**Specific Aims**

- This section is limited to 1 page.
- A proposed outline is included below:

Introductory paragraph:
- *Describe the unmet medical need and/or gaps in our biomedical knowledge and why this is an important topic of study.*

Goals and hypothesis paragraph:
- *Succinctly state your long term goal, the specific objective of this proposal, the central hypothesis for the project and the rationale for that hypothesis*

The Aims:
- *Clearly state your aims, followed by a 1-2 sentence description of that aim and how it connects to the central hypothesis.*

The summary/pay-off paragraph:
- *End with a succinct summary of the major impacts on the field of successfully completing this project.*
The total number of pages for the Research Strategy section combined with the Candidate’s Background, Career Goals and Objectives, and Career Development/Training Activities During Award Period sections can be no more than 12 pages, unless otherwise specified in the solicitation.

**SIGNIFICANCE** (recommended ~1-1.5 pages)

- Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.
- Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.
- Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventive interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.

**INNOVATION** (recommended ~0.5 pages)

- Explain how the application challenges current research or clinical practice paradigms.
- Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

**APPROACH** (A suggested outline is included below.)

- Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Unless addressed separately in a dedicated Resource Sharing Plan document, include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted, as well as any resource sharing plans as appropriate.
- As applicable, also include information on any preliminary studies (including published and unpublished results) indicating progress toward the aims.
- Discuss anticipated results, potential problems & alternative strategies to achieve the aims.
- If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high risk aspects of the proposed work.
- Point out any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and precautions to be exercised. A full discussion on the use of select agents should appear in a separate document labeled “Select Agents”

**Aim 1: XXX**

**Rationale:**

**Preliminary Data:**

**Research Design:**

**Anticipated Results, Potential Pitfalls & Alternative Approaches:**

**Aim 2: XXX**

**Rationale:**

**Preliminary Data:**

**Research Design:**

**Anticipated Results, Potential Pitfalls & Alternative Approaches:**

**Aim 3: XXX**

**Rationale:**

**Preliminary Data:**

**Research Design:**

**Anticipated Results, Potential Pitfalls & Alternative Approaches:**

**Timeline**
REFERENCES CITED

This section should include any references cited in the proposal. The references should be limited to relevant and current literature. While there is not a page limitation, it is important to be concise and to select only those literature references pertinent to the proposed research.