Top 10 tips
Grant writing

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1. Know your options and chances

Postdoctoral fellowships

   Early career

Future Leaders Fellowships

   “Build research capacity and become leaders of research groups”
   Salary + some project / capacity building funds
   Stream of work

Vanguard Grants

   “Test feasibility and innovative concepts”
   Single project ideas
2. Know your audience

• Objectives / mission statement

• Priority areas

• Align your grant (or re-evaluate if it’s the right scheme)

Research

We are a national leader in research into the causes, treatment and prevention of heart disease and related disorders.

Sitting for long periods of time each day increases the risk of cardiovascular disease. People with existing cardiovascular disease and those who have difficulty moving around are at particular risk, including the 440,000 current Australian stroke survivors, almost half of whom will suffer another stroke. Breaking up sitting time with short bursts of activity significantly reduces cardiovascular disease risk factors and may help prevent recurrent strokes. My group is leading the world in
3. Be ambitious and realistic

• Big picture

• Don’t over promise
4. Start early

- Present framework and plans early
- Be prepared to adapt
5. Look at other successful grants

- Be appreciative, respectful, confidential
6. Write to the criteria

- Use their criteria / words / statements
- Check that you have used their criteria / words / statements
- Evidence that you have/will meet the statements
7. Have a consistent message

- Choose your key phrases
- Write them on sticky notes
- Use exact same phrase
8. Get feedback

• Ask someone (who has been successful) to review
• Give them enough time to do this
• Give yourself enough time to incorporate feedback
• Build resilience
9. Get more feedback

• As someone else to give feedback - think of the different perspectives you might want

• Give yourself enough time to incorporate feedback
10. Be kind to your reader

- Remember your audience (tired reviewers)
- Clear headings
- Read headings in isolation
- Judicious use of figures, dot points, boxes
  
  10 good reasons why….

  The 4 ways this project is innovative

- NO ABBREVIATIONS / JARGON
- PLAIN LANGUAGE
- Can use colour – lots of people read online
- If it’s a long document (eg NHMRC) think about using pdf bookmarks
11. Few more ideas gleaned from panels

- Team capability statements – use table of key outcomes / areas of expertise and name your investigators against each

- Use language of scoring criteria in application ‘eg excellent by international standards’ – “significant advance in knowledge” etc - must be able to back this up with EVIDENCE

- "We are active on social media (e.g. Twitter), have communicated our research directly with the public (e.g. The Conversation) and have had our research publicised in major national and international media (including A Current Affair, 7 and 9 news, The New York Times, Times UK, Washington post)"

- Piloting exact methods so important - convince them it can be done

- Primary outcome must be water tight and the most important
• Reference reference reference - particularly claims for significance, incidence. Also for stats eg assumed correlations etc and to justify choice of stats measured

• ‘Clustering effect’ for intervention therapists etc (within individual RCTs) - know that likely several statisticians will look at it, so reference choices of methods

• Number of first and last author pubs

• ADD extra outputs to consider for RTO and Career disruption - use maths and claim

Full-time equivalent years since PhD conferral:

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</table>

Total full-time equivalent time postdoctoral period (end 2017) = 8.5 years.

• JUSTIFY budget VERY well

• Team mix of Snr Jnr important - clear plan for mentorship important.

• Collaboration and breadth of team is valued