



# Writing the Preliminary Studies Section

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# NIH TOC (table of contents)

- <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/listserv.htm>
- Here is an example:

Normal length: 2-3 pages

# Continuity

- The third and final link in a logical chain leading up to your Research Plan
  - There should be a smooth, continuous flow across sections:
  - Abstract: Engage the reviewer
  - Specific Aims: What will be accomplished?
  - Background: What has been done so far?
  - Significance: Why is this research important?
  - **Preliminary Studies**: What have *you* done so far?
  - Research Plan: What will you do and why?

## Two questions in the reviewer's mind

- Is this investigator/team qualified and adequately prepared to carry out the proposed research?
- How does this research fit into the investigator/s/team's ongoing program of research or career plan, or a line of research the investigator and team have initiated?

# Objective of this section:

- Document your own research, and that of your collaborators, that leads up to and prepares you for the proposed research
- Make the case for expertise, logical next step in research program, feasibility

# OK to include:

- Your own research
- Research of your collaborators
- Relevant team experience (e.g., follow-up completion rates in prior trials)
  
- Published studies
- In press studies
- Unpublished and pilot results
- Figures

# Organize by sideheads

- Topical sideheads

or

- Personnel sideheads
  - PI
  - Co-Investigator 1
  - Co-Investigator 2

# Particularly helpful pilot data

- Ability to recruit –flow of participants who would meet inclusion criteria
- Feasibility of proposed procedures
- Estimated effect size

If your own preliminary research is thin, engage co-investigators with relevant experience and track record

Let's look at an example:

# Preparing your Biographical Summary for PHS-398

- This is one of the first sections that a reviewer sees

# Basics

- Follow the organization and instructions precisely
- Make it neat and letter-perfect
- Remember that you need biosketches from all key personnel and other significant contributors
- Collect them *early* (they affect pagination of the entire proposal)

# Length

- No more than 4 pages total for any one person
- Sections A+B may not exceed 2 pages

# Sections

- A. Positions and honors
- B. Selected peer-reviewed publications
- C. Research support

## A. Positions and Honors

- Previous positions and current position, listed in chronological order
- Honors
- Membership on any federal government public advisory committee

## B. Publications

- Only peer-reviewed publications
- Manuscripts in press are OK
- List in chronological order
- Do not include manuscripts submitted or in preparation
- Select those most relevant to the proposal
- If your record is thin, space between publications

# C. Research Support

- The purpose of this section is to show your accomplishments
- Differs from “Other Support”—which is now collected only for awarded projects
- List research projects in which you are or have been involved
  - Current, ongoing projects
  - Projects completed within the past 3 years
- Begin with projects that are most relevant to the proposed research

# Research Support

- For each research project:
  - Brief summary of overall goals of the project
  - Your role and responsibilities on the project
- Do not list your percent effort
- Do not list direct costs of project

Let's look at an example:

Your Questions??!!