

How to write a successful grant to the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF)



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
**CANINE HEALTH
FOUNDATION**
PREVENT TREAT & CURE®



How to be successful with CHF



Don't start writing until you do the following:

1. Spend 1 hour on the foundation's website
2. Read our mission and vision statement
3. Read our [open letter to applicants.](#)
4. Read the RFPs

<http://www.akcCHF.org/research/application-process/program-area-rfps/>

- ❖ make sure you have clarity on what type of research is desirable!



How to be successful with CHF



5. Consider what we have a history of funding
 - ❖ Don't assume that because we don't have a grant in a given area that we don't want one, we may just not have received a fundable grant in that area.
6. Using the 'open letter to applicants,' determine who reviews the type of grant you are submitting – you **MUST** write to your audience!!!!
 - ❖ Peer Review?
 - ❖ Foundation reviewers?



Getting started



If CHF appears to be a good fit (or you can turn your research into a good fit) write your Abstract/Specific aims page



Formula for a successful Abstract/Specific aims page



- Paragraph 1
 - Opening sentences = significance of problem
 - Important/relevant known facts about problem
 - Statement about our gap in knowledge and where the “critical need” is in the field
- Paragraph 2
 - Objective of this proposal – how will you fill the gap in knowledge?
 - Why is your laboratory best placed to do this? Brief statement of preliminary data or recent publication
 - Hypothesis
- Paragraph 3
 - Specific aims: they should be conceptual *not* descriptive
 - Make sure your specific aims can prove or disprove the hypothesis
 - Make sure your specific aims are not interdependent
- Paragraph 4
 - What is innovative/novel/unique about your research?
 - Expected outcomes
 - Statement of rationale: what will be possible when this research is successfully completed
 - Long term goal and impact

This is the top of our reviewer sheet

- Grant number:
- Title:
- Principal Investigator:
- Institution:
- Collaborators/Industry Partners:
- Hypothesis:
- Specific Aims/Research Objectives:



If reviewers can not fill this in quickly & easily then there is a problem with grantsmanship!!!



Email specific aims page to CSO, Dr. Shila Nordone,
skn@akcchf.org and request a phone conversation

Conversation with CSO once you are on the phone



- Tell the CSO where you are in your training/career
- Tell the CSO your professional goals
- Ask pointed questions:
 - Is my proposed research something you need in your funding portfolio?
 - Have reviewers been enthusiastic about this area of research in the past?
 - Would there be breed club support for this research?



**If your grant application still looks like a good fit
for CHF start writing.....**



What makes a compelling grant application?



- **Significant problem**
 - Don't assume your audience knows it is significant and provide real numbers (incidence, mortality, financial cost of problem in dollar amount)
- **Uncomplicated language**
 - Succinct, straight-forward, to the point
 - Fine line between scientific communication that is clear and concise vs. lay language that does not explain the science
- **Hypothesis-driven research**
 - Specific aims designed to prove or disprove the hypothesis
- **Explicit outcomes and deliverables**
- **Strong team of capable researchers with a proven track record of success**
- **Publication history** (shows commitment and follow-through)
- **Explanation of 'next step' to avoid the "so what" factor**
- **Strong emphasis on translation** across all areas of research right now
- **Innovation** because competition is stiff



What is a new Investigator to do?



- No doubt that there is an unintended bias given to investigators with a history of tangible outcomes
- Experienced investigators write beautiful grants
- New investigators should find all the new investigator awards and small grants available
 - APPLY and DELIVER a tangible outcome
- Publications matter the most, they are the best example of tangible outcome
- Alternately, carve out a complementary project with an established PI
- Affiliations matter, chose a strong team of collaborators who can provide assurance that a new investigator will succeed
- Provide written letters of support from consultants and collaborators AND BREED CLUBS



Now what?



- Write the grant and angst over every little detail...
- Ask your peers to read the grant, those people who are inside and outside of your field
 - is the science compelling? Is the research approach clear?
 - Get constructive criticism early



What REALLY matters when your grant is reviewed?



Honestly!

- Grantsmanship
 - Grant must 'pop' – must be well written
- Science must be compelling
- Significance and Impact must be evident
- Affiliations must be strong
- Productivity must be evident
- Novelty of idea should set research apart from the crowd



GOOD LUCK! CHF appreciates that you are considering us for your funding needs.



Call or email with questions skn@akcchf.org

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