Writing BBSRC grants. Moredun 2015

• Tom Wileman Norwich Medical School

• Mark Stevens Roslin Institute. The challenge.

Be realistic about what are you trying to achieve.

20 are likely to be funded	
80 or so are going to be very good grants	(1) (1)

Review process

• assessed by 2 panel members independently.

panel members will take account of referees comments and rebuttals

assessors agree a score (if not [rare] they will ask committee for advice)

• scores are used to rank the grants

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up to half the grants will not be discussed.	100 (2) EXAMPLE JULY 52) EXAMPLE JULY 52) EXAMPLE JULY 52) EXAMPLE JULY 53) EXAMPLE JULY 54) EXAMPLE JULY 55) EXAMPLE JULY 56) EXAMPLE JULY 56	100 21 125.411 302.9823984219 125.811 302.98239211 1201 802.98239211 1201 802.98239211 1201 802.98239211 1201 802.98239211 1201 802.98239211 1201 802.98239211 1201 802.98239211 1201 802.98239211 1201 802.98239211 1201 802.98239211 1201 802.98239211	By Table Disk Disk Mini Strip (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Strip (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Strip (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Strip (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Strip (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Strip (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Strip (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Strip (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Strip (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Strip (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Strip (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Strip (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Strip (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Strip (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Strip (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4) Mini (Strip(1), 4)
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Review process

- panel members are experts in assessing grants
- panel members are not necessarily experts in the area of your application
- your application has to make a case for support using a style that is easy to understand by a non-expert.

Review process

- things move very fast at committee
- panel members have 5 or so minutes to discuss your application.
- give them all the help you can.









Learn to write clearly

If an applicant cannot explain and/or plan a project when writing the grant, it is unlikely that they will be able to manage the project if it is funded.

There will be no 'benefit of the doubt'

- A poorly written proposal full of errors will convey a lack of care
- A grant that cannot be understood on second read is highly likely to fail.
- · Do not present a confused or unrealistic work plan.
- Be concise & precise. Waffle, jargon and digression are infuriating









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Learn to write clearly

• Use a clear engaging style that conveys excitement but does not promise too much/little

 Make use of diagrams or images to break up the text and add interest

Use emphasis (bold or italics) to draw
attention to salient aspects

Don't just paste diagrams into the text. They need to be linked specifically to the proposal.

Preliminary data sets need to be explained in the text and/or a legend.

Don't make the referees and panel members struggle to understand them.

Plan your submission well in advance

Use Institution SIFT panels if available

Ask colleagues to provide peer review Ask non-specialist to identify confusing statements or experiments

Leave proposal to 'stew' for several weeks. Can you still understand it?

Do not send in unless it is as near perfect as possible.



