

Getting your D&I grant funded

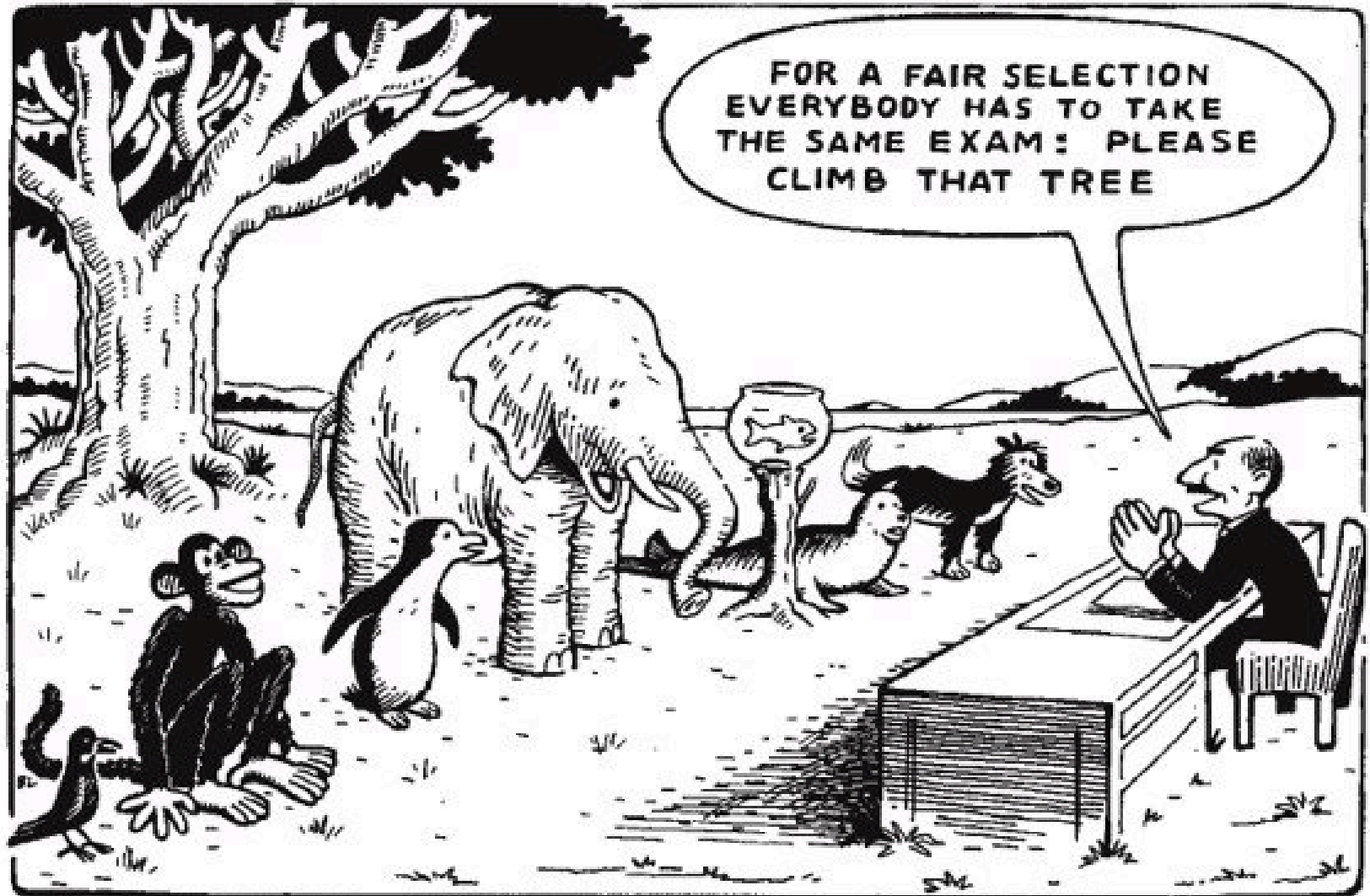
MT DIRC

6 June 2015

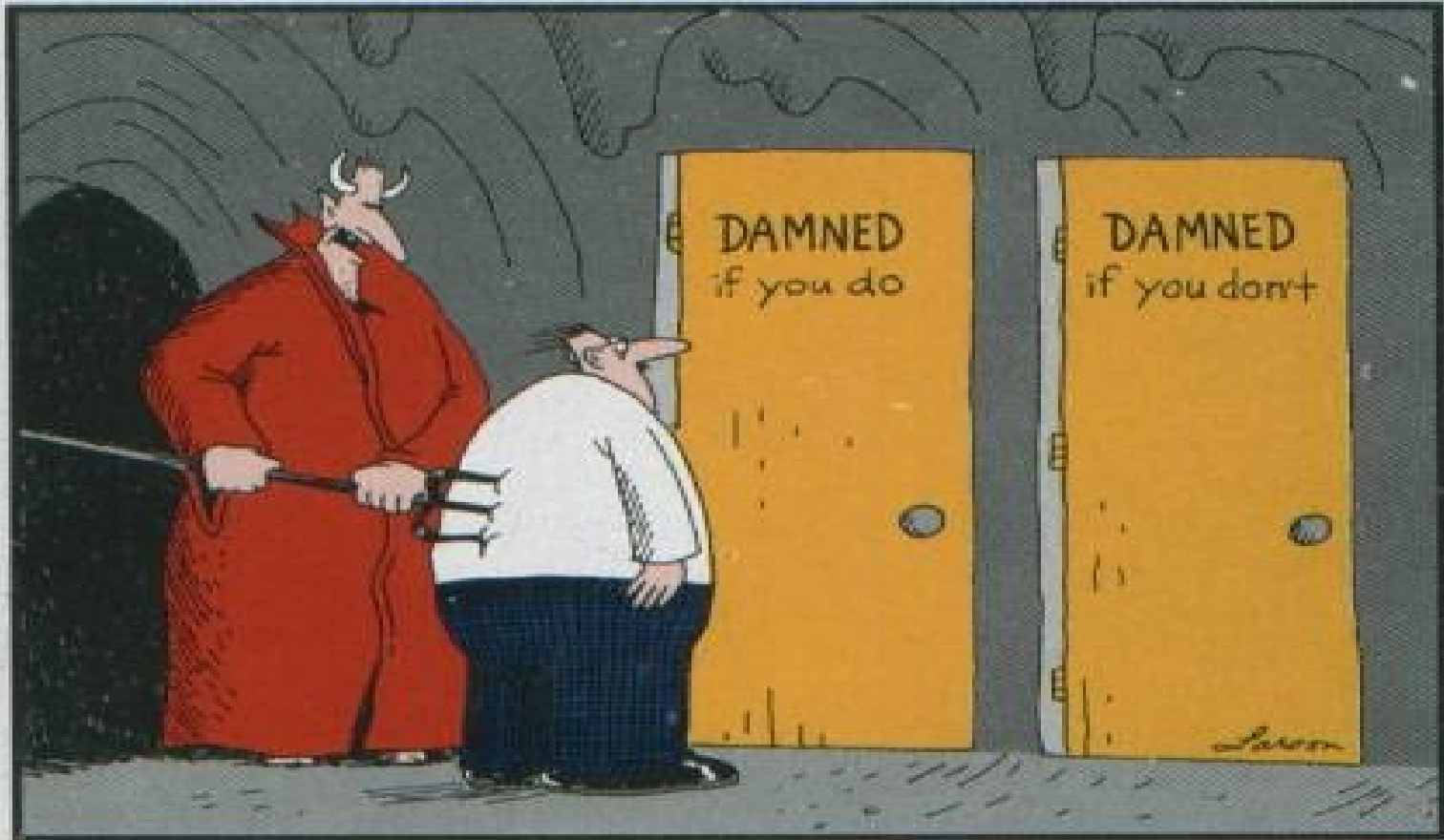
Ross Brownson, Enola Proctor, Rebekka Lee

What grant writing advice
would be helpful?

It's not always fair....



And decision points are not always clear...

