Now you have your first R01, what’s next?

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Your Status Changed Over Night ...
Expectations for Established Investigators ....

- ... to bring in additional money
- ... to publish
- ... to lead
- ... to participate and serve

To succeed it’s important to learn how to balance these expectations.
Bringing In More Money – Getting The Next Grant

No secret formula for success.
Getting the next grant....

- Put the science first - all good grant applications should be driven by the science.
  - Know what makes a good grant

- Know what’s available to you
  - Local resources to help build preliminary data
  - Collaborators
  - NCI Program Staff

- Identify ways to pursue new exciting observations –
  - Funding mechanisms and opportunities (individual vs. collaborative)
    - Small mechanisms, supplements, Program Projects, Cooperative Agreements
What Makes a Good Grant Application?

- Great ideas and solid, well-considered rationale and premise
- Proposing to test hypotheses (rather than prove them)
- Demonstrations of feasibility
  - Show why you’re excited about the ideas and that you can do the proposed studies
- Publications
- Collaborators
- Good grantsmanship
  - Never underestimate the power of a well-written application.
Common Mistakes

- **Scientific errors**
  - Ideas not thought through
  - Lack of feasibility
  - Missing preliminary data
  - Outdated approaches
  - Lack of expertise
  - Too focused or too broad/ambitious

- **Grantsmanship errors**
  - Submitting too early
  - Technical/ poor writing
  - Administrative
    - Budgets/Justifications don’t match or are unrealistic and vague
    - Personnel too extensive for science proposed
    - Personnel effort is underestimated
Expectation to Publish …

- What’s preferred?
  - Number or quantity? One top tier or several 2\textsuperscript{nd} tier papers?

- Advice
  - Relevant data papers, not just reviews, in respected journals
Common Mistakes...

- Too few publications as senior author
- Spending too much time and limited resources on trying to satisfy reviewers
  - One more experiment ... or move on to another journal?
- Publications not related to the grant they are ascribed to
- Publications on diverse topics without an obvious theme
Expectations to Lead, Participate, and Serve ....

- As Employer and Team Lead
  - Postdocs, students, technicians, lab manager, administrative staff
- As Employee
  - Institutional committee service, teaching
- As Academic Researcher
  - Collaborator, reviewer, meeting organizer/speaker, advisory board member
When Leading, Participating, and Serving ...

- As Employer and Team Lead
  - Need a good team – build carefully; don’t take on more trainees than you can handle
  - Know who can help you (e.g., business office, go-to mentor)

- As Employee
  - Easy to become overcommitted with non-science activities

- As Academic Researcher
  - Beware of one-sided collaborations that don’t really align with your interests
  - Reviewing papers and grants is beneficial, but takes time
Competing Renewal – general comments

- It’s never too early to begin thinking about your renewal, but do you have to renew?

- In deciding whether to renew, consider progress made and obstacles tackled/overcome
  - Know your department chair’s expectations

- When to submit?
  - If you’re not successful first time, will there be a potential funding gap?
  - Talk with your Department Chair and your Program Director
Successful Renewal “must-haves” ...

- Progress on Aims
  - Are there new directions that arose from observations made during the execution of the original aims or logical next steps?
  - Explain aims that worked and those that didn’t; how new areas arose

- Publications
  - Data papers should be relevant to the goals of the original aims/proposed directions

- Preliminary Data
  - Demonstration of feasibility; solid premise and rationale

- Appropriate Expertise
Common Mistakes in Competing Renewals

- **Budget**
  - Requesting more than allowed
  - NCI Cap policy

- **Limited Productivity**
  - Few publications resulting from previous aims; few senior/corresponding author

- Incremental science proposed
Take Home Messages

- Don’t lose sight of the big picture
  - Why you love the science you do and how you fit into your communities

- Build your team and resources wisely

- Know your Institution’s expectations and policies
  - Learn to balance expectations – know what works for you

- Don’t be afraid to ask questions or ask for help
  - Institution business people
  - Mentors
  - NCI Program staff or Grants Management Specialists