

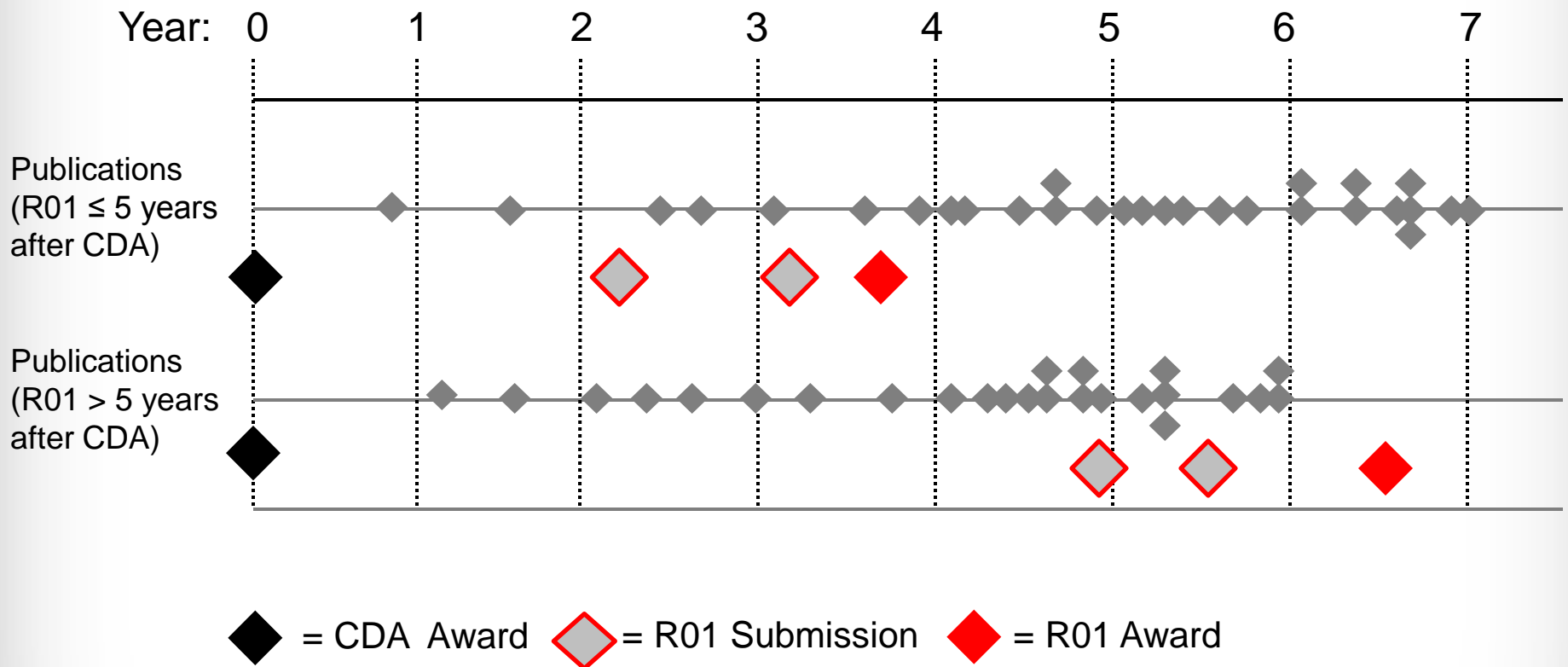
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Joining the Pros



NIH Recruitment Goals

- Relevance to human health = right sport
- Research that will advance the field = wins
- Work that is new and unique = excitement
- Capacity to fill gaps in knowledge = build the team
- Clear and attractive approach to the science = mad skills
- Plan for challenges & roadblocks = strategy & endurance
- Confidence of reviewers in expertise & resources = coaching staff believes you have potential

What's on the Test?

- 40-yard dash
- Bench press (225 lb total repetitions)
- Vertical jump
- Broad jump
- 20 yard shuttle
- 3 cone drill
- 60-yard shuttle
- Position-specific drills
- Interviews — each team allowed 60 interviews in 15-minute intervals
- Physical measurements
- Injury evaluation
- Drug screen
- The Cybex test
- The Wonderlic Test

What's on the Test?

Overall Impact

Individual Criteria (strengths and weaknesses are listed for each component):

- Significance
- Investigators
- Innovation
- Approach
- Environment

Scoring this Test



Impact	Score	Descriptor	Strengths/Weaknesses
High Impact	1	Exceptional	<div style="background: linear-gradient(to top right, black 49%, white 49%, white 51%, black 51%); border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <div style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">Strengths</div> <div style="text-align: left; padding-left: 10px;">Weaknesses</div> </div>
	2	Outstanding	
	3	Excellent	
Moderate Impact	4	Very Good	
	5	Good	
	6	Satisfactory	
Low Impact	7	Fair	
	8	Marginal	
	9	Poor	

Non-numeric score options: NR = Not Recommended for Further Consideration, DF = Deferred, AB = Abstinence, CF = Conflict, NP = Not Present, ND=Not Discussed

Scouts in Decision Mode

- Composition of Study Section
- Time commitment & focus
- Process
- Not all components equally weighted
- Informed snap judgment by a group
- Aims page must sell the grant across all five components
- Weaknesses are blood in the water.

Successful Prep

- Read *many* examples of funded grants.
- You must ask mentors to share and to coach.
- Use the **Edge for Scholars Funded Grants Library** (abigail.brown@vanderbilt.edu)
- Read most in your type of science to get feel for conventional organization.
- Read some completely outside for creative ideas about structure and presentation.

Must Ace Aims

Outline of Aims Page

- 1) Significance and gaps/flaws in knowledge to be resolved
- 2) Unique, feasible work with strong team in strong setting
- 3) Highlights of approach woven in
- 4) Overarching hypotheses
- 5) Aims (with hypotheses)
- 6) Summary of innovation, probability of success, importance of knowledge to be gained.

Coach Hartmann says:

You're not ready until **six established scientists** applaud your aims page. Don't sign up for the combine until they do.

Catching the Eye of the Scouts

- ✓ Area you know (don't change positions)
- ✓ Relevant publications as first or last author (documented wins)
- ✓ Mature science (look like a pro not a college player)
- ✓ Preliminary data (game stats speak clearly)

Catching the Eye of the Scouts

✓ **Preliminary data** (cont'd)

Ex: Describe methodologic gaps in prior studies (all exposure in cohorts was recalled, biomarkers not used). Meta-analyze and model the effects of bias; produce validation estimates (report of exposure likely overestimated by 12% in those with outcome and under-reported by 45% in those without). Demonstrate impact of uncertainty and importance of resolving logical flaws in prior studies.

✓ **Feasibility**

Table 1, recruitment data, retention data, preliminary instrument results, QC for biomarkers runs.

Ready for Try-Outs?

- Understand everything about the game: rules, refs, standard plays, strategy
- Spend time with coaches
- Study the habits and moves of the pros
- Practice (*Talent is Overrated*)
- Ace your aims
- Get and use critique
- Aim high
- Know you will make a strong showing

65,648 NCAA: 254 Draft Picks

