

Specific Aims

Orit Rapaport, PhD, oritgr@stanford.edu

Office of Research Development, Department of Pediatrics



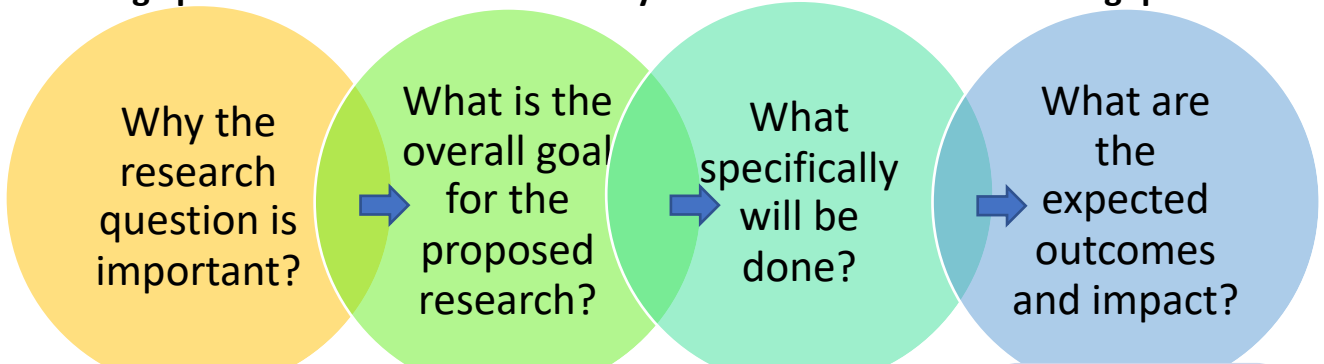
The most important document of your research proposal!

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) instructions for the 1-page Specific Aims document (SF424):

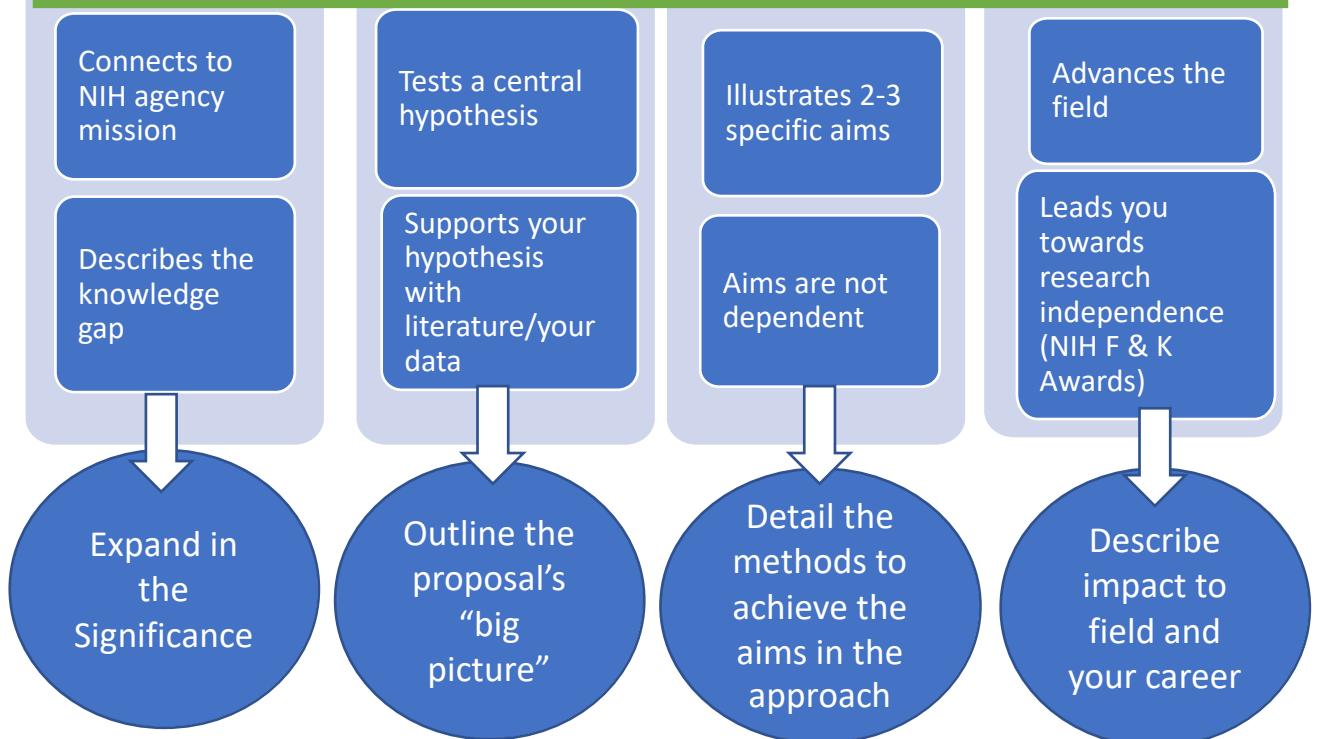
State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will have on the research field(s) involved.

List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed (e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology).

Strong Specific Aims documents clearly answers each of the following question:



Roadmap for the proposal



Specific Aims

Questions to Consider

- Is the question important?
- What is the knowledge gap?
- What is the overall goal of the research?
- Is the research hypothesis or descriptive-based?
- Is data (published or the applicant's preliminary data) described supporting the hypothesis?
- Are the aims dependent?
- Is each aim title memorable?
- Was the order of the aims convincing?
- Are the aims testable?
- How will the results advance the field?
- How will the skills gained advance the applicant's career?