PDF - RESEARCH CORNER: GRANT WRITING: TOWARD PREPARING A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION - researchcub.infoThe objective of thisstudy is to compare, in children with cystic fibrosis (CF), the effectivenessof the most widely accepted airway clearance technique, postural drainage andpercussion, with three recently introduced techniques: autogenic drainage,Flutter, and PEP mask. Furthermore, determination of the “optimal” treatmenttechnique with respect to patient age and disease severity will be undertaken.We hypothesize that the newer techniques will be more effective in improvingregional ventilation, mucus expectoration, and lung function than posturaldrainage and percussion. We further hypothesize that the effectiveness of eachof these newer techniques will be dependent on patient age and diseaseseverity. A change in regional ventilation in response to a specific treatmenttechnique is the primary outcome measure and will be determined by digitalacoustic breath sound analysis and single breath He tests. Secondary outcomemeasures include mucus expectorated and pulmonary function tests. Thisinformation will contribute to efficacious treatment by improving clinicaldecision making when prescribing an airway clearance technique in the CFpopulation. Figure 7 . The title and abstract must be descriptive and wellwritten because they are the components of a grant that are most widely read.Administrative Section In this section, the funds that you project are going tobe needed to accomplish your research plan are presented and justified.Additionally, the resources available to you, such as space and sharedequipment are indicated. Budget As you plan your budget, it is important toensure that your budget is consistent with experiments that are proposed. Oftenan investigator is tempted to pad the budget, but this strategy is oftenfaulty. The reviewers are quite familiar with the finances that are required toperform experiments, and therefore it is often advantageous to request theminimum amount necessary to do your research. This is especially true if youare a recently independent investigator, an agency may be more willing toprovide a smaller amount whereas they may be hesitant to fund an applicationrequesting considerable revenue. A successful budget is one that is financiallyconsistent with the proposed experiments, and requests a realistic amount offunding with each item clearly justified. The largest portion of your budget isusually salary. Plan to commit between 20% to 50% of your effort to theproject. Less time may not convince the reviewer that you are dedicated to theproject, and more time is often unrealistic, especially if you are in a tenuretrack position. If your project requires assistance, choose well-qualifiedpeople and indicate precisely each person’s expertise and the contributionsthey will make to the project. All requested equipment should be welljustified, indicating which experiments it will be used for. Attempt to designexperiments to minimize your use of supplies and optimize your use of labor.Attention to detail in this section of the budget demonstrates your familiaritywith the supplies essential to perform the proposed experiments. Consistency isessential, be sure that the budget planned for the year agrees with theexperimental schedule in that year. Travel assistance is usually restricted toone meeting for one investigator. Resources Reviewers will be concerned whetheror not sufficient resources are available for the investigator to perform andcomplete the proposed research. In this section the space allocated by yourinstitution

(whether it be office space, treatment area, laboratory space) aswell as all other contributions to your project (such as release time orequipment availability) should be identified. Funding agencies are morefavorable to a project when a facility has endorsed your research efforts. Useof human subjects Physical therapy research will often involve human subjects.Most granting agencies require assurance that any human subjects will beprotected. Therefore, project approval by the Institutional Review Board (IRB)is often requested to accompany the grant application. Generally thesecommittees meet monthly, therefore it is essential to have your proposalsubmitted and approved at your institution in advance of the grant deadline.Use of vertebrate animals In many instances, research questions applicable tophysical therapy involve animals. As with human subjects, the granting agenciesrequire that the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) provideassurance that the animals will be protected. Ensure that sufficient time isallowed for obtaining the IACUC approval from your institution. Biographicalsketch In the biographical sketch you present the education and expertise ofyourself and your personnel. This allows the reviewers to determine if thepersonnel have adequate experience with the techniques proposed to complete theresearch project. THE ARTS AND CRAFTS OF GRANT PREPARATION: WRITING ANDFORMATTING The rule of thumb is to focus on writing the grant so that it issuccinct and easily readable by those very knowledgeable in the field as wellas persons only familiar with the area. Use short, simple sentences and writein the active voice rather than using the passive voice. Many times it isbeneficial to use the exact wording of the sponsor when addressing requiredtopics or questions. Separating the proposal into sections and subsectionsoften improves the readability and provides an opportunity to use headings tofacilitate organization for the reader. Using bold, italics, and numbering alsoenhances the organization of the sections of the proposal. Including figuresand tables within the body of the text breaks up pages and pages of print. Makesure the figures are well described and include a legend that is very clear.Spell check and proofread the document care72 Cardiopulmonary Physical TherapyVol 11 v No 2 Why Proposals are Rejected A. Problem 0 Problem not of sufficientimportance (33%) 0 Research is based on a hypothesis that rests on insufficientevidence (9%) I? The problem is more complex than the investigator realizes(8%) 0 Problem fails to fall within the general field of health-relatedresearch (5%) 0 Problem is scientifically immature and warrants only a pilotstudy (3%) 0 Research is overly involved (3%) 0 Research is without a clear aim(3%) B. Approach 0 Proposed tests, methods, scientific procedures are unsuitedto the objective (35%) 0 Description of the approach is lacking in clarity topermit adequate evaluation (29%) 0 Overall design has not been carefullythought out (15%) 0 Statistical aspects of the approach have not been givensufficient consideration (8%) 0 Approach lacks scientific imagination (7%) 0Controls are either inadequately conceived or inadequately described (7%) 0 Thematerial that the investigator proposes to use is unsuited to the objective ofthe study or is difficult to obtain (4%) 0 Number of observations is unsuitable(3%) C. Investigator 0 Investigator does not have adequate experience ortraining for this research (33%) 0 Investigator appears to be unfamiliar withrecent pertinent literature or methods (14%) 0 Investigator's previouspublished

work in this field does not inspire confidence (13%) 0 Investigatorproposes to rely too heavily on inexperienced associates (5%) 0 Investigator isspreading himself too thin; he will be more productive if he concentrates onfewer projects (4%) 0 Investigator needs more liaison with colleagues in thisfield or collateral fields (2%) D. Other 0 Requirements for equipment orpersonnel are unrealistic (10%) 0 It appears that other responsibilities wouldprevent devotion of sufficient time and attention to this research (3%) 0Institutional setting is unfavorable (2%) 0 Research grants to theinvestigator, now in place, are adequate in scope and amount to cover theproposed research (2%) Derived from Science 1960;132:1532-1534 and reported inThe Proposal Writer's Guide.4 Figure 8 . Occurrence rates of common pitfallsobserved in the statement of the problem , the choice of experimental approach,and the qualities of the investigator. fully. Most grants have page limits thatshould be strictly adhered to. Be kind to your reviewers-use a 12 point fontthat is easy to read. If the page limits and font sizes are not as requested,grants are often returned to the investigator. Attempt to finish writing inenough time to send the grant by express mail several days prior to thedeadline, and be sure to verify that it has been received. Remember to doeverything that you can to make the review process pleasant for the reviewer,your work will be more favorably received. Problems Why Proposals are RejectedIt is worthwhile to be familiar with the most common problems with grants thatend up causing them to be rejected. Armed with this knowledge, you may closelyexamine your own work to determine if any of the common pitfalls are present(Figure 8). If you are not funded… don't get discouraged. Presently, it is notunusual to have to revise a grant and resubmit. Before revising, read thereviewer's comments carefully and objectively. When preparing the revision,take the reviewers comments seriously, and when you have adequately addressedthe concerns, resubmit the grant at the next available deadline.

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The complete project material is available and ready for download. All what you need to do is to order for the complete material. The price for the material is NGN 3,000.00.
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