The Art of Grant Packaging
or
How Your Grant Looks Does Matter

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How your grant looks does matter

Common features of NIH study section member
  Tired eyes
  Busy brain
  Tired brain

No one comes to study section saying: “I am so rested and relaxed that I had lots of time to read my grants”
1. Left justified vs. both sides justified?

2. Create space between paragraphs to provide visual breaks

3. Check spelling, check grammar; it matters

4. Make sure text flow around figures is clear
Figures are key

1. Need to balance # figures and volume of text: more is not necessarily better

2. Figures need to be necessary for points being made

3. Stand alone – point made is visually obvious: my criteria is that I can easily see all aspects of the figure at 125%; If I have to expand to 200% or greater that is not good

4. Quality of figures; use of Adobe Illustrate to great figure in .eps format

5. Figure legend text; succinct
2. Generation of muscle specific Bmal1 KO mice. Our observations that muscles Bmal1 KO mouse were exciting and provided evidence to support links between distal rhythms, the molecular clock and skeletal muscle homeostasis. However, those mic types so they do not allow us to discern the relative contribution of the skeletal muscle. To address the function of the molecular clock in skeletal muscle we generated an inducible Bmal1 KO mouse [iMSBmal1+/−; iMSBmal1−/−] for the targeted disruption of the molecular clock in skeletal muscle. The tamoxifen inducible Cre recombinase mouse (HSA-MCM) was obtained for Muscle Biology at Kentucky and the efficacy of this mouse for studies of skeletal muscle recombination in adult mice has been established. Bmal1 mouse is available through Jackson Laboratory [B6.129S4(Cg)-Arntltm1Weit/J] and was used to target Bmal1 function in selected cell types. The mouse was then generated the iMSBmal1 mouse and genotyping was performed at three weeks of age with either vehicle or tamoxifen treatment. As seen from the results provided in Figure 1, Bmal1 (band = 571bp) only occurs in skeletal muscles, heart and other non-muscle tissues. Following treatment with tamoxifen and PCR to evaluate recombination.