The Biographical Sketch

Center for Aging in Diverse Communities

University of California, San Francisco

Overview of a Biosketch

- **4 sections:**
    - Personal Statement
    - Positions and Honors
    - Contributions to Science
    - Research Support

- **Highlights each individual's qualifications for a specific role in the proposed project**

Personal Statement

- **Explain why you are qualified and why you are the person who should do the research**

  - Training, previous work, technical expertise, collaborators / overall scientific environment

- **Importance of problem & your enthusiasm**

- **Can include up to 4 publications and/or products most relevant to application**

  - Peer-reviewed, non peer-reviewed, and "products"

- **Graphs, figures, tables are not allowed**

- **Tips:**

  - Tailor to project – don't use boiler plate

  - Refer to proposal needs and why they need your expertise

Positions and Honors

- **Current positions (old to new)**

- **Select honors most relevant to proposal (not all honors)**

- **Include federal committees, especially recent**

- **Early stage investigators aren't expected to have a lot in this section**

Section C - Contribution to Science

- **Describe your most significant contributions (maximum of 5)**

- **Each description should summarize:**
    - historical background that frames the scientific problem
    - Central findings and subsequent impact of the findings
    - How this contribution applied to health
    - Describe your role in the discoveries

- **Reference up to 4 publications or research products for each discovery**
    - Preprints OK (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/interim_product_faqs.htm)

- **Max ½ page for both narrative and publications**

Section C: Examples of Research Products

- Publications (peer reviewed and non)

- Audio/video products

- Data or databases

- Research material

- Educational aids or curricula

- Evaluation and Instruments

- Instruments or equipment

- Models

- Protocols

- Software / netware

- Interventions

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/rppr/Guide-to-Categorizing-Products-in-RPPR-Sec-C_draft.pdf

Section C tips

- Add a title for each contribution

- Create a story of your career success

  - Define problem, describe the work, end with your specific role

- Clarify your role for each contribution

- Indicate multiple publications, but are listing just a few

- Don't have to list 5 contributions

- Be creative: seminal paper, series of papers

- Emphasize impact and innovation

URL is optional but highly recommended

- **A .gov link to a full list of published work is allowed, but not required**
  - My Bibliography / SciENcv, PubMed, or another government-supported database

- **Do not use:**
  - Google Scholar
  - Lab website
  - ResearchGate

- **My Bibliography Video https://youtu.be/9gApmLHdCSM**

Other tips

- **All publications must include a PMCID (if available).**
    - DOI and PMID's are <u>not needed</u>
    - If PMCID pending, you can write "PMCID pending"
- **Any URLs must be a .gov**
    - Test the URL to be sure it works !
- **Can use "et al." with multiple authors**
- **Use standard abbreviations for journals**
- **Use consistent formatting for all Biosketches**

Resources

- **NIH FAQ Biosketches page**
  - https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/faq_biosketches.htm#4572

- **YouTube**
  - NIH Biosketch UCSF https://youtu.be/tqqeip3JsmU
  - NIH Biosketch Writing Tips (UCLA CTSI)
  - SciENv https://youtu.be/V3VquWmgcco

- **Rules for reporting preprints**
  - https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/not-od-17-050.html

- **NIH Biosketch resources (Wash U).**
  - http://beckerguides.wustl.edu/NIH_Biosketch/biosketch