Radiology Pilot Grant Proposal Outline (½ -1 page)

* **Introduction:**
	+ Explain background for this pilot project (literature review, evidence base, first of kind pilot, why this research is necessary, etc.)
* **Proposal:**
	+ Define your research question. Be sure your proposal answers the following:
		- What do you plan to accomplish?
		- Why do you want to do it?
		- How are you going to do it?
		- Who will conduct the study?
	+ **PICO** (T) is a valuable tool to ensure thorough explanation of your research proposal.
		- **P**opulation**/P**roblem**/P**atient*(ex. Lumbar spinal injuries in professional rugby players)*
		- **I**ntervention**/I**ndicator*(ex. MR Imaging of symptomatic rugby athlete’s lumbar spines)*
		- **C**omparison *(ex. MR Imaging of asymptomatic rugby athlete’s lumbar spine)*
		- **O**utcome of interest *(ex. Determining rates of lumbar spinal injuries among rugby players)*
		- **T**ime**/T**ype of study *(ex. 1 year, prospective or retrospective study)*
* **Pilot Grant Amount Requested/Grant Justification**
* **Future plans for this project *(address plans for external funding)***

An example proposal can be found on the following page.

Remember to keep your proposal concise, but thorough. The reviewer should have a solid understanding of your proposed research and what you plan to do with the findings from reading this page.

If you are in need of additional assistance in developing your proposal, please contact RadiologyResearch@salud.unm.edu.

**Example Proposal**

*Rugby athletes are constantly subjected to high-impact contact when playing their sport. Repeated high-impact contacts can lead to unanticipated injuries. Extensive literature review demonstrates that cervical spinal injuries and concussions are among the most common clinically diagnosed injuries for rugby players1,2,3. Very little research exists on lumbar spinal injuries as a result of repeated high-impact hits that rugby players endure playing the game.*

*This case study plans to utilize MRI without contrast of the lumbar spine for a symptomatic professional rugby athlete to determine if a lumbar spinal injury exists. MRI will consist of routine spine imaging and advanced diffusion imaging. This will occur when subject presents with lumbar pain that is attributed to impact while playing rugby. One asymptomatic subject (rugby athlete) and one control subject (competitive swimmer) will have MRI without contrast for comparison imaging.*

*We are requesting pilot funding of $2,000 to fund MR imaging for study subjects. This funding will supplement additional funding received from the Neurology department to cover study costs.*

*Findings from this case study, though not statistically generalizable, could lead to future imaging research among rugby players to determine the physical impact of the sport on the lumbar spine. This would contribute to scientific body of knowledge, and could serve to inform physicians and athletes alike of possible risks associated with playing rugby.*

*References (can be footnotes)*

1. *Reference 1*
2. *Reference 2*
3. *Reference 3*