GETTING FUNDED
Successful Research Grant Proposals

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Critical to Do Good Research

- **FUNDING**

- **NETWORKING**
What is Research?

The systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions.....
Research is about a Question

- Question that begs for an answer, a solution
- Inquiry that explains or predicts ‘something’ → event, activity, phenomenon
- Problem that needs explaining
- Tool that leads to more questions... to be answered through more research...
- Backbone of empirical evidence
What is a Good Question?

The Wow Factor
Impact and Significance

- Explores a **BIG** problem that needs to be solved... and solved soon...

- **THE BIGGER THE PROBLEM, THE BETTER THE IMPACT**

- Fills a real gap in knowledge

- Hunts for how/why/where the issue is getting worse

- Has tangible value and benefit to Canadians

- Urgent and costly
Your Ideas

Impactful
Significant
Crucial
Critical
Key
Building Your Proposal

PURPOSE OF THE FUNDING COMPETITION

GOAL or VISION

OBJECTIVES or AIMS

HYPOTHESIS

METHODS

FEASIBILITY
Important Core Areas

- **Overall Goals** → your vision
- **Hypothesis** → the crux of the problem
- **Objectives** → how to specifically achieve the goal

- **Innovative, novel, new, unique**
- **Impactful** → current and future problems
- **Fit with strategic activities and priorities**
  - Organization’s strategic plan
  - Funding agency mandate/guidelines

- **Rigorous Methodology**
- **Feasible Project**
Rigorous Methodology

- Logical *integration* of valid concepts
- Logical *progression* of valid concepts
- Evidence-informed and evidence-based
- Mitigation strategies to tackle pitfalls
- Potential challenges—> *what could possibly go wrong?*
Feasibility

- Expertise / Experience
  - Strong team with collaborations
  - Methodology and statistics know-how

- Environment
  - Clinical population, data
  - Work space, computers, organizational capacity

- Approach that matches the question and goals
- Enough time to complete the project
Organizing Your Proposal
Sections of a Grant Proposal

- **TITLE:** Zen & the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance
- **INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**
- **GOAL, HYPOTHESIS, OBJECTIVES**
- **SIGNIFICANCE**
- **METHODS/TIMEFRAME**
- **EXPERTISE**
Knowledge to Action

- Dissemination, implementation, knowledge translation, knowledge mobilization
- Journals, reports, proceedings
- Conferences, presentations, posters
- Networking/partnering across institutions
- Collaborating with researchers, knowledge users
- Be visible, share your findings/ideas
- Getting out of your comfort zone
Again...Key Factors for Success

- Funding opportunities and research dollars
- Researcher partnerships/collaborations/networking
- Unique, impactful, significant, feasible research
- Well-prepared, well-positioned researchers
- Supportive infrastructure that provides capacity
- Leadership that provides time and financial support

2 most important factors: networking and funding
The Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA) supports research to enhance mental health, neurological health, vision, hearing, and cognitive functioning and to reduce the burden of related disorders through prevention strategies, screening, diagnosis, treatment, support systems, and palliation.
Researching Research

SSHRC – Social Science and Humanities Research Council

Researching Research

NIH – National Institutes of Health  http://www.nih.gov/
largest source of research funding in the world

Clinical Research Trials & You

Clinical trials are research studies that look at new ways to prevent, detect, or treat diseases and conditions. Learn more about clinical trials, who participates, and things to consider.
Challenges of Doing Research

- Writing grant proposals is intense, deadline-driven
- Need patience, organization, planning, communication skills, big- and little-picture thinking
- May be tough building relationships/partnerships
  - Especially externally and for new investigators
- Results can be slow
  - Short-term vs. long-term investments
- You don’t always get what you want…
So, Why Bother?
Why Bother?

- Make a difference. Translate findings into better patient care → improve lives
- Implement evidence-based practice (EBP)
- Contribute to your field and the literature
- Get accolades from your organization, the public, and your own field
- Develop interesting/rewarding research collaborations
- Work with bright people who have exciting ideas
- Satisfy your personal drive and motivation