Top 10 Common Reviewer Concerns

**# 10 Concern**: This Application is not Appropriate for the Grant Mechanism
- A R21 is NOT a R01
- A Career Development Award is NOT a Research Project Grant

**# 9 Concern**: Experimental Details are lacking or have not been adequately provided
- Don’t assume the reviewers know the methods
- Show the reviewers that you have thought about your research plan

**# 8 Concern**: Alternative Approaches or Interpretation of Data are Inadequately described
- Describe how you will analyze and interpret the data you collect
- Provide other experimental directions you might use should you encounter problems

**# 7 Concern**: The Background section is missing key publications and experimental findings
- Thoroughly describe the literature, especially controversies, but
- Support your views and ideas
- Be sure you have found key references

**# 6 Concern**: Preliminary Data is lacking
- Include preliminary data for all aims
- Use preliminary data to show knowledge of methods and data analyses

**# 5 Concern**: I’m not sure that the Investigator can do the proposed experiments
- Don’t propose what you can’t do
- Include Collaborators and Consultants on your project

**# 4 Concern**: The Proposal is OVERLY AMBITIOUS
- Set realistic goals for the budget and project period you propose

**# 3 Concern**: The Proposal is NOT MECHANISTIC
- Do not propose correlative studies
- Do not propose general observations

**# 2 Concern**: The Specific Aims do NOT test the Hypothesis, The Specific Aims depend on results from previous aims
- The best applications are those with independent specific aims that address your hypothesis using different approaches

**# 1 Concern**: There is not a CLEAR HYPOTHESIS
- Provide a focused hypothesis
- Describe the importance and relevance of your problem
- Be clear on how your project will move the field forward