

Research Funding and Financial Management

Dr. Maung Maung Toe
Former Director (Research), DMR



- Research Grant writing is time-consuming, tedious and the success rates are depressing.
- How can researchers make the process less stressful?



Research Funding

- Many types of grants, contracts, and even programs that help repay loans for researchers.
- Budget process, grant funding strategies, and policies, and more.
- Research Training and Career Development programs to help prepare individuals for careers in biomedical, behavioral, social, and clinical research.



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UN PhD Fellowship
Programme



Selection criteria

- Applicants have to be currently enrolled in a PhD programme
- Applicants must have demonstrated the ability to conduct research on developing economies
- Fluency in oral and written English is necessary
- Good quantitative and/or qualitative analytical skills
- Candidates working in developing countries and those who are at later stages of the PhD will be preferred

How to apply

- Comprehensive application guide,
- Providing step-by-step instructions to get you through the grant application process,
- Completing required registrations,
- Finding a funding opportunity to accessing the application forms and instructions,
- Formatting your application,
- Finding due dates and submission policies, and more.



What Qualities Characterize a Successful Grant Writer

1) Good research skills

2) Salesmanship

3) Good communication skills

4) Persistence

5) **Ingenuity** and flexibility

6) Administrative skills

7) Good human relations



Felson's Rules for Getting a Grant



Rule #1: Start With a Good Idea

- Innovative
- Feasible
- Conceptually significant (will benefit the scientific community or **public**)



Rule #2: An interdisciplinary project is usually more creative than a project emanating from a single discipline

- ✓ Epidemiology
- ✓ HSR
- ✓ Parasitology
- ✓ Entomology
- ✓ Malaria Control Programme

- ✓ Nutrition Research
- ✓ Epidemiology
- ✓ Biochemistry
- ✓ Pathology
- ✓ Parasitology

Rule #3: Be ambitious, but focused—select one or two single important questions, not many

Rule #4: Don't follow the herd

Rule #5: Don't assume that using a new technology will get you funded

- E.g. genetics, sleep apnea
- Need unique technology
- Need unassailable expertise
- Need the right question and approach



Rule #6:

If possible, choose a long-term theme



Rule #7: Don't try to do it alone

- Use mentors, colleagues, collaborators.
- Look at old successful grants.



Rule #8: Talk with your statistician early & often

- How many **subjects** will you need? Will revising your approach to the question make numbers less daunting?
- Do you need to revise your plans because of **numbers problems**?
- What's the **best analysis plan**?

Rule #9: Choose the Right Collaborators: Who are they?

- Experts that bring to the project **something you do not have**
- Collaborators who are researchers and have written papers in the field
- Collaborators who get the work done and are easy to work with
- Ask Mentor or other senior investigators about potential collaborator



Rule #10: Ask for Help with the Other Sections of the Grant

- 40% of work of grant application is unrelated to body of grant: biosketches; other support; human studies; budget; resources and environment; abstract.
- Use mentor and experienced support **staff in department** (or grant office) to help with these parts. Ask for this **help EARLY!**
- These parts are important!



Rule #11: The likelihood of funding is correlated directly with preparation time



Rule #12: Know your reviewers/audience*

**for DMR, MoHS, try www.irbdmr.gov for study section descriptions and rosters or ask IRB personnel*



Rule #13: Be nice to your reviewers

- **Large Font if possible**
- **Clarity** (a messy grant means messy science).
- Tables/Figures—whenever possible
- **Consistency** in labels!

Rule #14:

Continue the Same Themes Throughout Your Grant

- Restate the specific aims and hypotheses verbatim in experimental design and methods section.
- Outline how you will address specific **aims and hypotheses** in the analysis section.
- Use **exactly the same words** and labels to express your concepts throughout the grant.

Rule #15:

Tell them how wonderful you are **without** telling them how wonderful you are

- **You must convince reviewers** that you are capable of doing the proposed work—they probably don't know you.
- Cite your relevant accomplishments factually.
- List relevant awards, **publications**.
- **Recount** prior work that is similar to work proposed.
- **Avoid superlatives, self-aggrandizing phrases**—let your letters of support provide them!

Rule #16: Write Clearly

- Use acronyms & abbreviations sparingly.
- Avoid passive voice.
- Don't make paragraphs too long.
- Avoid obvious, trite phrases.

