.

Application #:

Applicant:

## OVERALL IMPACT

Reviewers will provide an overall impact score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood that the fellowship will enhance the candidate's potential for, and commitment to, a productive independent scientific research career in a health-related field, in consideration of the following scored and additional review criteria. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have a major impact.

| Overall Impact/Merit *Write a paragraph summarizing the factors that informed your Overall Impact score.* |
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| Reviewers will be scoring each section below on a scale of 1 (best) to 9 (worst), based on listed strengths and weaknesses. They also must write a narrative paragraph summarizing their overall impression of the application and which strengths/weaknesses were most important in driving the overall score. The overall score of each reviewer is a number that you will never see. It is not necessarily the average of the five section scores. Reviewers are free to give more or less weight to various sections as they see fit. The reviewers' overall scores are the starting point for discussion when the application is reviewed by the full panel. You will see only the score that is the consensus of the full panel. |

## SCORED REVIEW CRITERIA

Reviewers will consider each of the five review criteria below in the determination of scientific and technical merit, and give a separate score for each.

| 1. Fellowship Applicant |
|---|
| • It's important to sell yourself in your Biosketch. Write a personal statement that goes beyond a list of facts to state what inspired you to pursue the field/project and what in your background makes you well qualified to carry it out. |
| • Published papers are seen as a plus. If you have the chance to contribute to a project and earn a co-authorship or write a review article, take it. And be sure to list meetings attended with mention or poster or oral presentations. |
| • Letters of recommendation are important. Give your letter writers plenty of notice, and send them your CV or Biosketch and Specific Aims so that they can write a detailed letter. |
| **Strengths** |
| • |

**Weaknesses**

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**2. Sponsors, Collaborators, and Consultants**

- Your Sponsor needs to sell him/herself as well. Make sure that the personal statement in the Biosketch highlights mentoring as well as scientific experience. If there is not grant funding available to the sponsor for the full fellowship period, then a contingency plan should be outlined in the Sponsor's training plan. Best is if a letter from the department chair can be included to guarantee support.
- If your Sponsor is a junior faculty with limited mentoring experience, then you need to enlist a more senior co-Sponsor who has a strong record of successfully supervising trainees.
- If you will have collaborators who will be helping you learn techniques or providing scientific help, include letters of support. (You don't have to include their Biosketches.)
- If you have a research advisory committee in place, be sure to list their names and expertise somewhere. (You don't have to include their Biosketches.)

**Strengths**

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**Weaknesses**

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**3. Research Training Plan**

- This section refers to your scientific proposal. Make sure to include all of the elements of a good research proposal: testable hypothesis, clear specific aims, statement of significance, and discussion of expected results, potential problems, and alternative approaches.
- It's my experience that review panels for F grants deal with a much broader range of topics than review panels for standard research proposals. So bear in mind that one of more of your reviewers (usually three total) may not be expert in your field. Avoid jargon, provide sufficient background, and repeatedly emphasize the significance of the research.
- The aim of these fellowships is to support you while you learn something new. Make sure that your project will expand your skill set and expertise and explicitly point out what new skills and knowledge you will be acquiring during the fellowship period.
- Don't tire your reader out – s/he will be assessing around ten grants. Don't cram text in, make figures and figure legends big enough to be easily read, and try to leave at least a half-line between paragraphs. Highlight important points with bolding or underlining (but don't overuse these – keep it confined to the truly key items).
- If you personally generated any of the preliminary data, state so explicitly. Now is not the time to be modest!

**Strengths**

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**Weaknesses**

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**4. Training Potential**

- This section refers to the various parts where you and your Sponsor outline the activities (apart from your research) that you will be pursuing during the fellowship. These include individual meetings between applicant and Sponsor/Co-Sponsor, lab meetings, journal clubs, seminar series, attendance at conferences (local, regional, national, international).
- Detail in both your and your Sponsor's training plans is critical! And you will win points if the plans are tailored to your specific needs, rather than 'cookie cutter'. Short, generic plans won't score highly.

**Strengths**

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**Weaknesses**

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**5. Institutional Environment & Commitment to Training**

- The institutional environment and training section should include detailed information about your graduate program (for F30s and F31s) and your progress toward meeting program milestones. Your program director is expected to supply this information, and s/he should be indicated as the source.
- Be sure to stress all of the career development opportunities that SBU provides (e.g., Graduate Career Association, Center for Inclusive Education, Fellowships Office, Career Center, and especially the Alda Center.) Include links and provide specific examples of activities in which you plan to participate.

