

*The March 3, 2014 meeting provided the opportunity to hear from CDMRP reviewers and funded applicants alike. Points to ponder are included below; contact the CCTS Research Commons with question: [ccts@uab.edu](mailto:ccts@uab.edu).*

**Do not underestimate the administrative burden needed by the different forms and documentation.**

- RFAs are very detailed – read them carefully, especially in the Full-Proposal Stage

**PRE-APPLICATION STAGE**

- Grant Mechanisms are available to support investigators at all career stages in a variety of fields (OPPORTUNITY!)
- Approximately 50% of applicants will be invited back for full proposals based on the clarity of their pre-application and enthusiasm for their ideas.
- Take advantage of your Peers through the CCTS Panels Program to maximize your chances. Contact the CCTS Research Commons ([CCTS@UAB.EDU](mailto:CCTS@UAB.EDU)).

**FULL PROPOSAL STAGE**

- Lay Sections are Critical – Patients, Families and Advocates are on review panels and have a strong influence on the outcome. The ability to generate enthusiasm in this group cannot be overlooked.
- Military Relevance is an important feature in many applications
- Timelines are essential and be realistic on what you can accomplish – In contrast to NIH/NSF scientific approaches, DOD applications embrace a Statement of Work (SOW), which is defined by a set of deliverables and milestones over a defined timeline (an essential feature of the proposal). SOWs tend to be binding, and it is not advisable to do more/different.
- Content – While preliminary data is not a prerequisite, it can give you an edge
  - Proposals built on innovation, novelty and high risk may have an advantage
  - Applications that integrate biostatistical foundation will be advantageous