Guide
SPECIFIC AIMS

Purpose: The purpose of the specific aims is to describe concisely and realistically what the proposed research is intended to accomplish.

Content: The specific aims should address:
- broad, long-term goals;
- the hypothesis to be tested or question to be answered and
- specific time-phased research objectives.

Suggestions
1. Generally, the Specific Aims section should begin with a brief narrative describing the long-term goals of the project and the hypothesis guiding the research. This is followed by a numbered list of the Aims.

2. **State the hypothesis clearly.** Make sure it is understandable, testable and adequately supported by citations in the Background and by data in the Preliminary Results Sections. Be sure to explain how results to be obtained will be used to test hypothesis.

3. Show that the objectives are attainable within the stated time frame.

4. **Be as brief and specific as possible.** Each aim should consist of only one sentence. Use brief paragraph under each aim if need detail. Successful apps: 2-4 specific aims.

5. Don't bite off more than you can chew: small, focused project better received than diffuse, multifaceted project.

6. Be certain that all aims are related. Outside review for clarity and cohesiveness.

7. Focus on aims where you have good supporting preliminary data and scientific expertise.

Adapted from NIH Publication: A Short Guide to The Preparation of NIH Grant Applications
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