Each proposal submitted for Merit Review funding is assessed according to the criteria below, with attention to both strengths and apparent weaknesses.

Unless there are compelling reasons to follow a different format, you should follow the order of presentation in Form 3201.

**Scientific and technical merit**
- Clarity and completeness of presentation
- Adequacy of background information
- Adequacy and appropriateness of approach
- Feasibility of approach
- Clarity of hypotheses
- Clarity of specific aims
- Research design and methodology
- Relevance of work to state of the art in its field

**Originality and innovativeness**

Qualifications, expertise and research experience of the principal investigator and staff

Availability of institutional resources

Relevance to human health problems

Reasonableness of the proposed budget and duration of the project relative to the proposed research