Tips for Starting an Educational Research Proposal
Initiating your COMCEC Grant Proposal

Diane E. Beck, Pharm.D.
Professor and Interim Associate Dean for Curriculum and Assessment
College of Pharmacy
University of Florida

• Define the purpose of your project:
  - Your purpose statement should define the following (PICO):
    - Participants
    - Intervention
    - Comparison or alternative intervention
    - Outcome

Develop a Well Written Purpose Statement

• Conduct a Thorough Literature Review
  - Develop a theoretical or conceptual framework.
    - See article by Bordage, Medical Education 2009
  - Prepare Your Introduction. Your literature review will help you prepare the Introduction section of your paper. Your introduction section will cite the following:
    - A “narrative hook” in the first few sentences
    - Research problem statement (1-2 sentences)
    - Justification of the problem (cite the literature supporting your research problem.)
    - Deficiencies/gaps in what we know about the problem.
    - The audience (readers that the work is done for)
  - Literature search needs to be more than just Pubmed!

Conduct a Thorough Literature Review
• Remember the Literature Pyramid

How to Search the Literature

• Databases important for Medical Education Research:
  - Pubmed – only taps a few journals
  - Ebsco Host Web (see handout for databases)
  - ERIC – via Cambridge Abstracts

• Develop a Search Query
  - See handout

How to Search the Literature

• Search the Grey Literature
  - See handout for how to find

• Seek "Early Stage Materials"
  - See handout for how to find

How to Search the Literature
• Is your project FINER??
  • Feasible
  • Important
  • Novel
  • Ethical
  • Relevant

• If your project is FINER, proceed with preparing your proposal.
  • The literature review will be essential for preparing your background and methods sections.

Reflect