Rule #17:
A Short Grant is Usually Missing Something



WHERE TO SUBMIT YOUR GRANT



Rule #18:

If One Granting Agency Doesn't Fund your Idea,
Another One Might



Rule #19: If At First you Don't Succeed:

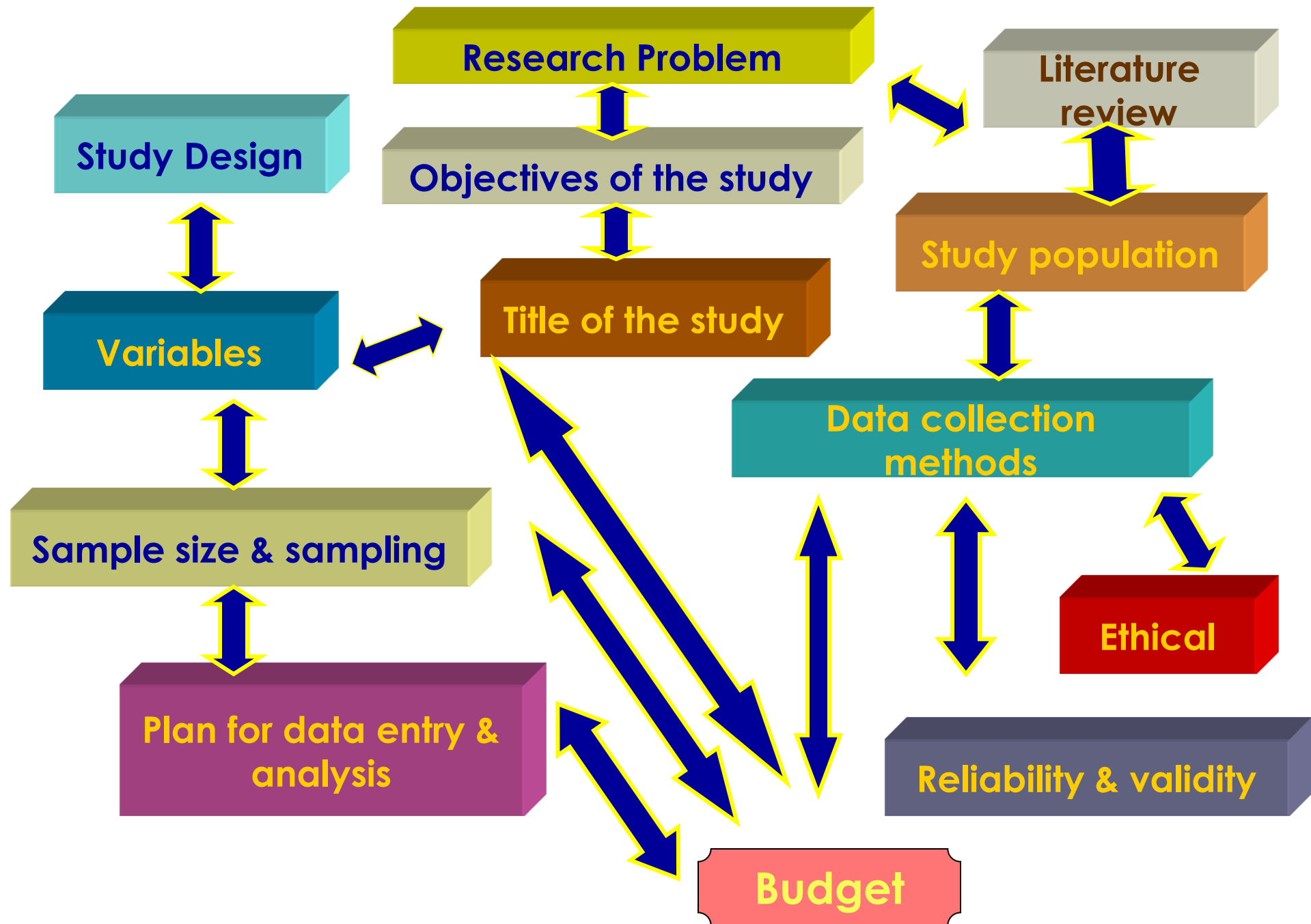
- Read pink sheets seriously only after you have **slept on them** a few nights
- Try again, perhaps



Rule #20: The Reviewer is Always Right (even if they're not!)

- Reviewers try hard to be supportive.
- If they did not get it, you did not explain it well enough.
- Read the pink sheets dispassionately and see if the criticisms were fatal. Ask your mentor.
- If **two reviewers express the same concern, take it VERY seriously.**





Thank You

