**SPECIFIC AIMS** (1 page total; font: 11; 6 lines per vertical inch)

***The Problem*:** (1-2 sentences; this is the first sentence/hook): Set the big picture, central challenge of your field that people are interested in solving. In this sentence, briefly describe what your proposal will be about. Ideally, these first sentences should convey a sense of importance or urgency to your research. (1-2 sentences): Elaborate on the problem, and what has been going on in your field to solving it. Explain quickly WHAT your research topic is and WHY it is critical that you conduct the research. Bring your hook in here.

***What is Known and Gap****: (aka: knowledge of prior research) -*State what is currently known in the specific field. This part should not be very long (3-5 sentences) but it should ground the reader in the subject of your research. Be concise and focused on only the key points. Identify key papers, data, knowledge in support of your scientific premise. Also, can weave in your pilot data that is a part of ‘knowledge of prior research’.

Name a general bottleneck in your field that is slowing or stopping progress towards achieving the big picture named in the first sentence. This is a critical part of your aims! You must have a single, clear gap that needs solving, in order to have a good proposal. Can *italicized* key gaps. End this paragraph with something along the lines of “Therefore, there is a critical need to xxx. We are in a unique position (or have the unique tools) to address this need”. It should be clear in this paragraph that your research proposes the next logical step to advance the field (and best if you are the only investigator in a position to do this).

***Solution****:**(hopefully only you can answer by your awesome idea)***:** Our ***long-term goal*** is xxx. The ***overall objective*** of this application, which is the next step toward this long-term goal, is xxx. Our overall ***hypothesis*** is xxx. We will test our hypothesis with the following ***Specific Aims***:

**Specific Aim 1: To xxx**. The hypothesis tested in Aim 1 is xxx. We will use/carry out/take advantage of xxxx (state methods in 1 to 2 sentences). Accomplishing this Aim will xxxx.

**Specific Aim 2: To xxx**. The hypothesis tested in Aim 2 is xxx. We will use/carry out/take advantage of xxxx (state methods in 1 to 2 sentences). Accomplishing this Aim will xxxx.

**Specific Aim 3: To xxx**. The hypothesis tested in Aim 3 is xxx. We will use/carry out/take advantage of xxxx (state methods in 1 to 2 sentences). Accomplishing this Aim will xxxx.

***Significance and Impact****:* The final paragraph should summarize the innovation (plainly state what is innovative about your project; what would completion of this proposal bring to the field that is not present currently?), expected outcomes (again, use plain language. What do you expect to see at the completion of each aim? Incl

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