

Justin Synnott, Research Manager,  
University College Dublin,  
Research & Innovation

*Some survival tips for planning  
successful grant applications*



*Early Career Researchers*

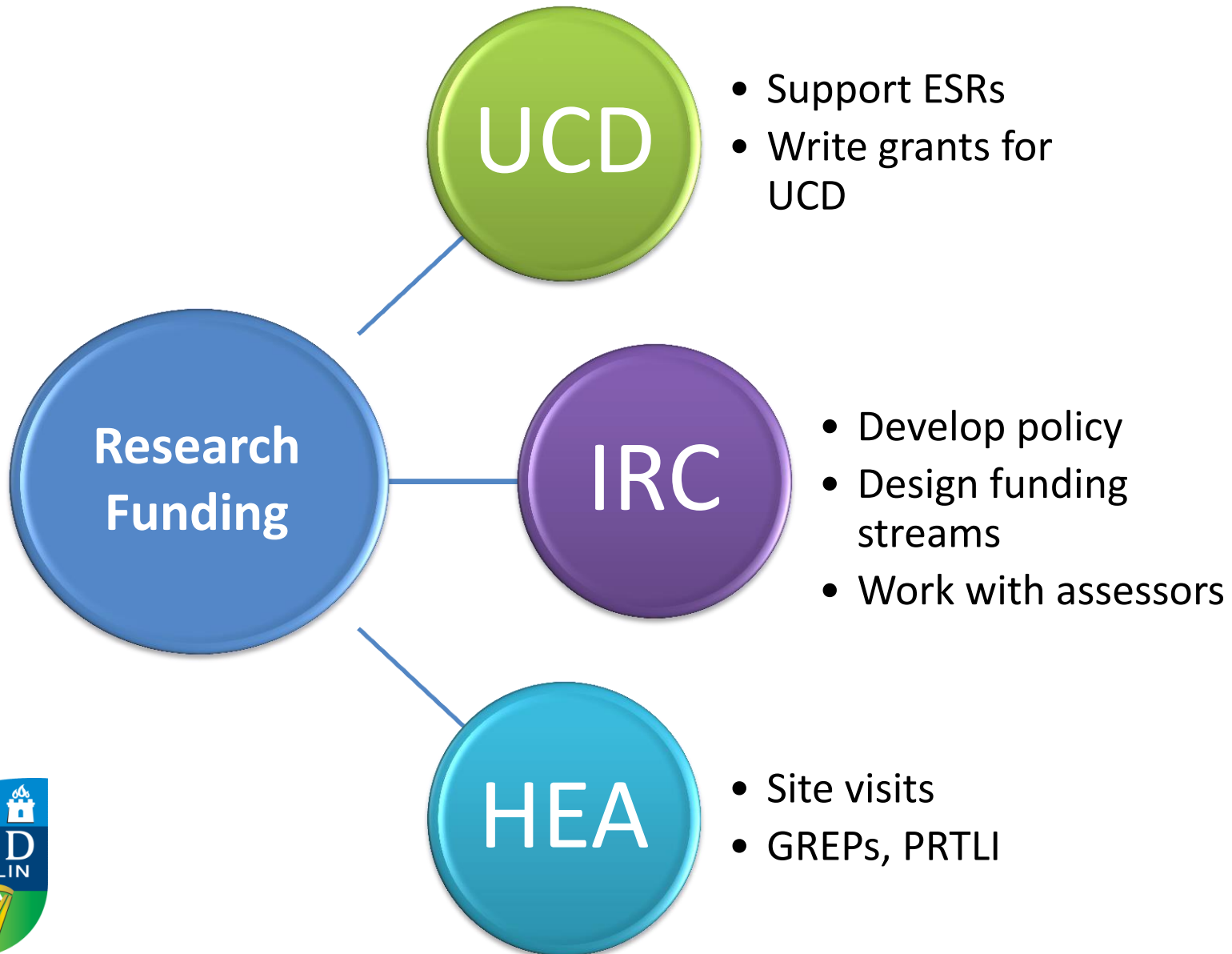
*Society for Social Medicine, TCD, 01 09 15*

