

Additional Information for Sharpe-Strumia Research Foundation Applications

1. Specific aims	List the broad, long-term objectives and the goal of the specific research proposed, for example, to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology.
2. Background and significance	Briefly sketch the background leading to the present application, critically evaluate existing knowledge, and specifically identify the gaps that the project is intended to fill. State concisely the importance and health relevance of the research described in this application by relating the specific aims to the broad, long-term objectives. If the aims of the application are achieved, state how scientific knowledge or clinical practice will be advanced. Describe the effect of these studies on the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services or preventative interventions that drive this field.
3. Preliminary studies / progress report	<p><i>Preliminary Studies</i> – For new applications, use this section to provide an account of the investigator's preliminary studies pertinent to this application. This information will also help to establish the experience and competence of the investigator to pursue the proposed project.</p> <p><i>Progress Report for Renewal</i> – A Progress Report must be provided for renewal and revision applications. Provide the beginning and ending dates for the period covered since the project was last reviewed competitively. Summarize the previous application's specific aims and the importance of the findings. Provide a succinct account of published and unpublished results, indicating progress toward their achievement. Discuss any changes in the specific aims as a result of budget reductions.</p>
4. Research design and methods	Describe the research design conceptual or clinical framework, procedures, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted as well as the data-sharing plan as appropriate. Describe any new methodology and its advantage over existing methodologies. Describe any novel concepts, approaches, tools, or technologies for the proposed studies. Discuss the potential difficulties and limitations of the proposed procedures and alternative approaches to achieve the aims. As part of this section, provide a tentative sequence or timetable for the project. Point out any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and the precautions to be exercised.