

Specific Aims Template

Part 1: Introductory Paragraph

- **What is the topic?** Write a concise, interest-grabbing, active sentence introducing the topic of the proposal that immediately establishes the relevance of the proposal:

- **What's the gap?** Provide a statement of current knowledge to help less expert reviewers get up to speed. Then describe the gap in knowledge or unmet need that the proposal will address:

Part 2: "What, Why, Who" Paragraph

- **What is the long term goal?** Provide a statement about the "big picture" of your research program. "Our long term goal is to understand..."

- **What is the objective?** The long term goal is followed by what the application seeks to accomplish. This component must link back to the gap in knowledge and emphasize the product, not the process.

- **What is the central hypothesis?** The central hypothesis must link to the objective because the objective will be accomplished by testing the central hypothesis.

- **What is the rationale?** The rationale communicates why you want to conduct the proposed research. It should convey what will become possible after this research is conducted that is not possible now.

Part 3: Aims Paragraph

- For each aim, write a short descriptive title and include a brief description of activities to be performed, hypothesis to be tested, and/or outcomes predicted by hypothesis (aims should have clear, measurable outcomes).
- There must be concordance between the aims and the parts of your central hypothesis.
- Think of the aims as brief, informative headlines that will attract the reviewer’s attention.

Aim 1.

Aim 2.

Aim 3.

Part 4: “Payoff” Paragraph

- **What is innovative?** Describe the novel features of the proposal.

- **What are the expected outcomes?** Articulate the expected products of the research and describe the payoff that can be realized if this research is conducted.

- **What is the impact?** Describe how the research will advance the field of improve human health.
