

## **What Are Some Success Strategies When Writing PCT Grant Applications?**

Wendy Weber:

A few strategies for success. Be very clear on what your research question is and make sure that it's very clear to reviewers what your question is. The whole purpose of your application is to convince the reviewers that your study is worth doing. And so you want to highlight the strengths of your application and what you've proposed to do as well as be realistic about what the weaknesses are, and explain how you're going to deal with them. What are your contingency plans?

Another bit of advice that I often give to applicants is if you know that reviewers are going to ask a specific question, just answer it for them. If you know for example, you're designing a pragmatic trial and you plan to use a usual care control group, and some of the reviewers are going to be like, "Why aren't you using a time and attention control comparison?" Explain it. Include in there, "We considered this as an option, but chose to go with usual care as our control group because ..." Whatever that reason may be.

Tailor your application to the actual both funding opportunity and announcement and to the institute or center that you're sending it to. Get familiar with their strategic priorities and their strategic plan, and make sure that your application is directly addressing those particular elements.

Have someone else a little bit outside of your field take a look at your application before you send it in, if at all possible. It's so helpful to get feedback from someone who isn't in the middle of writing the grant and giving them enough time to review it and give you feedback. And certainly make sure that your collaborators, your consultants, and certainly your bio statistician that's part of your team has enough time to be able to review all of the information, and make sure that everything is consistent throughout the application before it comes in.