

# How is the proposal evaluated?

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# Criteria for evaluation (VR)

- Novelty and originality (grade 1-7; 7 is the best)
- Scientific quality of the proposed research (grade 1-7)
- Merits of the applicant (grade 1-7)
- Feasibility (grade 1-3)

Overall assessment of the application's scientific quality (grade 1-7)

# Novelty and originality

- Does the project represent innovative research rather than just being an expansion of current research?
- Confirmatory study?
- Hypothesis-driven research with a novel hypothesis (or one previously explored by others)
- Original also in an international context?

# How to improve Novelty score

- The Purpose and aims, and Survey of the field sections need to convey the message that your hypothesis has a logic reason, that the hypothesis has not been tested before and that you have the excellent possibilities (e.g. study material, techniques etc) to test it
- You are likely to get higher novelty score with clear hypothesis-driven research than high-throughput screening

# How to improve scientific quality score

- Use of cutting-edge rather than standard techniques. Several techniques
- Use of unique material (unique patient material, human rather than only animal studies)
- Always present a power calculation
- Have convincing preliminary data
- Provide some details and a clear logic progression of experiments with mechanistic parts

# How to improve scientific quality score

- If epidemiological studies, try to combine with mechanistic studies
- Combination of studies of animals and humans
- Constellation of applicants with complementary expertise. Translational or multi-disciplinary, i.e. from different fields of research (e.g. molecular biologists, immunologists, clinical researchers, physiologists, material science expertise)

# How to improve Merits of the applicant

- Difficult-your merits are your merits. However, you can boost the application by adding highly competent co-applicants. Do not add your previous PhD supervisor as co-applicant.
- If possible change your department from where you did your PhD
- Apply to the right call where people have similar merits level. Establishment grant for younger researcher. Especially if you are a clinician, test to apply for 50% research position in a clinical milieu.

# Feasibility

- Power calculation. If human subjects, consider also drop out frequency
- Provide sufficient details in your research plan to make it believable (however avoid too much details)
- Especially as a younger researcher, do not overload the application with too many project parts (time optimism)



# Feasibility

- Competent coapplicants can be convincing for feasibility especially if your CV is meagre
- Information on information on resources, staffing, facilities and available equipment
- You can include in your research plan "Potential pitfalls and solutions". It is then smart to identify pitfalls where you have a good plan for an alternative approach.

# Overall

- Follow the instructions!
- Avoid a too dense application with too small, unreadable figures
- Avoid grammatical errors
- Avoid logical errors
- Convey the message of excellence while avoiding writing it out (bragging)
- Use some self-citations in research plan to show your competence in the field of research. Select good journal publications