# NIH 102 (NIH 101: The sequel)

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## PURDUE:

## NIH 101 outline:

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- NIH mission as an agency
- NIH IC missions and budgets
- Success rates
- Common funding mechanisms and when they are appropriate
- NIH funding updates (Common Fund)

# NIH 102 follow-up:

- Where should a grant proposal be targeted?
- How do I get it there?
- Whom do I contact to help me answer these questions?
- What should I do to help my proposal be reviewed well?
- What is in a summary statement and what does it mean?

PURDUE:

# NIH 102 follow-up:

- Where should a grant proposal be targeted?
  - How do I get it there?

What is your problem? What gap are you filling?

## **Targeting:**

What is the problem?

What has been done already to address this problem?

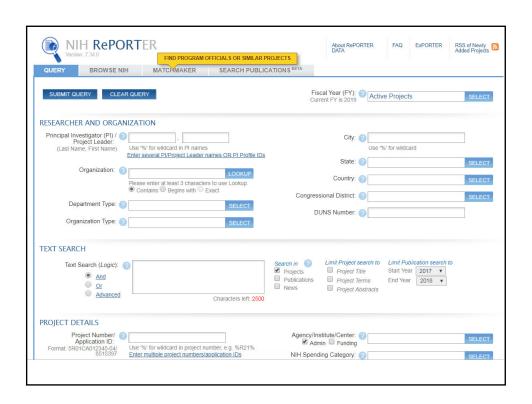
What is the gap that still remains (your north star)?

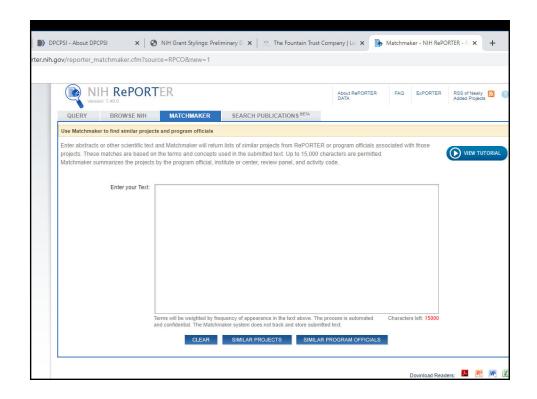
How do you propose to address this gap?

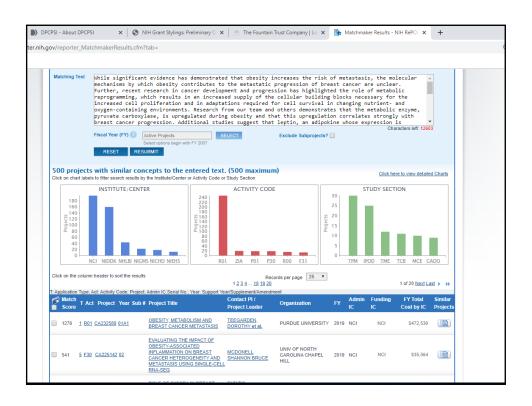
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What is the problem?
What has been done already to address this problem?

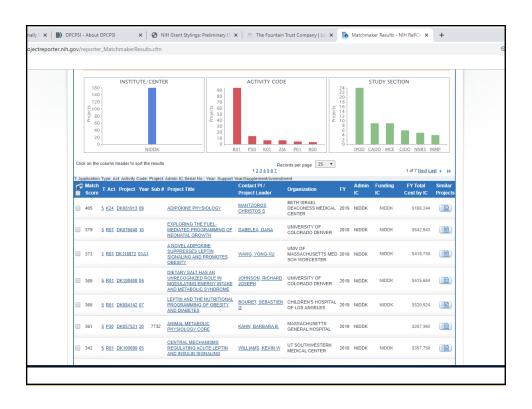
PROJECT SUMMARY

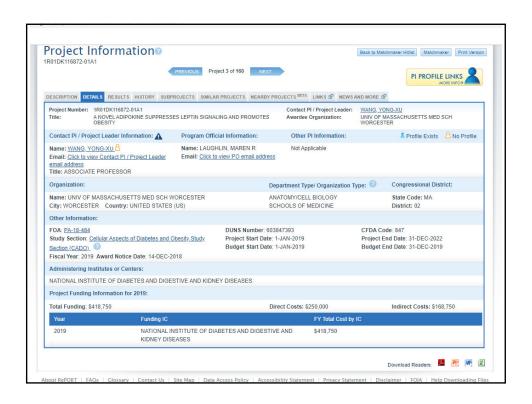
While significant evidence has demonstrated that obesity increases the risk of metastasis, the molecular mechanisms by which obesity contributes to the metastatic progression of breast cancer are unclear. Further, recent research in cancer development and progression has highlighted the role of metabolic reprogramming, which results in an increased supply of the cellular building blocks necessary for the ncreased cell proliferation and in adaptations required for cell survival in changing nutrient- and oxyger nvironments. Research from our team and others demonstrates that the metabolic enzyme pyruvate carboxylase, is upregulated during obesity and that this upregulation correlates strongly with breast cancer progression. Additional studies suggest that leptin, an adipokine whose expre increased during obesity and whose receptor's expression is enhanced in metastatic cells, drives pyr carboxylase expression in breast cancer cells. Importantly, recent studies demonstrate that genetic depletion of pyruvate carboxylase drastically inhibits breast cancer metastasis in several syngenei <mark>mouse models.</mark> Despite the supporting evidence that pyruvate carboxylase contributes to breast cancer metastasis under obese conditions, the mechanisms by which this enzyme exerts this effect remain poorly understood. In the proposed studies, the research team will evaluate the mechanistic basis by which pyruvate carboxylase regulates obesity-driven breast cancer metastasis. They will test the hypotheses that leptin increases pyruvate carboxylase expression in mammary tissue during obese states, and that pyruvate carboxylase is critical for both migration and survival of extracellular matrix detachment, providing metabolic flexibility (e.g., glucose utilization and fatty acid metabolism) during metastasis. These hypotheses will be tested through completion of the following aims: 1) define the mechanisms of PC expression during metastasis; 2) elucidate the metabolic mechanisms by which PC promotes metastasis; and 3) establish the mechanisms by which leptin-regulated PC expression contributes to obesity-driven metastasis. Completion of these studies will result in valuable mechanistic information that could guide future development of evidence-based recommendations for those who are overweight and obese and that will help reduce breast cancer metastasis.

