The Goldilocks Approach to Acquiring CDA Funding

Finding the 'just right' zone for your research funding plans

10/11/2021

K-Club

Sponsored by:

EMORY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Department of Pediatrics

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EMORY WINSHIP CANCER INSTITUTE
National Cancer Institute-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center

Georgia CTSA
Georgia Clinical & Translational Science Alliance

EMORY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Department of Medicine

Survey Drawing

K-Club Specials: Institutional K Opportunities

- Georgia CTSA KL2 - https://georgiactsa.org/training/kl2.html
  - Support and enhance career development for junior faculty (MD, PhD, MD/PhD) committed to a career in clinical and/or translational research
  - Deadline: Feb 1, 2022
- Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) - www.bircwh.emory.edu
  - Train junior faculty, through a mentored research and career development experience, to become independent investigators who use novel, interdisciplinary approaches to advance the science of women's health and sex/gender research
  - Deadline: Feb 1, 2022
- Application Workshops for both
  - Nov 4 and Nov 11, 2021, from 9:30-11am
  - Will provide details review of the application process for both opportunities plus tips on how to assemble a competitive application
  - See websites for workshop registration information

K-Club Specials: Institutional T Opportunities

- Georgia CTSA TL1 (T32-like) - http://georgiactsa.org/training/tl1/index.html
  - Focused on providing innovative didactic and mentored research training to individuals interested in careers that encompass clinical and/or translational research.
  - Predoc and Postdoc opportunities available
- Predoctoral TL1 Program
  - For medical students and PhD graduate students
  - Deadline: Feb 15, 2022
- Postdoctoral TL1 Program
  - For physicians in training (residents and fellows) and postdoctoral fellows with PhD, PharmD, or equivalent degrees
  - Deadline: March 15, 2022
- Workshop
  - December 3, 2021, from 9:30-11am
  - See website for workshop registration information

K-Club Special

2021 NIH Virtual Seminar on Grants Administration and Program Funding

- **When:** November 1 - November 4, 2021
- **Who:** If you are an administrator, researcher, early-stage investigator, graduate student, or anyone new to working with the NIH grants process…then this seminar is designed specifically for you
- **What:**
  - Learn about NIH grant processes, policies, and programs.
  - Interact with NIH program, grants management, review and policy staff.
  - Gather resources to use and share with colleagues.
  - Engage and network with your peers and Meet 1:1 with NIH experts.
- **Register:** https://nihvirtualseminar2021.vfairs.com/en/

Today's Panelists

Rebecca Levit, MD
Assistant Professor
Division of Cardiology, Department of Medicine
Emory University

Soumitri Sil, PhD
Associate Professor of Pediatrics
Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

Jennifer Spangle, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Radiation Oncology
Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University

Pamela D. Winterberg, MD
Associate Professor
Director of Basic and Translational Research
Division of Nephrology, Department of Pediatrics

Career Development Awards
Typical components

- 3 – 5 years in length
- Provides substantial salary support but limited research funding
- Contains both a research plan and a career development plan
- Includes a team of mentors, co-mentors, advisors, etc
- Goal: Transition to research "independence" –

