Research Funding Roadmaps: Highlighting pathways to funding success

December 10, 2018

Georgia CTSA
Georgia Clinical & Translational Science Alliance

CFAR
Emory Center for AIDS Research

EMORY
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE
Department
of Medicine

Children's
Healthcare of Atlanta

EMORY
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE
Department of Pediatrics
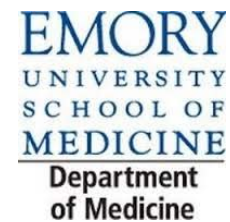
Survey Drawing

Announcements:
Internal CDA Opportunities

- BIRCWH – Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health
  - 75% protected research effort (verified through chair nomination letter)
  - Strong interest in pursuing an academic research career in women's health and/or sex/gender life science
  - Application deadline: March 1, 2018

- Georgia CTSA KL2 Program
  - 75% protected research effort (verified through chair nomination letter)
  - Research proposal must have a "human component," i.e. interaction with human subjects or specimens obtained from identifiable humans.
  - Application deadline: March 1, 2018

Today's Learning Objectives

1. Appreciate different pathways that can lead to an independent research career.

2. Learn practical steps and best practices that will help you achieve research independence.

3. Seek answers from researchers who have successfully navigated the research funding path to independence.
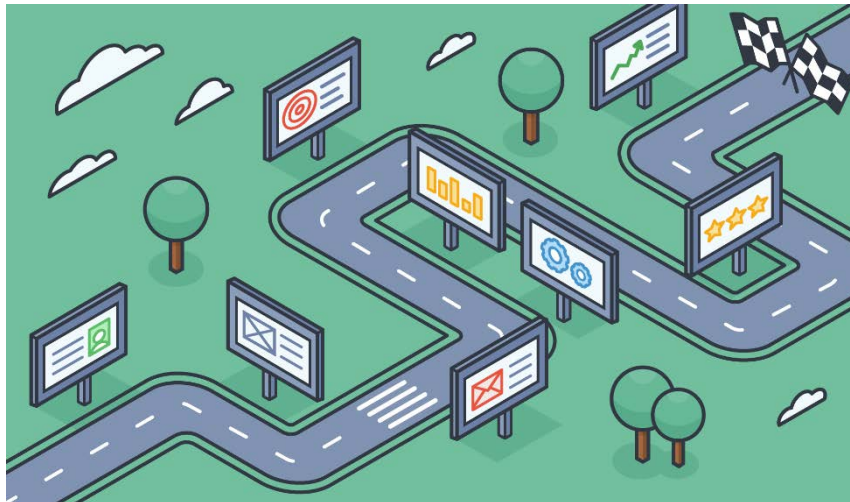
Seed, Foundation, Government Funding

What types of funding exist?

Seed/Pilot Funding Opportunities

✓ Smaller awards towards collecting preliminary data

✓ Many are offered locally (institutional, internal)

✓ List of opportunities listed at these links:

- http://www.pedsresearch.org/research/resources/funding/pilot-grant-programs

- http://www.medicine.emory.edu/research/internal-research-resources/funding-opportunities/index.html#Funding Opportunities

- http://www.osp.emory.edu/funding/Internal.html

✓ Can also join relevant listserv's to learn about internal seed funding opportunitie

Federal/Government

Pros	Cons
• **Award more grants with larger budgets**	• Usually more competitive
• **More likely to pay indirect costs**	• Bureaucratic/red tape/hoops/ lengthy RFA's with lots of acronyms
• **Clear guidelines & common application instructions/formats**	• Application requirements can be more complex
• **Stated priorities for funding & available to wide array of organizations and areas of research**	• Many postaward requirements/ stipulations
• **Set and predictable deadlines (usually)**	• Although set/recurring deadlines, they also release special funding announcements often with a short turnaround time (6 weeks)
• **More staff and resources for assistance and feedback during application phase**	• Review process may favor established investigators (although NIH and NSF are trying to address this)

Foundations

Pros	Cons
• Can find very specialized/ focused opportunities presumably with more favorable funding odds (i.e. fewer applicants)	• Award dollars usually less and may be restricted (e.g. no PI salary)
• Some make large grants	• Often do not allow indirect costs which can "cost" the awardee money – "Dean's Tax"
• Good source for seed, high risk/high reward grants & CDA's	• LOI step can also present a disadvantage
• Many require relatively easy LOI & then accept full applications by invitation only	• Program staff not always available to help you tailor your aims/application during application phase
• Application requirements can be less rigorous	• Oftentimes applicants get no reviews/feedback making resubmissions and continuous improvement difficult
• Often more flexible in meeting unique needs, circumstances and time frames	

Introducing Our Panelists

Through a high level snapshot of their own research funding path…

Disclaimer

- Accurate, but not necessarily complete
- This is the 20,000 foot view – all details not included

Kelly Bijanki, PhD

Assistant Professor, Neurosurgery, Dept. of Medicine, Emory University

Rebecca D. Levit, MD

Assistant Professor, Cardiology Dept. of Medicine, Emory University

	Rebecca Levit				
	2014 Seed	2015 LRP			
Prior T32/35 funding	2014 Seed	2015 Seed			2018 Foundation
	2014 Foundation	2015 Seed	**2016 Foundation ($$$)**	2017 Seed	2018 NIH R01
	Faculty				