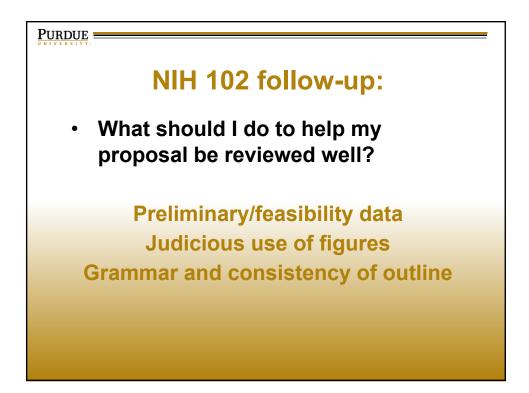












## The need for preliminary data

- Demonstrate that your proposed research is promising
- Demonstrate a credible ability to carry it out your proposal
- The more surprising the results the more data you will need to convince the reviewers
- Must convince the reviewers of a high likelihood of success
- · Demonstrate that you can interpret or analyze data correctly
- The preliminary data must address your north star\*. Do not include data that does not help you address the north star of the proposal
- · Sometimes it is feasibility data
- · Insert it in the proposal where it is relevant



\*north star = the gap you are addressing

## PURDUE =

# NIH 102 follow-up:

 What should I do to help my proposal be reviewed well?

Judicious use of figures

**Grammar and consistency of outline** 

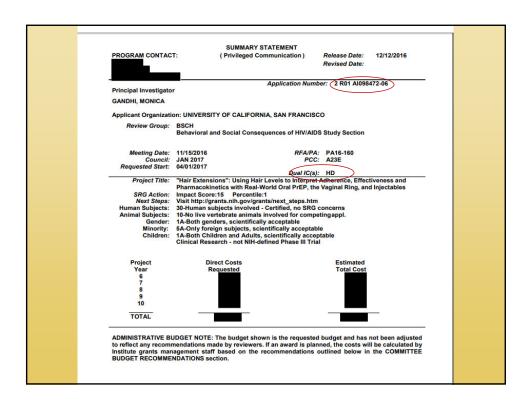
# What should I do to help my proposal be reviewed well?

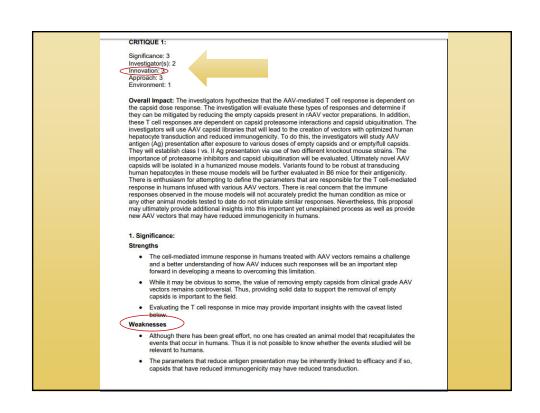
- Co-Pls, co-investigators, consultants
- Early stage investigators and/or new investigators
- "A hammer in search of a nail" versus innovation or merging into a new field

PURDUE :

# NIH 102 follow-up:

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1 R01 Al117408-01A1 LI, C; SAMULSKI, R

### 2. Investigator(s):

### Strengths:

 Dr. Samulski is a world leader in AAV vector biology. Dr. Li did two post docs, the last ended with Dr. Samulski in 2004. Together they have a strong publication record with Dr. Li as first author.

### Weaknesses

 Is Dr. Li has few senior author papers. He has been a faculty for 10 years yet most if not all of his publications are with Dr. Samulski- many of which Dr. Samulski is the senior author.

### 3. Innovation

### Strength

 Identifying effective humanized AAV variants that are resistant to ubiquitination result in a lower risk for activation of <u>T cells is the most innovative feature of the preposal</u>

### Weaknesses

Most of the methods and approaches are not highly innovative because it involves approaches and methods that are relatively well established.

### 4. Approach:

### Strengths

- The experiments are well described and the logical progression through each of the aims is easy to follow.
- To provide experimental support to show the proportion of empty capsids may influence the immune response is important. This is especially true because, as the investigators point out, not all of the T cell responses are dose dependent.
- The use of two serotypes, AAV-2 and AAV-8, are important because they have very different transduction efficiencies in mice.

### Weaknesses

- The AAV-2 and AAV-8 variants, while having different transduction in mice, appear to have similar transduction in humans. The same may be true for the various tapsid variants described herein.
- One mouse inbred strain is studied and the immune parameters measured may have nothing to do with the human condition.
- How is the capsid load ultimately removed from the cell if ubiquinition and other degradation
  pathways are blocked especially in terms of alternate processing and ultimate alternative
  antigen loading processing?