

# NEW GRANT GUIDELINES

what you need to know

## WHY UPDATE THE GUIDELINES?

The updates focus on four areas deemed important for enhancing rigor and transparency:

1

### PREMISE

The scientific premise forming the basis of the proposed research

2

### DESIGN

Rigorous experimental design for robust and unbiased results

3

### VARIABLES

Consideration of relevant biological variables

4

### AUTHENTICATION

Authentication of key biological and/or chemical resources

Send inquiries to  
[reproducibility@nih.gov](mailto:reproducibility@nih.gov)

See also NIH Notice NOT-OD-16-011

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-16-011.html>

## WHAT ARE THE UPDATES?

### 1 UPDATES TO RESEARCH STRATEGY GUIDANCE

The research strategy is where you discuss the significance, innovation, and approach of your research plan. Let's look at an R01, for example:



Introduction to resubmission and revision applications



Specific aims



Research strategy



Commercialization plan



Biographical sketch

The new **research strategy** guidelines require that you:

- State the strengths and weakness of published research or preliminary data crucial to the support of your application
- Describe how your experimental design and methods will achieve robust and unbiased results
- Explain how biological variables, such as sex, are factored into research design and provide justification if only one sex is used

### 2 NEW ATTACHMENT FOR AUTHENTICATION OF KEY BIOLOGICAL AND/OR CHEMICAL RESOURCES

From now on, you must briefly describe methods to ensure the identity and validity of key biological and/or chemical resources used in the proposed studies.

These include, but are not limited to:



Standard laboratory reagents that are not expected to vary do not need to be included in the plan. Examples are buffers and other common biologicals or chemicals.

- DO NOT** put experimental methods or preliminary data in this section
- DO** focus on authentication and validation of key resources

### 3 NEW REVIEWER GUIDELINES

Here are the additional criteria the reviewers will be asked to use:

- ➔ Is there a **strong scientific premise** for the project?
- ➔ Have the investigators presented adequate plans to address **relevant biological variables**, such as sex, for studies in vertebrate animals or human subjects?
- ➔ Have the investigators presented strategies to ensure a **robust and unbiased approach**, as appropriate for the work proposed?



Reviewers will also be asked to comment on that new attachment (see Update 2)!