What are Preliminary Proposals?

- May be the first stage of a grant application or
- May be the second stage after letter of intent
- Often used to screen and then invite at this stage
- May have only internal agency review and/or peers
- NSF, DOE, DOD, ED, Robert Wood Johnson major users of preproposals
- Usually a mini-version of the full proposal
  - Typically 3-5 pages of narrative
  - Often same title, agency number, proposal components, format, order as full proposal
  - May have a full budget
  - May require biosketches
  - May require references

- Pro: saves investigator's
  - Time: no need for full proposal unless invited
  - Anxiety: usually short turn-around decision
- Pro: allows risk-taking
  - with new ideas
  - with new agencies
    - Reviewer comments can help to improve the concept and make a more fundable proposal

- Con:
    - May disclose confidential/proprietary ideas
    - Concept may not be fully developed at this stage