TOPICS IN CAREER DEVELOPMENT:
FINDING FUNDING FOR YOUR RESEARCH

Janet Gross, PhD  jsgross2@emory.edu
Grants and Proposal Development Consultant
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AGENDA
1) Finding funding resources for public health research
2) Contacting the funder

Finding Funding for Research and Training

1. Grants.gov
2. NIH tools
3. Grant Forward*
4. Foundation Directory Online*
5. Partners in Information Access for the Public Health Workforce
6. Trialect
7. Google

* subscription services through Emory

1. Grants.gov

- a centralized location for grant seekers to find and apply for federal funding opportunities. Today, the Grants.gov system houses information on over 1,000 grant programs and vets grant applications for 26 federal grant-making agencies.

- Biomedical research, agriculture, weapons, transportation, fisheries
- Narrow search to limit hits to biomedical, public health, behavioral and social science research, limit the selection of funding agency (but this is typically not necessary)
- DHHS (Department of Health and Human Services)
- National Institutes of Health (NIH), Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ), National Science Foundation (NSF), etc.
- Be careful – federal agencies in addition to the NIH fund biomedical and public health research
- DoD funds breast cancer research, ALS, Parkinson, Alzheimer
- USAID funds global health and nutrition research

Search Grants
- Keyword
  - Search by your eligibility status, e.g., "Postdoctoral", "graduate student", "student"  
  - Search by topical keyword, e.g., "diabetes"  
  - Search by type of award, e.g., "dissertation", "fellowship", "career development"

Manage Subscriptions
  - Receive notifications of new grant opportunity postings
  - Cannot save based on your a priori keyword criteria
  - Must use forced categories

http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search_grants.html
Key Funding “Hits” for Predoctoral Awards

- Dissertation awards (R36)
  - R36 = Dissertation Award
  - various NIH institutes and other ‘sister’ institutes, e.g., HRSA, AHRQ, CDC

- National Research Service Award Individual Predoctoral Fellowship (NRSA F31)
  - Mostly all NIH institutes
  - Maybe other ‘sister’ institutes, e.g., HRSA, AHRQ, CDC

1. NIH websites to find funding for research and training opportunities
   - NIH F Kiosk
   - NIH Office of Extramural Research
   - Fogarty International Center’s searchable database to locate international funding opportunities

2. NIH RePORTER tool to review others’ research abstracts and see which NIH I/C funds what areas of research and training

NIH F Kiosk

- One-stop shop for all NIH F awards
  - https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/fellowships

- Award for predoctoral fellows:
  - Ruth L. Kirschstein Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award (NRSA F31)
  - restricted to US citizens

NIH Institute/Centers (I/C)

- Once you identify some good ideas for which I/C might fund your work, go to their website and sign up for email funding alerts

- Locate the I/C newsletters
  - Google “NICHD newsletter” or “NCI newsletter”

- There you can subscribe for funding announcements

- Select ‘subscribe’ at specific NIH Institute/Center website
  - Example: National Institute of Child health and Human Development newsletter
  - Go to NICHD, News and Media, Join NICHD listserv

(same search strategies apply to other DHHS funders, e.g., CDC, AHRQ, HRSA, etc.)
NIH Fogarty International Center

http://www.fic.nih.gov/Pages/Default.aspx

Funding Opportunities
- http://www.fic.nih.gov/Funding/Pages/default.aspx

Search categories:
- Predoctoral/Graduate Students
- Travel
- Postdoctoral

NIH RePORTER query:
Who is making what awards?

What F31 awards has NCI issued?
Project Number field: 1F31% (% = wildcard)
Agency/Institute/Center of interest: NCI

What F awards has all of NIH issued?
Activity Code field: Fellowship

To find all F awards at Emory or in Georgia:
Activity Code: Fellowship
Organization: Emory or State: Georgia

3. Grant Forward

www.grantforward.com

- Register with your Emory net id and password
- Save searches to get email alerts about similar funding opportunities
- Keyword search: Dissertation
- Small grants
- Bridge funding
- Disease association clinical funding opportunities
- Dissertation awards
- Travel and conference awards/competitions
- Grants for non-US citizens - Select International’ under Applicant Type

http://osp.emory.edu/funding/External.html
Basic vs. Advanced Search

• **Basic Search** from home page
  - Intuitive Keyword search
  - Use any kind of keyword – e.g., doctoral or travel or ‘postdoctoral’ or diabetes or cancer
  - and/or Category search – select from list

• From “Results page”
  - use filters to narrow results
  - Export, Save search/alert to get email alerts about this search in the future

