Identifying Funding Opportunities for Junior Faculty

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Junior Faculty Success is Critical To the Long-Term Success of the Institution
Some Friendly Advice

• Develop YOUR philosophy
  – What is the scale of your program?
  – Grant submission strategy
    • High volume, low success
    • Low volume, high success
    • NIH only?
      – Foundations, DoD, NSF?
    • Participation in COBRE programs?
  – Any funding is not always better than no funding
    • Grants that don’t match your research passion can cripple your career
    • If you get the grant you have to do the research
More Friendly Advice

• Learn from the mistakes of others
• Find and use mentors
  – Utilize a mentoring committee
• Embrace criticism
• Say NO
  – Grant deadlines take priority over everything else
  – Ignore
    • Faculty meetings, seminars, emails, phone messages, colleagues, service commitments, your chairman!
  – Don’t ignore
    • Your family, health, fitness
  – SHUT YOUR DOOR
  – Print and use a DO NOT DISTURB sign
First things first…..

• Develop your research strategy and revisit this often (helps to narrow down potential sponsors)

• Identify potential collaborators to help expand your research, and broaden your funding opportunities

• Identify resources to assist you in determining which agencies and foundations provide funding for areas that align with your research focus
Non-federal Agencies and Foundations

• Pros
  – Lots of money on the table
  – Not as competitive as an NIH award
  – Provides an avenue to gather more data to make your NIH proposal more robust
  – Overlap from research project may be allowed (can have a PHF and an AHA award funding the same research aim)

• Cons
  – Some organizations allow a limited number of applicants per institution.
  – Faculty salary will likely not be allowed
  – F&A will be greatly reduced
  – More limited terms than NIH awards (shorter project periods)
OUHSC Junior Faculty Grants and Awards Committee

- Jimmy Ballard, Ph.D. Chairman
- Nathan Shankar, Ph.D.
- Mary Beth Humphrey, M.D., Ph.D.
- Dimitrios Karamichos, Ph.D.
What We Do

• Identify funding opportunities for Junior Faculty
• Publicize funding opportunities
  – Harder than it sounds
• Solicit nominations for specific funding opportunities
• Review and select institutional nominees
OUHSC Resources

• Spreadsheet Summary of Junior Faculty Funding Opportunities

• From ORA homepage, search “Junior Faculty Funding” and click on the first result.
Pivot

• A database of grants, fellowships, and other funding information from public and private, domestic and international sources for funding in multiple areas that is updated daily

• Can use the “search” function to identify opportunities based on area of focus

• Filter function can be used to narrow your search results by applicant type (early career, mid-career), sponsors (federal, nonprofit), funding type (research, postdoctoral award, training)

• https://pivot.cos.com/funding_main
Internal and Local Funding

- **PHF Grants**
  - Bridge - NIH and DoD grants that were scored but not funded, $75,000/yr
  - Seed – Junior and Senior Investigators with Novel Ideas, $50,000/yr
  - Equipment – Multi-user equipment, up to $500,000 but require matching funds
  - Clinician Scientist Development – Junior Clinician Scientist, $75,000/yr

- **INBRE**
  - Research Project Investigator Awards – for early stage investigators who have not received a substantial NIH research award
  - Research must align with Cancer, Developmental Biology or Infectious Diseases
  - $100,000 in direct costs per year for 2.5 years

- **COMAA**
  - Available to all full time faculty of the College of Medicine, $20,000 - $45,000

- **OCAST**
  - Available to all OUHSC faculty conducting research, up to $45,000/yr for three years

- **OCASCR**
  - Most awards funded around $100,00/yr but no formal limit
  - Eligible to all faculty members working with adult stem cells and/or regenerative medicine
Searle Scholars Program

• Supports research for independent investigators at the assistant professor level on the tenure-track
• Grants are $100,000/yr for 3 years.
• Typically, 15 new grants are awarded each year
• Only 166 institutions are currently invited to participate in this program
Pew Charitable Trust Biomedical Scholars Program

• Only one nomination per institution
• Candidates must have a doctorate in biomedical sciences, medicine or a related field
• Must hold full time appointment as an assistant professor
• Must have been in such appointment for less than three years
• Candidates can be nominated two times by their institution
Burroughs Wellcome Scholars

• A variety of awards available for physician-scientists and early career researchers.
  – Career Award for Medical Scientist (CAMS) provides $700,000 over five years for physician-scientists to bridge advanced postdoctoral and early years of faculty service.
  – Investigators in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease (PATH award) provides $500,000 over five years to support investigators at the assistant professor level.

• PATH award applicants must be invited to submit a full proposal. Invitations are based on the competitiveness of the applicants submitted pre-proposal.

• To be considered, candidates must first submit a pre-proposal. Only the most competitive candidates will receive an invite to submit a full proposal.
Institutional Process for Nominating Individuals for Limited Selection Grants

• Junior Faculty Awards Committee solicits applications.
  – ORA Newsletter, direct emails, etc
• Committee reviews applicants and makes recommendation to the VPR
• Nominee information is forwarded to funding agency
• Complications
  – Share nomination with OU-Norman (e.g. Pew)
  – Discipline specific
  – Shortage or absence of qualified applicants
    • May not be an efficient use of time