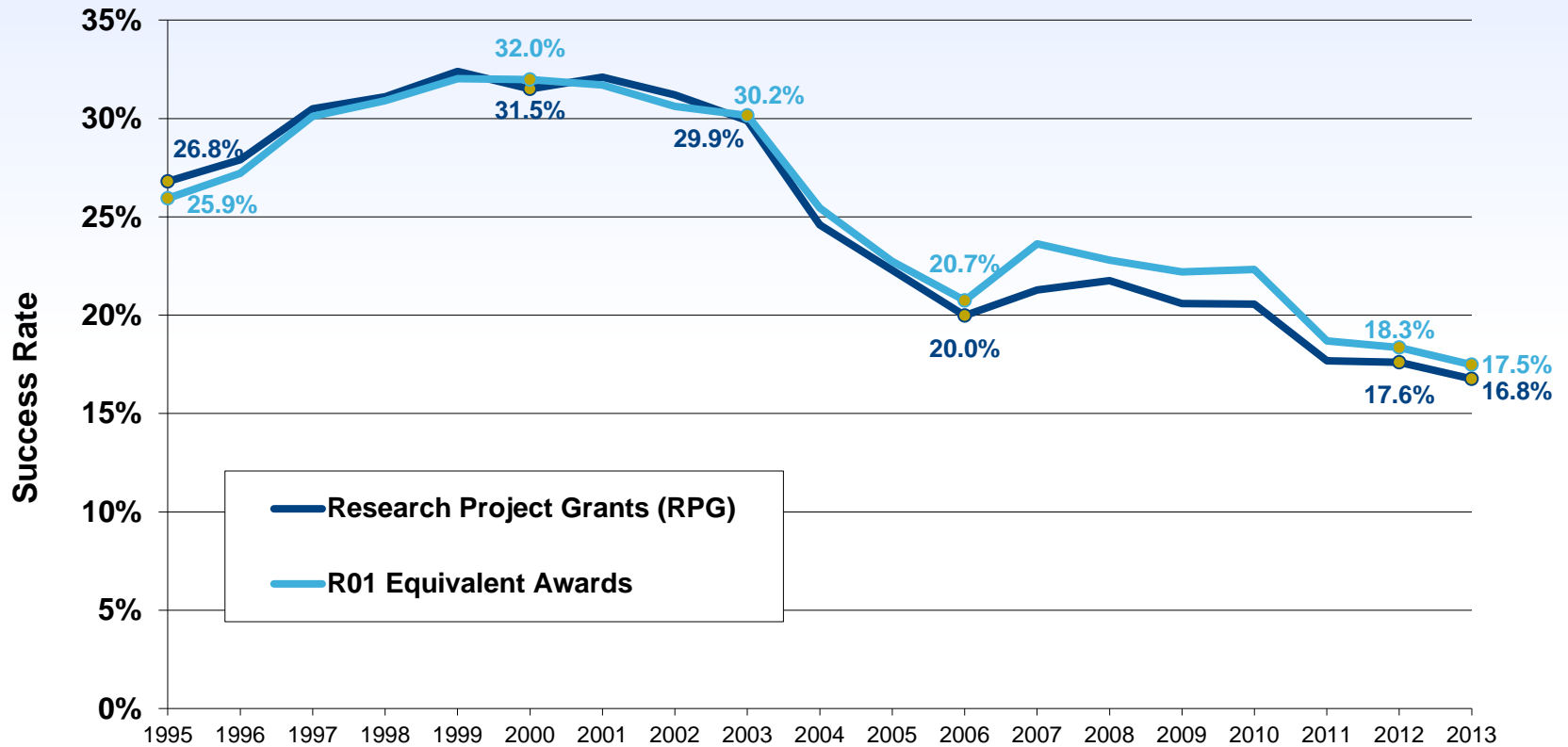


"C'mon, c'mon — it's either one or the other."

