

Guidelines for Training Grant Biosketches for Training Grant Applications

It is very important to tailor the personal statement of your NIH Biosketch to the training grant program in which you have been asked to participate, whether as a mentor or preceptor, advisory committee, program director, etc. The advice the NIH provides about any biosketch is to describe why you are well-suited to your proposed role(s) in the project. Submitting biosketches written for a research grant can result in your training grant application being administratively withdrawn.

Be sure to check the training grant funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for specific guidelines. For examples, the following is copied from the current NIGMS T32 FOA (PAR-20-213), with bold emphasis added.

“The application should summarize and expand on the material presented in the Training Tables **and biosketches** and address how the participating faculty:

- Have sufficient time to commit to training given their other professional obligations;
- Receive training in effective, evidence-informed teaching and mentoring practices;
- Promote the use of highest standards of practice to ensure the safety of all individuals in the research environment;
- Cooperate, interact, and collaborate (which can include joint sponsorship of trainee research);
- Promote the development of trainee skills in approaches to rigorous experimental design, methods of data collection, data analysis and interpretation, and reporting;
- Provide opportunities for trainees to initiate, conduct, interpret, and present rigorous, reproducible and responsible biomedical research with increasing self-direction;
- Demonstrate a commitment to effective mentoring, and to promoting inclusive, safe and supportive scientific and training environments; and
- Are evaluated as teachers and mentors.”

The following text is provided as a suggested template for the personal statement:

I have professional expertise that is particularly relevant to serve as a preceptor (and/or other role) for the (name of training grant program). I am a (rank) Professor in the (College) Department of *** and a member of the Centers/Institutes. Text from your usual NIH Biosketch.

I participated in the CTSI Mentor Academy in (semester year) / plan to participate in the CTSI Mentor Academy in (semester year). I have mentored (list those that apply) X predoctoral trainees, MD-PhD students, X postdoctoral trainees, X clinical fellows, X early stage investigators in the past, and all or X% of them are still engaged in research or research-related activities. I am currently mentoring X predoctoral trainees, MD-PhD students, X postdoctoral trainees, X clinical fellows, X early stage investigators. I have a history of mentoring in a safe, inclusive and supportive research environment as evidenced by ***. My track record of *** demonstrates my ability to provide rigorous training and unbiased experiments design/methodology/analysis/interpretation and reporting of results.

I am enthusiastic about participating in the (name of training program), and I would welcome a T32 trainee into my lab / research group. [If a renewal application: I have been involved with the (name of training program) by (list previous and/or current roles).] In summary, I am well qualified to serve as a preceptor (or other role) for the (name of training program) based on my (list those that are most relevant) research expertise, track record of mentoring, faculty roles in X, my leadership role(s) in X, and motivation to train physician scientists.

Advice for training grant PI/PDs:

- Request biosketches in Word format.
- Review biosketch for being up-to-date; return to faculty member for editing if publications and grant funding do not appear to be up to date.
- Review personal statement for above training grant guidelines. Make minor edits yourself if possible, or return to faculty member for major edits.

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