

EDITING SAMPLE FOR APPLICATION

INSTRUCTIONS

A postdoctoral fellow that is planning on submitting a K99/R00 (Pathway to Independence Award) is seeking your advice on how to improve their writing. Considering the below NIH K Award Review Criteria, please compose 3-4 suggestions for how the postdoctoral fellow can improve their Candidate's Background statement, which is included below. Please indicate the priority of your suggestions in your answer. Copy and paste your answers into your Slideroom.com application.

REVIEW CRITERIA:

- What is the candidate's record of research productivity, including the quality of peer-reviewed scientific publications?
- What is the quality of the candidate's pre- and postdoctoral research training experience, including expertise gained?
- Based on the postdoctoral candidate's experience, track record and prior research training, what is the candidate's potential to become an outstanding, successful independent investigator who will contribute significantly to his/her chosen field of biomedical-related research?
- To what extent does the application provide evidence of the candidate's research creativity, and does this evidence suggest that the candidate has the potential to develop a creative, independent research program?

CANDIDATE'S BACKGROUND

As an undergraduate at University of the Pacific I received extensive training in research principles while participating in a collaborative research project to study the mechanical properties of spider silks with Dr. Wendy Storm. The cobweb of the black widow spider consists of a three-dimensional mesh with vertical threads, called gumfoot threads, which are attached to both the mesh and ground substratum. Our analysis offered a demonstration that unlike most silks that function to dissipate energy, the gumfoot silk stored energy, which is released in a spring-like action after detachment of substratum.

After the completion of my PhD at the University of Oregon in Dr. Bill Board's laboratory. I pursued novel approaches to elucidate the molecular pathogenesis of the gastric pathogen, *Helicobacter pylori*. My research has enhanced the understanding of how *H. pylori*'s virulence factor, CagA disrupts host cell signaling pathways. I independently developed a transgenic *Drosophila* model.

As a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Ben N. Jerry's laboratory at Stanford University, I am investigating the immune responses to a novel adjuvant called AdJVIN. I will determine the *in vivo* interactions of AdJVIN with antigen presenting cells, such as dendritic cells and macrophages, and I will elucidate the mechanisms by which these interactions induce adaptive immune responses. I am excited to become proficient in immunology and the new skills and experiences gained will set me solidly in the path to becoming an independent scientist.