

Outline for the CTS Predoc Oral Qualifying Exam Proposal

1. Title

2. Name of Candidate

3. Name(s) of thesis advisor and consultants on protocol (not thesis advisory committee members)

4. Background

A brief review of the pertinent literature and a list of references. This review should demonstrate that the candidate has a thorough knowledge of the literature, which is directly related to his proposal. Include the titles of the articles read. Emphasis should be on developing a review that is highly relevant to the project rather than an exhaustive review of the entire field. Its content should be carefully selected to keep the length of this section to not more than 2-3 pages. In writing the entire proposal unusual abbreviations and technical jargon should be carefully defined so that the proposal can be readily understood by scientists who are not actively working in the specialized field which it addresses.

5. Rationale

State the hypothesis to be tested and the logic of the approach to be used.

6. Specific Aims

A list of not more than five or six (preferably three or less) sentence statements of the primary things you plan to determine in the project (the purpose of the study).

Examples: 1) To determine in an animal model the effects of hypertension on development of atherosclerotic lesions and the nature of aortic sterols, steryl esters and free acids. 2) To assess

the reversibility of these changes after treatment of hypertension.

7. Experimental Design

Outline or display the number of observations in each experimental group and list what procedures are to be done and what measurements are to be made on each of the groups. In patient studies the criteria for inclusion in each experimental group should be listed.

8. Methods

Describe the specific methods to be used in the project. Standard methods need not be described in detail but the basis for new methods and/or significant modifications of established methods should be given. References to specific methods to be followed should be listed.

9. Analysis of the Data

How are the data obtained to be handled to test the hypothesis listed under Rationale. It is not sufficient to merely state that standard statistical methods will be used. The specific comparisons to be made and the number of data samples to be obtained for use in making the comparisons should be listed.

10. Significance

Explain the significance of this study with reference to the state of knowledge of the field and diagnostic or therapeutic implications of the funding.

11. Human Studies Aspects

(when applicable) - Please see Institutional Review Board policy manual:

<http://mayocontent.mayo.edu/irb/index.html>