Grantsmanship Fellowship Boot Camp 2013
Tom Green, PhD
Pharmacology and Toxicology

WHAT IS THE POINT OF A FELLOWSHIP?

Before you begin
- Speak with your mentor
- Strategize
- Strategize
- Strategize
- Speak with your mentor
- Strategize
- Speak with a PO
- Strategize
What they are assessing:

- **Your potential as a scientist**
  - Background
  - Training plan
  - Potential
- **Your proposed experiments**
  - Innovative
  - Realistic
  - Complements training plan
- **Your environment**
  - Advisor/mentor
  - Funding!!!
  - Expertise
  - University

Scored criteria

- Applicant
- Sponsor/collaborators/consultants
- Research training plan
- Training potential
- Institutional environment and commitment
- Innovation?

Your potential as a scientist

- Your background
- Training plan: look like a scientist
- Future plans: become a PI
- Letters
Your proposed experiments
- Must be coherent
- Must not be too interconnected
- Must not *not* be too interconnected
- **Must** be new training

Your environment
- Advisor/mentor
- Funding
- Resources
- Centers
- Postdoctoral training program

**Most important thing:**
- **Make it easy on the reviewers!!!**
Looks are important:

Be sure to use:

- Headings
- **Bold**
- White space
- Buzz words

- Write the review for them!!
A diagram is worth a thousand words

Timeline

Table 2: Timeline

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Most important thing: make it easy on the reviewers!!!

- Describe significance
- Describe innovation
- Simple elegant logic
- Explain strengths and weaknesses of each experiment (but not your weaknesses)
- Not too much detail (i.e. don’t try to impress them with your knowledge).
Also important:
The “other stuff”

This project needs to show cohesion between mentor and mentee: echo

Team mentoring is a good thing

Need to show a great environment

Be sure to include:

- Power analyses
- Catch phrases: although this is new training, the [mentor's name] laboratory has considerable experience with this technique [include citations]
- “Get out of jail free” cards

Letters

- Choose wisely
- Ask if they feel comfortable writing a strong letter
- Give them info (CV, grades, plans)
- They may ask you to write it—do a good job
Kiss of death:

- Too ambitious
- Poor environment
- Not new training
- Not innovative
- Bad letters
- Aims too interdependent
- Design flaws (missing controls)
- No contingency plans

Big picture/Bottom line

- The bottom line is that you need to paint a really pretty big picture