

## R01 Writing Group

**Application Deadline: Monday, August 11, 2025 by 5:00 PM MT**

### Purpose

Submitting a first successful R01 is a major challenge. The University's K12 program, a part of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute, is again organizing R01 writing groups that will include up to five NIH defined new investigators (anyone who has never had an NIH R01 or equivalent). Each group will be headed by one or two senior faculty members with extensive success with NIH awards and study section reviewer experience. The participants will receive feedback from faculty facilitators, peers and mock reviewers on their grant to produce top quality grant submissions. The groups are not intended to replace grant writing courses or seminars, but, rather, to provide advice, mentoring and time management for the grant writing process. As such, prior participation in grant writing courses or seminars, formal or informal, is required.

Please note that this writing group is geared towards those **firmly planning** to submit their R01 for the February 2026 deadline. **It is important that the aims and methods have already been thought through, reviewed, critiqued, and roughly established (for example, via chalk talks, meetings with your mentor team or other colleagues, etc) before you submit your application. In particular, it is vital that the new Principal Investigator has sufficient preliminary data (unless not allowed in certain types of grant proposals such as the Katz mechanism) to support submitting the R01. We highly recommend reviewing this with your mentor team or senior content advisor before submitting the application.** Otherwise, we have found the likelihood of finishing the grant by the deadline to be low.

### The Plan

The groups will meet starting the week of September 1, 2025 for approximately 2-hour sessions on Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons and continue meeting bi-weekly to work on Specific Aims and draft the Research Strategy, until November 2025. Groups will meet via Zoom to provide guidance and feedback on the Specific Aims and elements of the Research Strategy (preliminary data, research plan, significance, and innovation).

In December 2025 there will be an afternoon mock study section. **The junior faculty's content mentor or primary mentor will be expected to participate.** In February 2026, the bright, ambitious R01 pursuers will submit their grant. This team approach has been used nationally and locally to increase success with obtaining first R01s.

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

**Application Requirements**

Admission will be competitive based on a review of the specific aims page and preliminary data in place to support those aims.

**Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. MT, Monday, August 11th**, by submitting the application and required documents through [RedCAP](#) (if it does not take you directly, please use <https://redcap01.brisc.utah.edu/ccts/redcap/surveys/?s=PXYPAWP4AAYYPEEL>)

Application documents should include:

1. Current Specific Aims Draft. We strongly recommend that you use the Specific Aims format found in the appendix of this announcement.
2. Your Biosketch
3. A List of collaborators for this proposal including their position, credentials
4. Preliminary data and their relationship to each aim <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/highlight-preliminary-data-your-next-application>
5. Evidence of completion of the required institutional Onboarding for new PIs. <https://utah.catalog.instructure.com/browse/research-education/research-education-red/courses/onboarding-for-new-pis-submitting-proposals-at-the-university-of-utah>
6. List of grant writing courses or seminars you have completed.

Notifications: We anticipate notifying applicants of acceptance after August 29, 2025

Please encourage your faculty, who meet new investigator status (never had an R01 or equivalent as PI) and who are well-poised to prepare a competitive application, to participate.

For questions, please contact Shaylee Scott [shaylee.scott@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:shaylee.scott@hsc.utah.edu) and Lyalya Sultanova, [lyalya.sultanova@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:lyalya.sultanova@hsc.utah.edu).

*If you are preparing to submit a different grant proposal than an R01, we encourage you to apply for the Peer Grant Review service [Peer Grant Review Program | CTSI | University of Utah Health](#) <https://ctsi.utah.edu/funding-opps-resources/grant-support-services/peer-grant-review>*

## Appendix

**Introductory Paragraph** (MUST be convincing that there is a significant problem or need that is relevant to your funding agency):

Opening Sentence ('the hook')

- Identify what the proposal will be about
- Relate it to your funding agency

Current Knowledge

- Educate the reviewer about what's important from opening sentence

Gap or Lack

- The body of 'important knowns' must lead to the conclusion that there is an important gap in knowledge or lack of something

Statement of Need

- 'Thus, there is a critical need to . . .'

Consequences of not meeting need

- Why the absence of a 'solution' to this compelling problem is an issue for the funding agency

**What, Why, Who Paragraph** (Convincing the reviewers that you have the 'solution' to the 'problem'):

Long-term goal (broad)

- Career goal (align with funding agency).
- Projects an obvious progression of career-based research activities

Objective in this application (narrower)

- Frame as a step toward attaining the long-term goal
- Must have a well-defined endpoint (focus on outcomes, not on activities)

Central hypothesis and how formulated (narrowest)

- Must be testable (and thus potentially invalid)

Rationale

- What is likely to become possible after the project is finished (that is not possible now)

**Specifics 'Paragraph':**

Specific Aims

- Each should be focused by a subordinate working hypothesis or approach statement
- Tie the aims together but avoid contingent aims

**Payoff Paragraph** (Inform reviewers and funders about their return on investment)

- Expected Outcomes
- Positive Impact

Each sentence in each paragraph must connect to the next sentence.