

## Guide for Assigned Reviewers' Comments on FOT Research Grant Applications

Please use the following guidelines when preparing comments for the FOT Research Committee's grant application review.

**Description:** Provide an overview of the project.

**Critique:** Please address each criterion listed below individually.

### 1) Significance

Does this study address an important problem? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge be advanced? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts or methods that drive this field?

### 2) Approach

Are the conceptual framework, design (including composition of study population), methods, and analyses adequately developed, well-integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?

### 3) Innovation

Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches or methods? Are the aims original and innovative? Does the project challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies or technologies?

### 4) Investigator

Is the investigator appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers (if any)?

### 5) Environment

Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Do the proposed experiments take advantage of unique features of the scientific environment or employ useful collaborative arrangements? Is there evidence of Institutional support?

**Overall Evaluation:** Briefly summarize the most important points of the Critique, addressing the strengths and weaknesses of the application in terms of the five review criteria. Recommend a score reflecting the overall impact of the project on the field, weighting the review criteria, as you feel appropriate for each application.

**Human Subjects:** Does the project have Institutional Review Board approval? Are the risks to the subjects reasonable in relation to the anticipated benefits to the subjects and/or in relation to the importance of the knowledge that may reasonably be expected to result from the research?

**Animal Welfare:** Does the project have Institutional Review Board approval? Is the research appropriate?

**Budget:** Is the total budget appropriate for the project proposed? Provide a rationale for suggested modification in amount or duration of support, if necessary.

---

**FOT Research Committee  
Scoring Scale\***

---

1.0 – 2.0	Unacceptable
2.0 – 3.0	Fair
3.0 – 4.0	Good
4.0 – 5.0	Outstanding

\*Modified from the 2011 OTA Research Guidelines Scoring Scale  
September 2006