Wilbur Lam, MD, PhD

Associate Professor, Hematology/Oncology, Dept. of Pediatrics, Emory University, Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering Georgia Tech & Emory University

								2018 NSF
								2018 R01
								2018 R01
					DoD Grant			2018 R21
	Wilbur Lam				FDA P50		2015 NSF	2018 R21
Prior F32 Funding		NSF Project PI			U01 project PI	2014 Pilot	2015 Pilot	2016 NSF	2018 U54
	2009 K08	2011 Pilot	2012 U54 Project MPI	2013 NSF	2014 R01	2015 R21	2016 R01	2018 R43

Faculty

Red font = MPI grant

Claudia R. Morris, MD

Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine, Dept. Pediatrics, Emory University

	Claudia Morris				
		2005-2011 Clin Trials Network funding			
Prior Seed Funding	2000-2010 Multiple Seed			2015 NIH R34	
	2000 K23	2006 NHLBI trial contract	2009 NIH R01	2015 NIH R01	**2018 NIH K24**
	Faculty				

> In business it is most often all about getting your foot in the door and once you do, everything opens up and things start to naturally progress into bigger and more opportunities.
>
> (Lori Greiner)

lzquotes.com

…and in science?

Getting your foot in the grant funding door

- What do you consider the critical parts of your own funding path that led you to securing your own independent funding?
  - Pilot data
  - Foundation grants
  - Working with others on their funded grants

Role for Mentors

- In what meaningful ways did you engage your mentors/did they engage you while working towards independence?

- What people other than your mentor were instrumental in helping you move to independence? How did you go about building those relationships?

Selecting your research focus

- 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?

- How did you select the best ideas to pursue in your first independent research grant application?

Importance of Service

- How did you find opportunities to establish yourself professionally through scientific citizenship and leadership roles?
  - Reviewing grants and articles
  - Service on university committees
  - Service on scientific advisory boards
  - Mentoring
- When to say "yes" and how to say "no"

Institutional Resources

- What institutional programs and resources facilitated your transition to research independence?
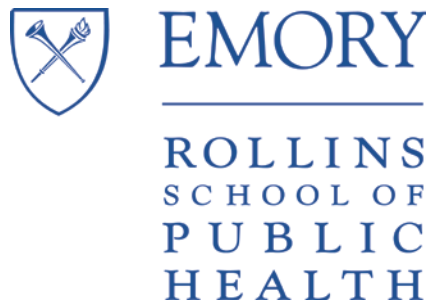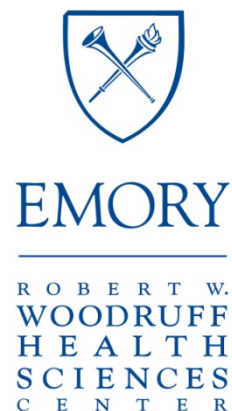
* **Courses** *   * **Cores** *   * **Programs** *

Key Non Scientific Education & Soft Skills

- What are the non scientific specific skills key to running a research lab/study team and how did you learn them?
  - Grants/financial management
  - Hiring and managing employees
  - Team building
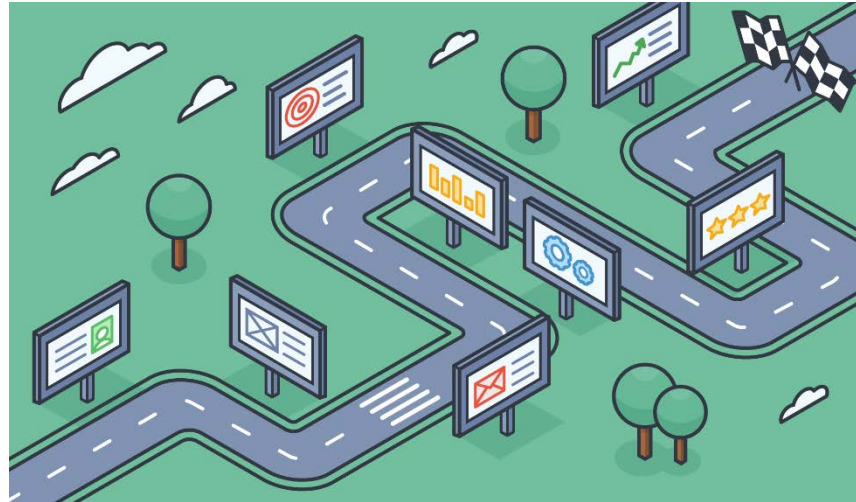 - Conflict resolution
  - Negotiation

Time Management

- What strategies do you use to balance competing priorities?
- What's your best time management tip?

Customize your own roadmap to success!

Sam Smith Research Roadmap								
Created 2/1/18								
Apr-18	Aug-18	August 30, 2018	Sep-18	Oct-18	Feb-19	Nov-19	Feb/March 2020	Jul-20
Meet with mentors to review progress & Specific Aims	Submit manuscript to Circulation	End of KL2 support	Submit ACC abstract on biomarkers work	AHA CDA application (deadine 10/17/18)	NHLBI K08 Submission (deadline 2/12/19)	K08 funding earliest start date (b/w Sept-Dec) OR Resubmit K08 (deadline Nov 12, 2019)	Receive score/reviews for K08 resubmision	Earliest start date for K08 resubmission
	Submit by Aug 30			funding would begin 4/1/19				

get cape.   wear cape.   fly.