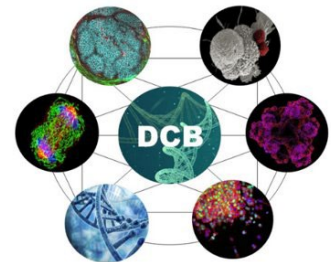




# Considerations for a Successful NCI Grant Application

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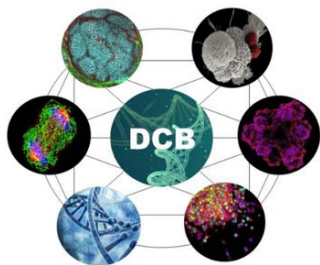
# Disclosure Information

**Soumya Korrapati, Ph.D.**

I have no financial relationships to disclose.

# Talk overview

- ❑ Core elements of a successful grant application
- ❑ Data Management and Sharing Policy



# Characteristics of a Strong NCI Application

- Strong significance for cancer
- High potential impact
- High novelty and innovation
- Clear rationale and relevance**
- Clear, focused approach** that should lead to unambiguous results
- Supportive preliminary data**
- Strong track record of applicant
- Careful attention to details**, good grantsmanship
- Align application components with Review Criteria**

# Simplified Review Framework

For due dates on/after Jan  
25, 2025

- **Factor 1 : Importance of the Research**
  - Significance, Innovation
  - Scored 1 - 9
- **Factor 2 : Rigor and Feasibility**
  - Approach (also includes Inclusion and Clinical Trial (CT) Study Timeline )
  - Scored 1 - 9
- **Factor 3 : Expertise and Resources**
  - Investigators, Environment
  - Evaluated as appropriate or gaps identified; gaps require explanation
  - Considered in overall impact; no individual score

## NIH Simplified Review Framework: Scoring Guidance

Factor Strength/Overall Impact	High			Medium			Low		
Score	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	↑ Exceptional			↑ Average			↑ Poor		

Consider the entire range.

### Factors 1 & 2:

- Scores in the high range should be based on strengths, not merely the absence of weaknesses.
- Scores in the low range should be based on weaknesses.

### Factor 3:

Give a binary rating: Appropriate or Additional expertise and/or resources needed (if gaps are identified).

### Overall Impact Guidance:

- Logically, a project of moderate or limited importance (Factor 1) cannot be made more impactful by a strong approach (Factor 2) and/or appropriate expertise and resources (Factor 3).
- Your Factor 1 score should set a limit for the best possible overall impact score.
  - Your assessment of Factors 2 and 3 can reinforce this score or worsen it.
  - Concerns with the Additional Review Criteria can move you towards a worse score.

Examples of successful NCI/NIH grants

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/samples-applications-and-documents>

<https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/policy-topics/peer-review/simplifying-review/framework>

# Tenets of the NIH Data Management and Sharing (DMS) Policy

- ❑ *Promote a culture in which Data Management and Sharing are an integral component of a biomedical research project, rather than an administrative or additive one.*
- ❑ *Data Management and Sharing practices are consistent with FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) data principles.*
- ❑ *All research grants that generate scientific data include a DMS Plan where investigators have prospectively planned on how to preserve and share scientific data with the scientific community.*



# Overview of the NIH DMS Policy (1)

- ❑ Plan and budget for the managing and sharing of scientific data.
- ❑ Submit a DMS plan that make data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable.
- ❑ Awards will not be made until an appropriate DMS plan has been received and approved by the NCI Program Director.
- ❑ Comply with the approved DMS plan. Progress of data sharing is reported yearly in the Research Performance Progress Report.

# Overview of the NIH DMS Policy (2)

- ❑ Maximum data sharing is recommended and data sharing limitations relating to ethical, legal or technical factors must be described.
- ❑ Responsible sharing of human research participant data is expected, protecting the privacy of research participants.
- ❑ Data must be shared in established repositories; generalist repositories a good alternative when no established repositories are available.
- ❑ GDS policy is harmonized into the DMS policy.

# DMS Plan format

- ❑ For applications with due dates on or before May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026, the current 2-page DMS plan format stays in effect.

**NEW, effective May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

- ❑ Recipients are required to utilize a new, simpler format for DMS Plan.

**The essence of the NIH DMS Policy remains the same.**

# DCB Guidance for the NIH DMS Policy

- For more information on the policy, updates and guidance for writing a DMS plan, please visit our website.



<https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/dcb/funding/resources/dcb-guidance-for-nih-dms-policy>



AACR American Association  
for Cancer Research  
**Annual Meeting**  
April 17-22, 2026 **SAN DIEGO**  
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# Thank you!