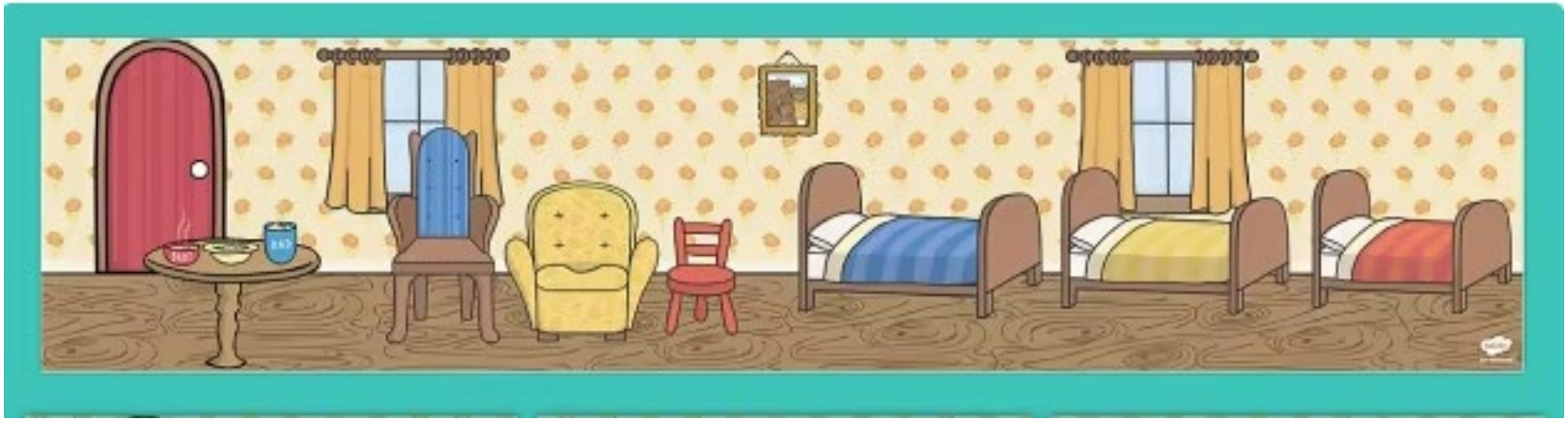
  Intent is to help promising new investigators achieve research independence and compete successfully for independent funding

Examples

- **NIH K08 Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award**
  - Must have a clinical doctorate degree and be pursuing basic research
- **NIH K23 Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award**
  - Must have a clinical doctorate degree and be pursuing patient-oriented research
- **NIH K01 Mentored Research Scientist Development Award**
  - Generally geared towards non-clinical PhD scientists, but some NIH Institutes use the K01 to enhance workforce diversity, or to help people train in a new field or for those who have had a hiatus in their careers
- **American Heart Association**
  - Open to clinician and non-clinician scientists researching cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease research
- **VA CDA-2**
  - Open to both clinicians and non-clinicians in research supported by the four VA official services

Panelist Question

- What helped you decide the “just right” CDA opportunity for you? Was it based on-
  - Eligibility?
  - Research focus?
  - Concurrent funding allowances?
  - Special encouragement or competitive advantage? (e.g. having an example to follow, strong encouragement by the PO or your mentor, etc)
  - Other factors?



Mentored CDA Awards
A few more things to know

- Must craft a compelling argument why ***you*** need a CDA award
  - Describe why you aren't quite ready for independent funding
- In your career development plan, explain exactly what you need, who is going to give it to you, and how this additional training and mentored research experience will enable you to compete successfully for R01 funding
  - This is YOUR HOOK!
- Be specific: give concrete examples of areas where-
  - you need additional training or experience in order to conduct the proposed research and/or
  - areas where you are deficient that are directly related to your research career goals

Panelist Questions - The Hook

- What was “your hook?”
- Did it include didactic training and/or hands on training and/or what else?
- What is your advice/experience building in and pursing a degree granting program as part of your career development plan?
- Was there anything you proposed that you didn’t end up doing (and if so, how did it affect your career?)
- Do you have any words of wisdom about what does/doesn’t work here?

Panelist Question
Getting your foot in the (grant funding) door

- What were the key factors that ensured not just your eligibility, but also your <u>competitiveness</u> for your career development award?
  - Publications
  - Pilot data
  - Pilot grants
  - Working with others on their funded grants

Mentor Team
The five areas that must be present

1. Funding/stability
2. Aligned research interests
3. Strong Biosketch (research productivity)
4. Demonstrated commitment to mentoring and career development (mentoring track record)
5. Time considerations/ bandwidth

Panelist Questions
Mentors, Collaborators, Consultants

- What was the right number of mentors for you?
- How many consultants and collaborators did you propose and how did you position them in the grant effectively?
- Once you were funded, how did you use them?
- How frequently did your mentor team and entire team meet?

