

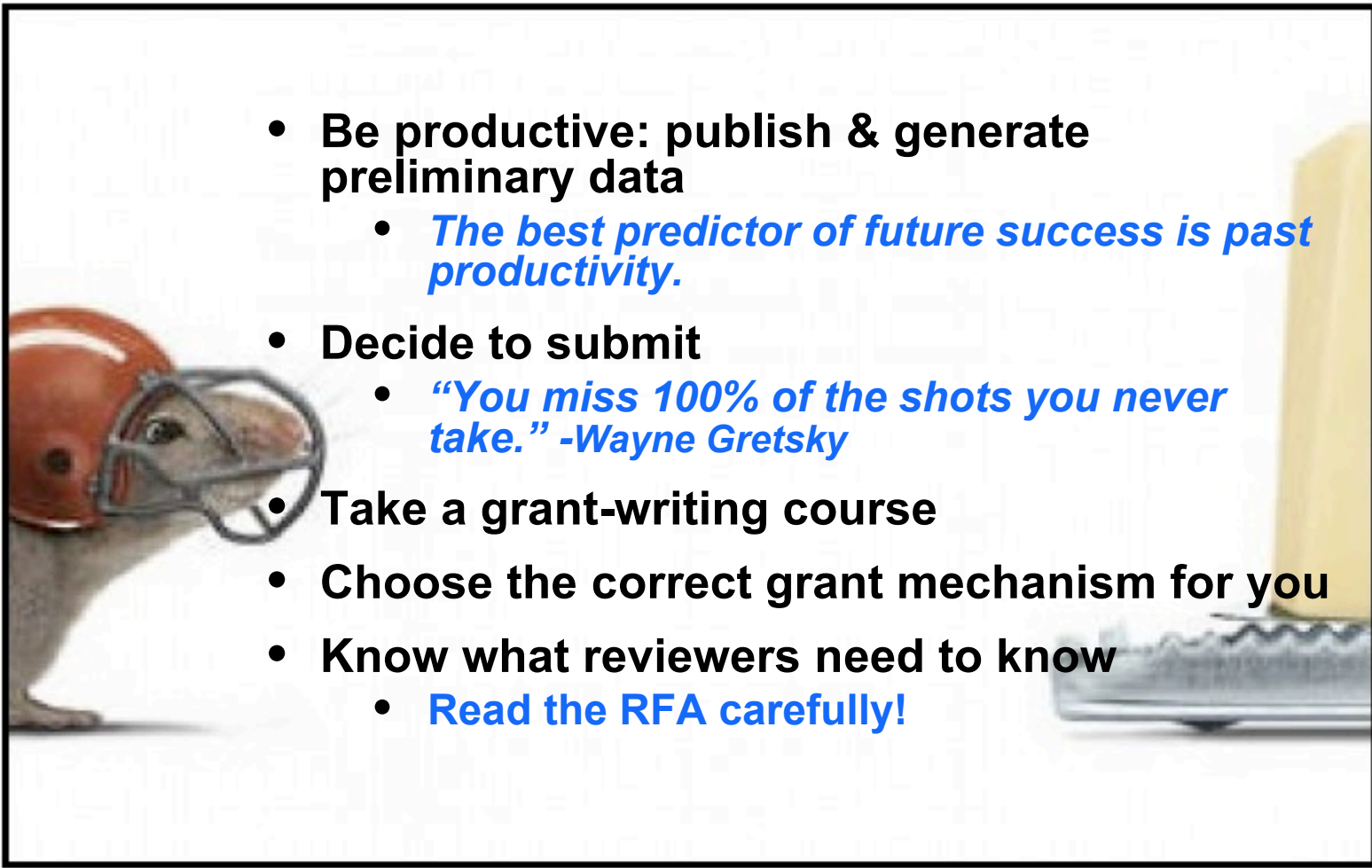
Getting Your First Grant: Tips for New Investigators

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October 15, 2010
ASBMR Meeting, Toronto

Tips for Writing a Successful First Grant

- Prepare, prepare, prepare
- Sell your idea well



- Be productive: publish & generate preliminary data
 - *The best predictor of future success is past productivity.*
- Decide to submit
 - *“You miss 100% of the shots you never take.” -Wayne Gretsky*
- Take a grant-writing course
- Choose the correct grant mechanism for you
- Know what reviewers need to know
 - *Read the RFA carefully!*

PREPARATION

“By failing to prepare you are preparing to fail.”
Benjamin Franklin

NIH Grant Options for New Investigators

Postdoctoral Fellowships

F32
(T32)

NIH Career Award Wizard

<http://grants.nih.gov/training/kwizard/index.htm>

Career Development Awards: Junior Faculty

K99/ R00

- Do not need to be a US citizen/ green card holder
- NIH intramural investigators are eligible

K01: PhD

K08: MD, MD/PhD, bench research

K23: MD, MD/PhD, clinical research

K25: PhD w/ engineer, math background

R03

R01

What about R21s?

- R21s are for risky, highly innovative, paradigm-shifting ideas.
- R21s are only 2 years in length.
- R21s are not mini-R01s.
- R21s are poor choices for new investigators!!

What are reviewers evaluating?

- Is the project worth doing?
- Can this person/ team do the project?



Is the project worth doing?

- **Significance**
- **Innovation**
- **Overall Impact**
 - **K awards: science + the likelihood that the PI will develop into a productive investigator & maintain a strong research program**



- **Can this person/ team do the project?**

- Investigator
 - Past productivity, expertise
 - **Potential***
 - Personal statement-career goals
 - Letters of recommendation
 - Is more training needed?
- Environment
 - **Institutional support***
- **Mentor***
 - Funding
 - Training record
 - Plans to evaluate progress
- **Career Development Plan***
- Approach
- Collaborators

*Special for some training grants/ career development awards

Sell your idea!

Grant writing is persuasive writing.

- Build on your expertise & preliminary data
- Have a great idea in a high impact area, think mechanistically
- Formulate a novel and feasible hypothesis
- Design experiments that test your hypothesis
- Explain expected results and data analysis methods
- Acknowledge limitations-- propose alternative approaches
- Be consistent through all parts of the application

Sell your idea!

Grant writing is persuasive writing.

- **Write a good original story**
 - Don't cut and paste
 - Write clearly and directly (avoid passive voice)
 - Illustrate your story- design original figures for this purpose
- **Allow plenty of time for a pre-review by mentors and for re-writing**
- **Listen to your reviewers-accept criticism**
- **Make it perfect (e.g., no typos)**

Grant Writing Tips for New Investigators

- Prepare, prepare, prepare!
 - Be productive: publish & generate preliminary data
 - Make up your mind to submit
 - Take a grant-writing course
 - Choose the correct grant mechanism for you
 - Know what reviewers need to know
- Grant Writing is Persuasive Writing--Sell your idea well!
 - Build on your expertise & preliminary data
 - Have a great idea in a high impact area, think mechanistically
 - Formulate a novel and feasible hypothesis
 - Design experiments that test your hypothesis
 - Explain expected results and data analysis methods
 - Acknowledge limitations and problems-- propose alternative approaches
 - Be consistent through all parts of the application
 - Write a good original story
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