**Principal Investigator/Program Director (Last, first, middle):**

**Applicant Organization:**

**Abstract Title:**

**Research Plan**

Organize Sections A-D of the Research Plan to answer these questions:

1. What do you intend to do?
2. Why is the work important?
3. What has already been done?
4. How are you going to do the work?

Do not exceed five pages, including all tables and graphs. **A five-page absolute maximum will be strictly enforced. Applications that exceed this limit, or that exceed the type size limitations, will be returned without review.** You may use any page distribution within this overall limitation adhering to the following format:

1. **Specific Aims**. State the broad, long-term objectives and describe concisely and realistically what the specific research described in this application is intended to accomplish and any hypotheses to be tested.
2. **Background and Significance**. Briefly sketch the background to the present proposal, critically evaluate existing knowledge, and specifically identify the gaps in which the project is intended to fill. State concisely the importance of the research described in this application by relating the specific aims to the broad, long-term objectives.
3. **Preliminary Studies**. Provide an account of the principal investigator’s preliminary studies pertinent to the application and/or any other information that will help to establish the experience and competence of the investigator to pursue the proposed project.
4. **Research Design and Methods**. Outline the research design and the procedures to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include the means by which the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted. Describe any new methodology and its advantage over existing methodologies. Discuss the potential difficulties and limitations of the proposed procedures and alternative approaches to achieve the aims. Provide a tentative sequence or timetable for the investigation. Point out any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and the precautions to be exercised.

Although no specific page limitation applies to the following sections (E-G) of the application, it is important to be succinct.

1. **Consultants/Collaborators**. Include biographical sketch pages for each consultant and collaborator and place them with those of the other participants on the project.
2. **Contractual Arrangements**. Provide a detailed explanation of the programmatic, fiscal, and administrative arrangements made between the applicant organization and the collaborating organizations and individuals. Attach confirming letters countersigned by an authorized official of the collaborating institutions and principal investigator or copies of written agreements.
3. Literature Cited. Do not scatter literature citations throughout the text. List them on a separate page at the end of the Research Plan. Each literature citation must include the title of the article, the names of all authors, the name of the book or journal, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. Make every attempt to be judicious in compiling a relevant and current list of literature citations.