# What do I want to say?

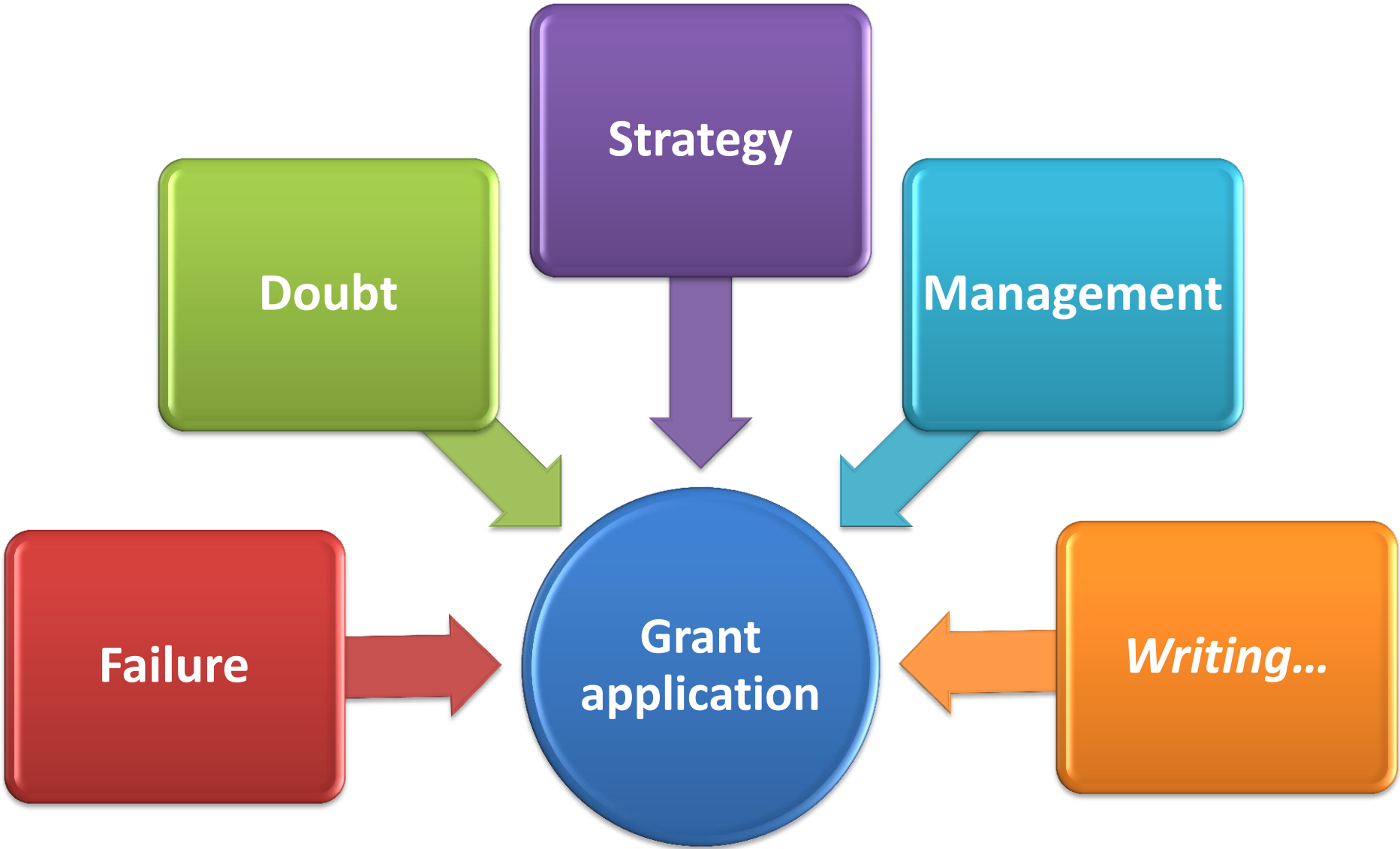
1. Setting the scene: multiple views on the same topic
2. Observations: Grant application is an exercise in...
3. **My 'survival' kit to grant application**



