**Specific Aims – 1 Page**

State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved.

List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed, e.g., 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.

Specific Aims are limited to one page.

**Research Strategy – 12 Pages**

Organize the Research Strategy in the specified order and using the instructions provided below. Start each section with the appropriate section heading—Significance, Innovation, Approach.

**Experimental details should be cited using the Bibliography and References Cited section and need not be detailed in the Research Strategy.**

**Significance**

* Explain the **importance of the problem** or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.
* Explain how the proposed project will **improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice** in one or more broad fields.
* Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions **that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.**

**Innovation**

* Explain how the application challenges and seeks to **shift current research** or clinical practice paradigms.
* Describe any **novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or intervention(s) to be developed or used, and any advantage** over existing methodologies, instrumentation or intervention(s).
* Explain any **refinements, improvements, or new applications** of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions.

**Approach**

* Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Unless addressed separately in Item 5.5.15 [Appendix], include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted as well as any resource sharing plans as appropriate.
* Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims.
* If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high risk aspects of the proposed work.
* Point out any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and precautions to be exercised. A full discussion on the use of Select Agents should appear in 5.5.11 below.

**Preliminary Studies (for New Applications)**

For new applications, include information on Preliminary Studies as part of the Approach section. Discuss the PD/PI’s preliminary studies, data, and/or experience pertinent to this application. Except for Exploratory/Development Grants (R21, R33), Small Research Grants (R03), … preliminary data can be an essential part of a research grant application and help to establish the likelihood of success of the proposed project. Early Stage Investigators should include preliminary data. **(However, for R01 applications, reviewers will be instructed to place less emphasis on the preliminary data in applications from Early Stage Investigators than on the preliminary data in applications from more established investigators.)**