

**Specific Aims Evaluation Rubric.
FUN Workshop 2017**

(adapted from <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/draft-specific-aims> & <http://www.biosciencewriters.com/NIH-Grant-Applications-The-Anatomy-of-a-Specific-Aims-Page.aspx>)

Read through the Specific Aims your group was given. For each of the sections below comment on whether the Specific Aims page fulfilled the requirements for an effective, compelling and fundable document. If the Specific Aims did not fulfil the requirements, provide suggestions on how it can be improved. After your group has completed this exercise we will have a discussion of your evaluations and answer questions.

Overall Assessment of the Aims

1. Would reviewers see the proposed project as tackling an important problem in a significant field?
2. Would reviewers view the Specific Aims as capable of opening up new discoveries in this field?
3. Would reviewers regard the work as new and unique?
4. Would reviewers view the Specific Aims as likely to exert a significant influence on the research field involved?
5. Are the Specific Aims written clearly and are they easy to understand?

Assessment of the Individual Components of the Specific Aims Page

1. Introductory Paragraph.
 - a. Did the first paragraph have a good first sentence/hook?
 - b. Did the first paragraph explain what is known in the field currently?
 - c. Did the first paragraph identify a gap in knowledge?
 - d. Did the first paragraph address a critical need in the field?
2. Second Paragraph
 - a. Did the information provided in the second paragraph convince you that this project has a solution to fill the gap and address a critical need?
 - b. Did the second paragraph state a long-term goal of the project?
 - c. Were hypotheses or proposed objectives included?
 - d. Was a rationale provided for the experiments?
 - e. Did the information provided in the second paragraph convince you that this team had the expertise needed to complete the project?
3. Aims
 - a. Do the Aims have a clear title that states the objective as it relates to the hypothesis?
 - b. Is an experimental approach provided?
 - c. Is an anticipated outcome included?
 - d. Are the Aims clear and easy to understand?
4. Final Summary Paragraph
 - a. Does the final paragraph state why this project is innovative?
 - b. Are expected outcomes included?
 - c. Does the final paragraph clearly state the impact of this project on the field?