# Setting the scene: multiple views on the same topic

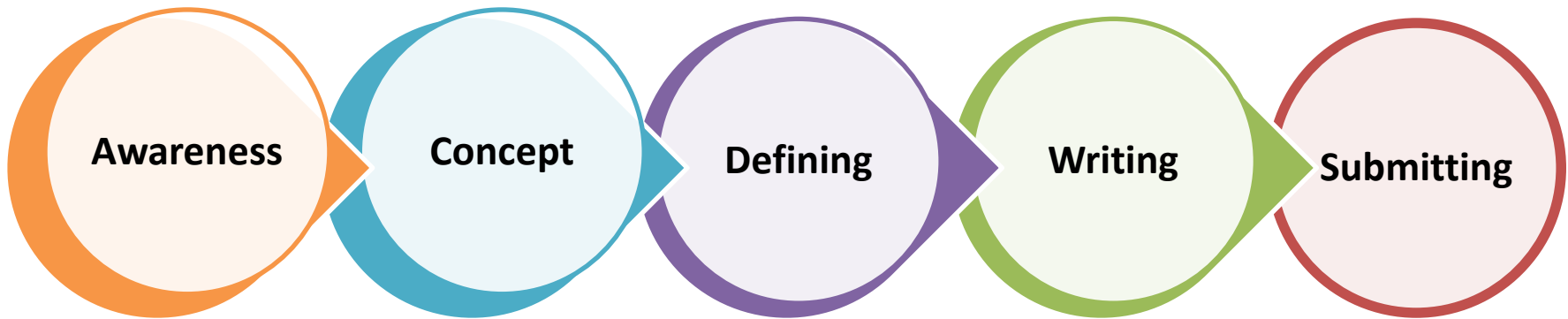


Observations: Grant application is an exercise in...



# My 'survival' kit to grant application

*In the context of early-career stage researchers...*



# My 'survival' kit to grant application

## 1. Be an expert on funders

- In order to successfully draw down funding from any funder, you must understand *their* motivation
- Funding calls have **personalities**. Do you know them?
- Become an agent for their goals

## 2. Be strategic

- What call are you applying to now? What's the Plan B?
- Which funders will you hit? When? Why?
- How does this activity support your career trajectory ?

## 3. Be scientific: remove doubt

- Build a straw man of your proposal
- Turn it into a solid framework over time
- Does it respond to the needs of the agency?

# My 'survival' kit to grant application

## 4. It's a **social act**: Manage the people

- Don't slave away at the desk (all the time)
- Mentors, referees, readers, devil's advocates
- Think of the poor assessors!
- Work with Research Offices

## 5. They're multi-faceted: Manage the content

- Ethics, Gender, Finance, Career, Mobility, Personal statement
- Requires reflection and expertise
- This requires time

## 6. Require high-quality writing

- Writing in different styles
- Variety of readers
- Stay on topic
- Avoid using the application as a thought development tool

# My 'survival' kit to grant application

## 7. Research content

- Bold and Daring or Boring and Banal?
- Will you push the state of the art?

## 8. Dealing with 'failure'

- Seek feedback
- Complain if it is not forthcoming
- Use your investment in time for future grant applications



# **Final thoughts...**

- **A career-spanning activity**
- **It is the backbone of a research career**
- **Complex, time consuming and multi-faceted**
- **It asks a lot of busy researchers**
- **Success can be increased by recognising and mastering all the variables**

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Thanks for your attention!

[justin.synnott@ucd.ie](mailto:justin.synnott@ucd.ie)



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