**Strengths**

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**Weaknesses**

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# ADDITIONAL REVIEW CRITERIA

Human and animal subjects are 'scorable' items. Theoretically, if you don't address these areas properly, it can negatively affect your overall score. In practice, it seldom does – trainees are given some leeway here. If in doubt as to whether you need to address these areas, contact the Office of Research Compliance.

As applicable for the project proposed, reviewers will consider the following additional items in the determination of scientific and technical merit, but will not give separate scores for these items.

⎯ A response for Protections for Human Subjects, Vertebrate Animals, and Biohazards **is required from reviewers for all applications**.

⎯ A response for Inclusion of Women, Minorities and Children **is required from reviewers** for Human Subjects Research Applications.

| Protections for Human Subjects |
|---|
| Click Here to Select<br><br>Comments (Required Unless Not Applicable):<br><br>• <br><br>Data and Safety Monitoring Plan (Applicable for Clinical Trials Only):<br><br>  Click Here to Select<br><br>  Comments (Required Unless Not Applicable):<br><br>    ○ |

| Inclusion of Women, Minorities and Children **Applicable Only for Human Subjects research and not IRB Exemption #4.** |
|---|
| • Sex/Gender: Click Here to Select<br>• Race/Ethnicity: Click Here to Select<br>• For NIH-Defined Phase III trials, Plans for valid design and analysis: Click Here to Select<br>• Inclusion/Exclusion of Children under 18: Click Here to Select<br><br>Comments (Required Unless Not Applicable):<br><br>• |

| Vertebrate Animals |
|---|
| Is the proposed research involving vertebrate animals scientifically appropriate, including the justification for animal usage and protections for research animals described in the Vertebrate Animal section?<br><br>Click Here to Select<br><br>Comments (Required Unless Not Applicable):<br><br>• |

| Biohazards |
|---|
| Click Here to Select<br><br>Comments (Required Unless Not Applicable):<br><br>• Biohazards is probably the most overlooked issue in the applications that I review. If you are working with something hazardous, address how it will be handled, preferably in the research plan, but if no room, it could go under Facilities. |

| Resubmission |
|---|

| Comments (if applicable): |
| --- |
| • ==Keep the tone of your response to previous reviewers positive - don't be overly defensive, but don't grovel, either.== |
| • ==You will be receiving three reviews from people with different opinions. Focus on the concerns that are overlapping among the reviewers. Make a good-faith effort to address whatever you can, but don't be afraid to (politely) explain if a suggestion is scientifically invalid or technically not feasible. Your revision may be evaluated by three new reviewers, so it doesn't pay to accommodate a suggestion that is not reasonable.== |

| Renewal |
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| Comments (if applicable): |
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# ADDITIONAL REVIEW CONSIDERATIONS

As applicable for the project proposed, reviewers will address each of the following items, but will not give scores for these items and should not consider them in providing an overall impact score.

| Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research |
| --- |
| Click Here to Select |
| Comments on Format (Required): |
| • ==Reviewers will be looking to see how training was provided: on-line, lectures, discussion groups, etc. A minimum of 8 hours of in-person training is required. For Genetics and MIcro, contact Martha for a piece that includes all of the information for the RCR section.== |
| Comments on Subject Matter (Required): |
| • ==List all of the topics that your training covered.== |
| Comments on Faculty Participation (Required): |
| • ==Must state that the training was led by faculty== |
| Comments on Duration (Required): |
| • ==State how many hours of face-to-face training and that training also includes an on-line component== |
| Comments on Frequency (Required): |
| • ==State that training must be repeated at least every four years.== |

| Applications from Foreign Organizations |
| --- |
| Click Here to Select |
| Comments (Required Unless Not Applicable): |
| • |

| Select Agents |
| --- |

Click Here to Select

Comments (Required Unless Not Applicable):

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[Resource Sharing Plans](#)

Click Here to Select

Comments (Required):

- ==Check the NIH rules about what types of resources need to be shared, and complete this section if your project will generate such resources.==

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[Budget and Period of Support](#)

Click Here to Select

Recommended budget modifications or possible overlap identified:

- ==As reviewers, we don't pay attention to how much is asked for, but we do pay attention to how many years are requested. Be sure that your research and training plans justify the period of support. For F30s, support for clinical years can (and should) be included.==

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO APPLICANT

Reviewers may provide guidance to the applicant or recommend against resubmission without fundamental revision.

[Additional Comments to Applicant](#) (Optional)

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