

# 1

## Purpose

The purpose of the NIH biosketch is to communicate the magnitude and significance of scientific advances associated with the researcher's work, and the specific contributions the researcher made to the research findings mentioned on the form. The idea is to cover what you have accomplished, not the number of papers or citations you have.

# 2

## Career Stage

For new investigators, this NIH biosketch format can be used to communicate the role you have begun to play and why it can result in significant scientific advances. The new format is also well adapted for multi-investigator interdisciplinary work, in which there is not a single leader, but rather multiple people who have made distinct and important contributions.

# 3

## Content

You are allowed up to 5 pages for the entire biosketch. In this space you can describe up to 5 of your most significant contributions to science, how this has influenced the scientific field, and any subsequent effects the contributions have had on health or technology. You can describe your role in the discoveries, and you can annotate a description of up to 4 publications per contribution.

# 4

## Links

You can include a link to your complete list of publications in Science Experts Network (SciENcv) or myBibliography (from the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI)). SciENcv enables you to link biographical information with publication records in PubMed or myBibliography. If you have an NIH eCommons account, you will be able to use SciENcv to create an NIH biosketch very quickly.

# 5

## Form

You can also create a biosketch form in Word. NIH has provided a sample form that gives more detail on the required content. Or you can generate a form in Advance.

# 6

## General Tips

The biosketch is an opportunity to provide information on your background and comment on the topic of the grant at hand, so resist the temptation to reuse biosketches from grant to grant. For instance, if you are contributing as a mentor to a career development award, you would include your record as a mentor along with publications related to both general mentoring and the applicant's scientific area. The NIH sample seems to suggest that you should list all awards, honors and membership of federal committees. However, you do not want this section to take up space needed for information directly supportive of the application, so if you have a long list, indicate that the list is selected and edit out the more tangential items. For contributions to science, if you are early career, talk about why your contributions will be important and what steps you have already taken.