Beginning with the end in mind

- **From a career/research focus standpoint**
  - Narrow field to establish specialization versus broad field to provide plenty of options
  - Differentiating yourself and your research from your mentor's

Panelist Questions
Selecting/owning your research focus

- Was your CDA research specialized versus broad focused?
- How did you differentiate your own research path from your mentor's?
- Was it up front and deliberate, or did it organically develop along the way?
- Did you have a purposeful and deliberate conversation with your mentor, or did it happen more organically?

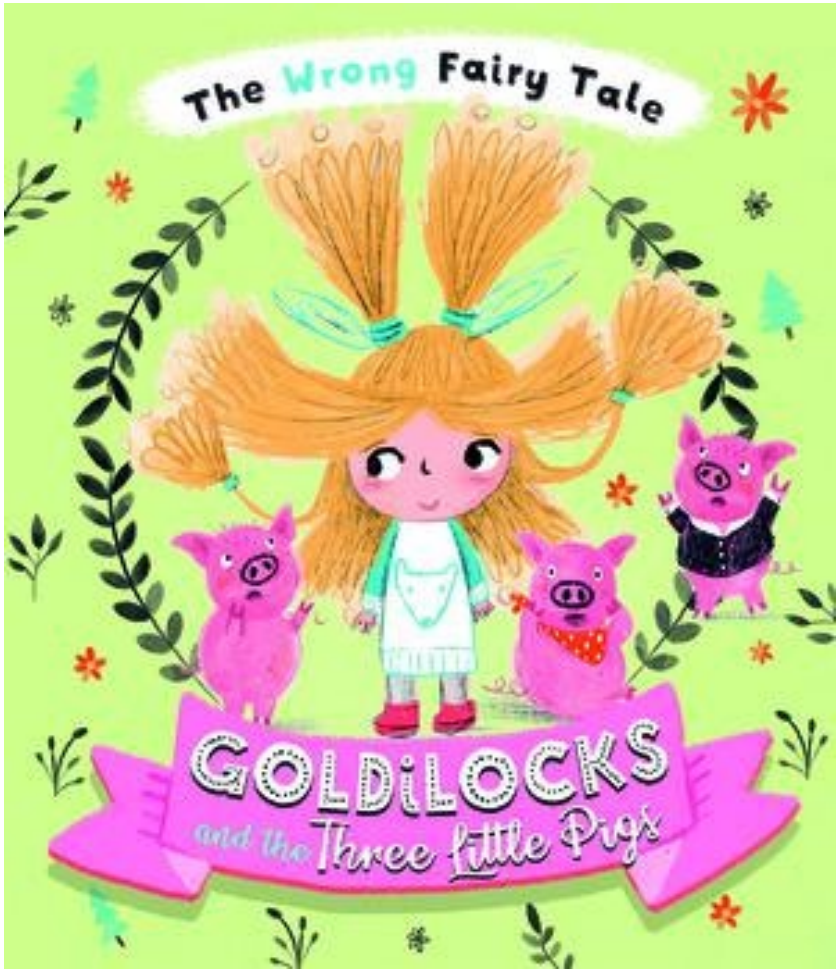
Beginning with the end in mind

- **From a grant writing standpoint**
  - Start way ahead
  - Ideally should build in time for grant review by your mentors
  - Plan for iterative process esp for Specific Aims page
  - Don't gloss over supporting documents – can provide important strategic advantage to reinforce key points and strengthen application

Panelist Questions
Grant writing/time management

- **From a grant writing standpoint**
  - Start way ahead - how much time do you think is ideal?
  - What's your best time management/project management tip?

Panelist Question:
Advice on Avoiding Common Pitfalls



- Overambitions aims/ proposal
- Under-resourced mentor team
- Not enough differentiation between your/your mentor's scope of research
- Lack of…statistics, space, funds, etc
- What else?

Final thoughts/questions