How do I write a competitive ALF application?

Anders Bjartell MD, PhD, FEBU
Professor and Senior Consultant
Department of Urology,
Skåne University Hospital, Malmö
Lund University, Sweden
Agenda

- Me – an early ALF researcher
- What is ALF?
- Tips & Tricks (to 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

- "ALF is a 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
Tips and tricks - 1

• Start early
  ✓ Read the instructions carefully and check the application form
  ✓ Find someone to get advice from and to 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 will 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 role of the applicant? (multicentre studies, big groups)
What is the most important research?

Changing clinical practice (guidelines) 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!