Postdoctoral and Doctoral Extramural Grants Workshop

Sponsored by the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs & the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards

Debra Ann Fadool, Carson Bay, and Adrienne Stephenson
Speakers today –

Debi Fadool – Overview of Strategies
Rick Hyson – NIH; F31, F32
Alan Spector – NIH; R03, K99-R00
Jim Fadool – NIH DSPAN, Minority Supplements, HHMI Minority, and Women in Science L'Oréal
Kay Jones – USDA
Emily Moriarty-Lemon – NSF GFRP
Jian Feng – NARSAD Young Investigator

PEER Mentor Networking -
Louis Colling (ljc16b@my.fsu.edu) – NSF
Nicolas Thiebaud (thiebaud@bio.fsu.edu) – R03/R21, AHA
Sarah Terrill – (sterrill@neuro.fsu.edu) – F31
Karen Corbett (kmc13m@my.fsu.edu) – AHA
Nicole Short (nicoleashort@gmail.com) – F31
What they intend to tell you!

1. What is the eligibility?
2. What are the application components?
3. Are there supporting documents that are required?
4. How much preliminary data are required? And how much has to be generated by you?
5. What are common mistakes in designing your first grant application?
6. How long is the grant award, if funded? What is provided?
7. What is a pre-proposal? Is there an oral interview? What is current success rate?
Why Should You Design a Grant AND Submit it?

• Being able to express your idea is pinnacle as a postdoctoral scholar or doctoral researcher.
The Idea
Why Should You Design a Grant AND Submit it?

• Being able to express your idea is pinnacle as a postdoctoral scholar or doctoral researcher.
• Having a planned roadmap of your proposed work that has been rigorously examined by many individual experts that have provided feedback to you – will save you time!
The Road Map
Why Should You Design a Grant AND Submit it?

• Allows an intense thinking period for you to devise the best research.
Intense Thinking and Reading

Bounce ideas off your colleagues
Why Should You Design a Grant AND Submit it?

• Allows an intense thinking period for you to devise the best research.
• Makes you consider the big picture of your research.
Who is your consumer?
What do they want?
How do you know that is what they want?
How do you place your ideas into context?
What is everyone else’s product?
How is your product better?

Once you get your “loan”, you can build any store that you want.…
But you must generate a product.…
And it is good to have stock supplies.…
Why Should You Design a Grant AND Submit it?

- Allows an intense thinking period for you to devise the best research.
- Makes you consider the big picture of your research.
- Your submitted grant can be used for more than just that extramural review committee.
What Mileage Can You Get from Your Grant Proposal?

- You can use the proposal for your prospectus (doctoral).
- You can use the proposal for your research statement of your job application packet (postdoctoral).
- You can use the background introductory material for a Review Paper.
- You can use prepared images on websites, in oral presentations, conference posters.
Why Should You Design a Grant AND Submit it?

• Allows an intense thinking period for you to devise the best research.
• Makes you consider the big picture of your research.
• Your submitted grant can be used for more than just that extramural review committee.
• Makes you competitive on the job market – that your idea was reviewed and approved for funding.
More Competitive for the Next Career Move

• Demonstrates you are organized and an effective communicator of ideas.
• Makes you knowledgeable about your broad field of research.
• Your resume/c.v. is higher impact – sets you apart from your peers.
• Institutes comb federal data bases to search for young scholars that have been funded and they invite them to apply to their ongoing job searches.
Therefore we anticipated that mitochondrial cells contained in slices prepared from Kv1.3-null mice would be unresponsive to insulin-induced spike frequency changes. We first screened wild-type mice with a more highly-selectively blocker of Kv1.3 that binds the vestibule of the channel at pM affinity. Under current-clamp mode, application of X pM-ShK186 (X pM) significantly increased the firing frequency of mitral cell neurones by rapidly eliminating the pauses between spike clusters (Supplemental Figure 3A). To exhibit a firing pattern of firing not unlike observed in the presence of ShK186 was similar to that of mitral cells obtained from Kv1.3-null mice (see Supplemental Figure 4). Under In voltage-clamp recordings, application of X pM-ShK186 (X pM) blocked 70% of the outward current in mitral cells that were additionally pretreated with X nM-CTX (X nM) to block contaminating contributions from voltage-gated sodium channels (Supplemental Figure 3B). Subsequent application of insulin elicited a reduction in peak current amplitude of only X pA, representing only X percent of the total current (data not shown). Since ethanol application to cells not pretreated with toxin causes a reduction in peak current amplitude of X pA, or X percent of the control current, only a minor amount of unidentified current is modulated by insulin that is not contributed by Kv1.3 (Supplemental Figure 3C). In fact, consistent with these observations, the firing behavior of mitral cells in slices that were prepared from Kv1.3-null mice and recorded in current-clamp mode were largely insensitive to bath application of insulin (Figure 2D,E). Recordings from slices obtained from Kv1.3-null mice have not yet been reported for the slice configuration. Here we show that, in comparison to wild-type mice, mitral cells with a gene-targeted deletion of Kv1.3 have an increased sensitivity to applied-current step responses to lower current injections (lower threshold to first spike), display a more depolarized resting membrane potential, an increased firing frequency and a concomitant decreased ISI, a decreased time-to latency for the first spike, and a decreased pause duration between spike clusters (Supplemental Figure 4). Basal biophysical values are compared across genotypes in Supplemental Table 2.
When is it NOT a good time to prepare a grant application?

- Too much demand between manuscript/book/thesis and grant application.
- Still completing your coursework.
- You are too senior for a particular grant mechanism.
- You did not perform well in the classroom.
- Your advisor has conflicting time commitments and cannot develop a training plan with you.
- You do not have an expert to help analyze the planned research.
When is it NOT a good time to prepare a grant application?

- Conflict with a planned off-campus experience that would also provide research opportunity.
- Poor match of environment to the research planned.
- No one knows your experiences well (letters).
What Type of Peripheral Preparations are Required?

- Vertebrate or human subject approval
- Recombinant dna, virus, hazardous materials, select agents
- Conflict of interest approval
- Budget approval
- Departmental signatures
- Form pages and navigating the program announcements
- Familiarity with the submission software
- Government ID or registrations
How to Navigate and be Competitive with your Research Idea?

Find a Mentor!

Get Copies of Funded and Unfunded Applications

Ask lots of questions!
Logistics of the Workshop

April 1 – Submission of Specific Aims
With 5 names of committed reviewers for your discipline

April 26 – Critique of your Specific Aims
Writing review in small groups

June 7 – Full proposal due to your 5 committed reviewers

June 28 - Mock Study Section w/ reviewers
RESPOND TO NEXT WEEKS’ QUALTRICS!!!

Whether continuing or not

All Visuals Will Be Accessible Online at the OPDA Slide Archive!