

# The NIH Kangaroo

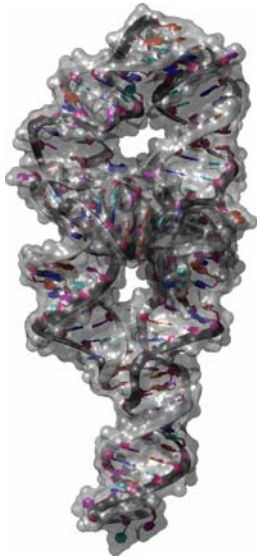
QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

NIH Pathway to Independence  
(PI) Award (K99/R00)

# Things to do early

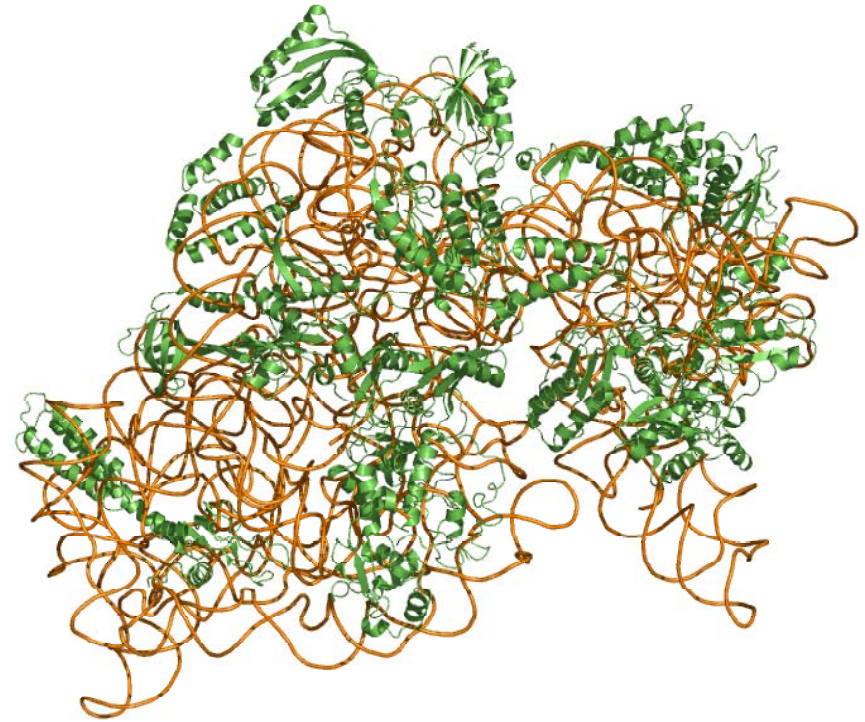
- Outline Specific Aims and write it.
  - 3 at most, I had 2.
- Identify three letter writers
  - Not including mentor
  - Send them specific aims
  - Call them to tell them what you are doing
- Call NIH. Talk to PO and decide where your grant will go.
  - Cover letter should be addressed to a Program Officer at NIH who knows you.

## Model System (My Post-Doc)



**Figure 2:** Structure of the P4-P6 domain of the *T. thermophila* group I intron, with computed accessible surface area shown in grey. Nucleotides in the center of the molecule will be less reactive to hydroxyl radicals than those on the surface.

## Big System with Medical impact (My career)



# My letters

- Dan Herschlag
  - RNA dude, major collaborator of our lab
- Michael Brenowitz (Key)
  - My best friend experimentalist, agreed to host me.
- Sarah Woodson (Key)
  - RNA collaborator, works on Ribosome. She has collected new data
  - I had only met her once, but she had read my papers.

# Administration

- Figure out who is “in charge admin.”
  - Become good friends with that person.
- Get a PI Waiver so you can have admin help (not kidding)
- Fill out all budget pages etc.
  - Not that hard, if you cannot figure that out, may want to reconsider application

# Career Goals

- Good thing to figure out anyway
- Use power words like
  - Establish
  - Confirm
  - Expand
- Has to tie in with Specific aims
- Training is huge.

# Career Development

- Focus on K99 phase
  - Go travel
  - Learn something outside your area
    - Computation
    - Propose taking classes
    - Interactions/Get known

# Science

- Has to be strong
- Should clearly show a difference from Mentor
  - Russ (my boss) works on RNA folding
  - I will work on the Ribosome
- Should be “eminently feasible.”

# Submission

- You will be exhausted.



# Forget about it

- Go apply for jobs
- Generally be pessimistic
- Don't listen to rumors that say they only fund 4 out of 74.
- Eventually you'll get a score
- Mine was 173 first time, 136 second time
  - 100 is perfect, 1000 is sucks, anything over 500 is not scored.
- Score tells you nothing

# The grant and reviews are @

- <http://helixknot.stanford.edu/tmpweb/K99.zip>