Backdrop

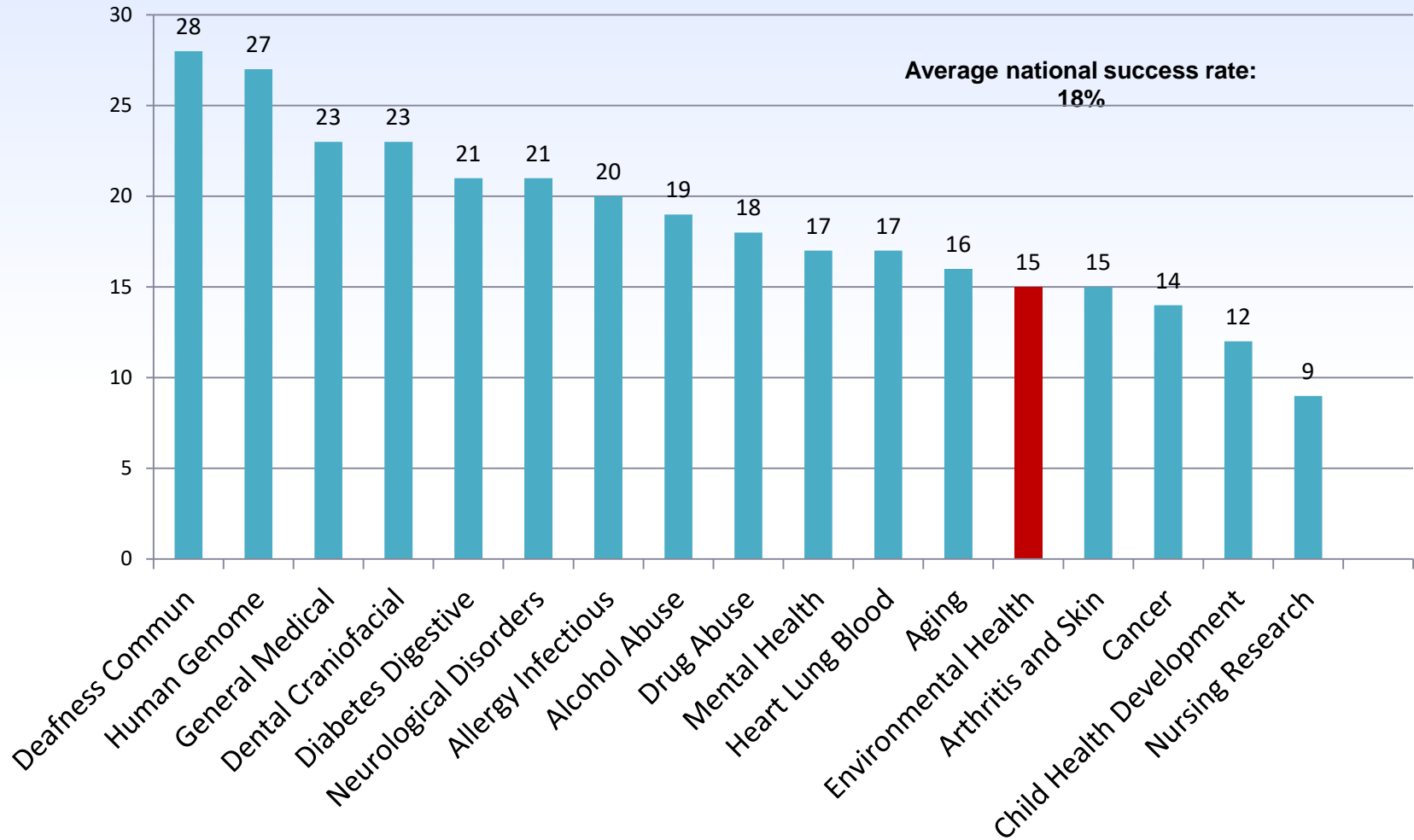
- Importance of grants to supporting research; forces researcher to clarify & focus ideas
- Declining paylines
- Need for well conceived grant bigger than ever
- Many similarities in what constitutes a strong grant for D&I research to those in other areas of science but also some unique aspects of D&I research:
 - Different endpoints with limited measures
 - Many frameworks/models
 - Need to test new D&I strategies
 - Meaning of “evidence-based” varies
 - Need to educate limited pool of reviewers
- Learned by experience but guidance is helpful
- To build on Proctor et al’s 10 key ingredients

Success Rates (Excluding ARRA)



Source: NIH Data Book <http://report.nih.gov/nihdatabook/index.aspx>
and supplemental tables available in *RePORT*

Examples of National Success Rates by NIH Institute, 2011



What drives your impact score? (from 32K applications)

- Approach
 - Regression weight 6.7
- Significance (3.3)
- Innovation (1.4)
- Investigator (1.3)
- Environment (-0.1)

Two sets of information

- 12 competencies from our card sorting exercise
 - classified beginner, intermediate, advanced
- Musings from study section veterans

Competency examples

Approach

- Utilize an appropriate D&I model or framework to organize a proposal and integrate research questions with clear and measurable study objectives; aims; measures, and analysis strategies.
- Identify measures that clearly assess the constructs of interest in the proposed study and are practical to apply in the proposed settings.
- Create a strategic dissemination plan for various target audiences that goes beyond the traditional publications and presentation at meetings.

Additional advice

- Give section-by-section tips to build on competencies
- For example
 - Aims page
 - The first part read (you have one chance for a first impression!!)
 - Include 2-4 realistic aims (don't over promise)

Overarching issues & tips...

- Read the funding announcement carefully
- Smaller grants = easier to get funded
- Think like a reviewer (busy, quick reaction, easily irritated, may be novices to D&I research)
- Match the grant type to your project/aims
- Discuss your idea with the program officer
- Turn to your institution for pilot funding to build the foundation for a larger grant

Overarching issues & tips...

- Use tables/figures effectively
- Write, re-write, budget plenty of time to present your best work
- Hold a pre (mock) study section (seek out brutal reviewers)
- Participate in a review (may be ECR in the US)
- Just like the best baseball players have a short memory at the plate; top scientists need to learn from rejection, build on it and move on.

Tools, resources

- Search on NIH RePORTER

<http://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter.cfm>

- Full, funded D&I grant applications

<http://portals.tracs.unc.edu/index.php/d-iportal/grants/sample-grants>

- Sample aims pages (we're compiling)
- Other helpful resources?

Miracles happen!!
So, never give up...



Experience, questions and discussion

