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GERO 550

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Reference: Curry, L., & Nunez-Smith, M. (2015). *Mixed Methods in Health Sciences Research: A Practical Primer.* Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications Ltd.

1. Summary: The authors of this text present detailed real-life examples of grant applications that resulted in actual funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Three examples of grants using mixed methods research were listed along with key elements of the application structure, strategy and suggestions on developing successful future proposals.
2. Main Points:
3. Detailed examples of 3 mixed methods research applications, R01 mechanism, R21 mechanism and Career Development Awards, funded by the NIH are described in an overview, a full description of the project, and interviews from principal researchers on their application process including challenges.
4. Suggestions or tips from the principal researchers, whose successful grant applications were featured in the chapter, are listed to address a wide range of road blocks that may come up for future investigators. The tips discussed are the investigators way to help future researchers strengthen their applications.
5. Study design templates for grant applications are discussed in the chapter to aid future researchers in overall study flow or to be used as organization and communication tools in project planning.
6. Analysis:
	* What are the results and/or conclusions?
* The conclusion to this chapter is that major funding is a necessity to completing mixed methods studies. In addition to major funding, smaller mechanisms of funding are equally beneficial and essential. Providing real examples from investigators that have been through the same process, gives future investigators the opportunity to strengthen their applications and be successful.
	+ Do you believe that the authors provided a persuasive argument? Why or why not?
* I believe the authors provided persuasive arguments and concrete results. The examples that were listed provided real insight into grant application strategy and gave readers suggestions on how to make their proposals strong and successful
	+ How does this article relate to the topics and themes addressed this week in classwork?
* This chapter relates to the topics and themes addressed in class by providing additional support in the form of real funded grant applications to use towards future evaluations.
	+ Did you like this article (or not)? Briefly, discuss its strengths and weaknesses.
* I liked this article because it gave other actual examples of successful applications. It made it easier to tie the whole process together and understand it further. Hearing excerpts from the investigators and their suggestions gave another sense of understanding and made the chapter strong in the point the authors were trying to make. The chapter was weaker on the background explanations of each funding mechanism because they were too brief.
	+ What does the article add to your knowledge of aging and/or program evaluation?
* This chapter adds more insight on research development that can be used in aging research. It gives additional tools to use through templates and tips to help organize a study.
	+ Please state your evaluation of the article or Chapter and indicate what you think is its most salient contribution to your development as a program evaluator?
* The chapter provided additional details in the form of real, successful grant applications. It contributed to my development as a program evaluator by giving tools and organizational techniques to use and the reason why to use them. This knowledge will help with future program evaluations because it gives a good starting point and continuity of success.
1. About the authors:
* Leslie Curry is a successful researcher with her work being supported by many large funders, like the NIH. Her knowledge and experience contribute to her teaching about research and the entire process.
* Marcella Nunez-Smith is a doctor and researcher involved in many research programs and founded the Equity Research and Innovative Center. She also teaches an award-winning workshop on applying best practices for mixed methods grant preparation.