

2. Investigator(s)

Can the team do the job? Do the Principal Investigator, collaborators, and other researchers match the project? Do they have an ongoing track record of advancing their field(s)? Is there appropriate experience/training/support?

Strengths	Weaknesses

3. Innovation

Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms? Are the concepts, approaches, or interventions novel? Does it seek to refine or improve existing clinical interventions, or is there a new application of theoretical concepts/methodologies?

Strengths	Weaknesses

4. Approach

Are overall strategy, methodology, and statistical analyses well-reasoned and appropriate for the project? Is the population suitable and are the numbers sufficient? Are potential problems noted, along with strategies to manage the risk?

Strengths	Weaknesses

5. Environment and budget

Are institutional support, equipment and other physical resources adequate for the project proposed? Are the features of the scientific environment or collaborative arrangements well suited to the topic? Are any other resources needed? Are the budget and timeframe appropriate and adequate to complete the project? Are any non-fundable items included? Is the project dependent on other funding?

Strengths	Weaknesses

Ethics

Is ethical approval required? YES ☐ NO ☐

Has approval been obtained? YES ☐ NO ☐

Are there any outstanding ethical/inclusion concerns? YES ☐ NO ☐

Comments

Resubmission

Did the applicants give an acceptable response to the previous review? Yes

Comments

Additional Comments to Applicant (optional)

Reviewers may provide guidance to the applicant or recommend against resubmission without fundamental revision.

Comments

Scoring guidance table

This table gives a descriptive guide on how the strengths and weaknesses should be considered, and how they combine when assigning the overall rating score. It also defines the levels of weakness and indicates an impact rating for the scores.

Score	Descriptor	Additional Guidance on Strengths/Weaknesses
1	Exceptional	Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses
2	Outstanding	Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses
3	Excellent	Very strong with only some minor weaknesses
4	Very Good	Strong but with numerous minor weaknesses
5	Good	Strong but with at least one moderate weakness
6	Satisfactory	Some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses
7	Fair	Some strengths but with at least one major weakness
8	Marginal	A few strengths and a few major weaknesses
9	Poor	Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses
Weakness guide <i>Minor weakness:</i> An easily addressable weakness that does not substantially lessen impact <i>Moderate weakness:</i> A weakness that lessens impact <i>Major weakness:</i> A weakness that severely limits impact		
Impact guide: Score 1 to 3 = <i>high</i> impact Score 4 to 6 = <i>moderate</i> impact Score 7 to 9 = <i>low</i> impact		

These recommendations for reviewers are adapted from National Institute of Health (NIH USA 2010).