How do I write a competitive ALF application?

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Agenda

- Me – an early ALF researcher

- What is ALF?
  - Definitions
  - ALF-ST (for Residents)
  - ALF-YF (“young researchers”)
  - ALF-project

- Tips & Tricks (or …how do I get the money?)
My ALF- background

- MD 1980 - 1986
- PhD Medical Cell Research 1986 – 1990
- Internship 1990 – 1992

  ALF support 50% time for research for 6 years

- Professor in Clinical Urology 2006
- "ALF-dean" 2012 – 2017
What is ALF?

- ALF is an agreement to reimburse the healthcare providers for hosting medical students and research

- "Intrång" – not really infringement …
  …. a fruitful collaboration between the Medical Faculty and Region Skåne in the distribution of governmental funding

- Definition of ALF research:
  Clinically oriented research focusing on diseases or healthcare problems
  Clinical, epidemiological or experimental studies related to diseases
  Performed within the healthcare organization
  Able to implement in prevention, diagnosis, treatment or monitoring of diseases
Three categories of ALF-funding

- ALF-ST (for Residents) for PhD students
- ALF-YF ("young researchers") "early post-docs"
- ALF-project for research group leaders
ALF-ST (2021 – 2023)

• You are a resident aiming at a PhD (RS employee)
• 3-6 months for research (3-4 years)
• You are not supposed to have a ”super-CV”
• …but a ”super-supervisor” is good to have!
• The research environment is of utmost importance
ALF-YF (2021 – 2023)

• You are a "young" researcher with a "recent" PhD (RS employee)
• 3 - 6 months for research (3+3+3 years)
• A unique opportunity to become an independent researcher
• It is good to change track or at least find your own way and form your own group
ALF-project (2021-2022)

• You are a research group leader (or close to) (RS or LU employee)

• Ranking – more or less money

• For those who are new or were not successful last time (2018)

• Funding period of 4 years (everyone will apply again 2022)
Tips and tricks - 1

• Start early
  ✓ Look at the application form
  ✓ Find someone to get advice from and maybe read your draft

• Who will review my application?
  ✓ May not be familiar with the subject?
  ✓ Understandable within 30 minutes
  ✓ Abbreviations – be careful! (never annoy a reviewer!)
Tips and tricks - 2

- Your CV: stay clear and honest
- Collaborators: good to have – who is doing what?
- Other funding: very important, especially if you are the PI
- Your publications: extremely important to be correct!
- Budget: "feasible" and precise
Tips and tricks - 3

• Your project plan (and abstract) – ”the body”!

✓ Aims: Simple, clear and relevant

✓ Background: Short and include your own contributions

✓ Action plan: Not superficial!
  Appropriate methods? ”Sexy”?
  Time-line (chart)
  Who will do what?

✓ Preliminary results: May be very important!

✓ Relevance: Patient-related project? Implementation!
  Solving a healthcare problem?
Tips and tricks - 4

• How does the reviewer look at your application?
  ✓ Patient relevance?
  ✓ Is this project important? (healthcare perspective)
  ✓ Is it feasible (CV, list of publications, environment, timeline)
  ✓ Is it innovative?
  ✓ Is it competitive?
What is the most important research?

Changing clinical practice (guide-lines) by implementation of new methods or treatments

Diagnostics

Prognostics

Prediction

Reduce mortality and morbidity

Preserve quality of life
Thanks for your attention and good luck!