• **Advanced Search**

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4. Foundation Directory

[www.healthlibrary.emory.edu/](http://www.healthlibrary.emory.edu/)

*Databases, Foundation Directory*  
(need net id to use this)

– Searches on broad biomedical search terms, diseases, or any “text” word such as “dissertation”

– To search for which foundations fund your ideas/criteria “Search Grantmakers” (not “Search Grants”)

– Very rich database for private foundation funding

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- Funding Opportunities
- Resources related to proposal writing
5. Trialect

http://trialect.com/

General searching tips

a) Neur* = neurology, neuroscience, neurosurgery
b) Young Investigator may not be the same as “training” or “scholarship/fellowship”
c) The terms: Training, Scholarship or Fellowship should be used in addition to “Postdoctoral”
d) Don’t be unnecessarily specific – use preset categories carefully
e) What is the objective of your search? Use these terms as keywords – e.g., travel, dissertation, postdoctoral fellowship
f) Other interesting funding terms: Bridge funding, high risk/high reward research, mentored award

Search terms:

Who funds gynecological epidemiology research
Dissertation award genetics
Reproductive epidemiology grants fellowships
Career Development Award gynecology
Travel scholarships epidemiology
Postdoctoral Fellowships gynecology

Learn new search terms from vocabulary used by funders

Contacting the Funder

#1 most important question:
Is the funder interested in your research idea?

- What is the funder’s MISSION?
- What else have they funded; what is in their portfolio?
- Don’t assume the funder of your PI/mentor will fund you for a K

Why do I need to know all this?
- NCI does not fund all cancer research
- Can I conduct a clinical trial for a K award?
- Who funds sleep research – NINDS or NHLBI?
- Who funds genetics research?
- Basic science – NIH vs. NSF vs. DOD?

KNOW YOUR FUNDER

Should I contact a Program Officer before I apply?

- YES
- Table of Contacts in the Program Announcement
- See Extramural Nexus, NIH Notes, Application Submission, You Ask, We Answer
  - http://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/nexus-by-date/
You can (and should) Contact these Funders

- Foundations
  - Gates Foundation
  - Nestle Foundation
  - American Cancer Society
  - American Heart Association
  - Autism Speaks

- Government or quasi-government
  - All the Institutes/Centers of the NIH
  - Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)
  - National Cancer Institute
  - National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
  - Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)
  - National Science Foundation (NSF)

The Grantmaker (i.e., the Funder)

- Funders are in the business of giving grants
- Funders seek the best possible portfolio of funded research
- Success for a Funder is to share credit for discoveries, treatments and other good outcomes

Learn as Much as You Can About the Funder

- Regardless of how great the proposal is, are you and your ideas a good match for the funder?
- Research the funder (study their website)
  - What are their priorities?
  - Who do they fund?
  - What do they fund?
  - What do the grant guidelines say?
- How do I find out what the funder has previously funded?
  - http://www.pcori.org/pfaawards/
  - NIH Reporter https://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter.cfm

Should I communicate with the funder?

- YES, but this makes me nervous!
- Some funders have a policy of not consulting with the applicants – this will be published on the website
- Most funders are happy to have you contact them – they don’t want you to waste your time submitting a proposal that is not relevant to their mission

What should I do?

Prepare an introductory email along with:
- NIH Biosketch
- brief Specific Aims
- If this is for Fellowship or Career Development
  - brief overview of your training plan
  - identify your mentor
    - including title, lab, any extramural funding

I’m worried about talking to the funder because……

- I might say/write something ‘stupid’
- They will remember how ‘stupid’ I sounded
- They might not be interested in my work and they will say ‘no thanks’
Communicating with the Funder

Dear Dr. Hyde,

My name is Janet Gross and I am a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Psychology at Emory University. My dissertation advisor, Dr. Jones, was a colleague of yours at the Basel Research Foundation in 2010.

I would like to submit an application in response to the Basel Research Foundation’s RFA # 224: Innovative Research Methods: Prevention and Management of Symptoms in Chronic Illness. I would be most grateful if you could give me some feedback about my biosketch and brief specific aims (attached) to give me a sense of whether my research focus aligns with the mission of your Foundation, specifically, the Child and Adolescent Health division. Would it be possible for me to contact you by phone to review my research aims?

Many thanks for your assistance.

Janet Gross, PhD
(full signature with all identifying info including PHONE #)

Wait 1 week ......

- Follow up with another ‘reminder email’
- Don’t take silence as an answer
- Who does your mentor/PI know at the NIH?

BE A GOOD CONSUMER!!