

# Training Grants

1

ACRM EARLY CAREER NETWORKING GROUP

2/22/2019

AMY HERROLD, PHD

AMY.HERROLD@VA.GOV

AMY.HERROLD@NORTHWESTERN.EDU

708-202-5867

# My Grant Experience

2

- Pre-doctoral: F31/NRSA from National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), 3 years
- Post-doctoral/Early Career: Merit Switzer Research Fellowship from NIDRR now National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), 1 year + 1 year no cost extension
- Early Career: VA Rehabilitation Research & Development (RR&D), Career Development Award, Level-II, 5 years
- Currently Co-investigator on 2 Department of Defense (DoD) grants

# Outline

3

- Training Grant Mechanism Options
  - NIH
  - VA
  - NIDILHRR
- Preparation for grant writing
- The Career/Training Plan
- The Mentoring Team
- The Mentoring Plan
- Grant Writing Strategies
- Additional Grant Writing Resources
- FYI Advanced Fellowship Opportunities at the VA

# NIH Options: K Awards

4

- <http://grants.nih.gov/training/careerdevelopmentawards.htm>
- Always look to the specific NIH institute to see if they accept applications for the mechanism you are interested in first – when in doubt, call your program officer!
- Read instructions carefully
- All of the sections of the application must be strong
- Balance how great you are but that you still need support and mentoring to be greater
- Never view a K award as an ‘end’, always as a means to an end – your successful independent career
- Critical to make clear that the thrust of the R01 proposal you likely would submit by the start of last year (up to 5 years)

# K Award Mechanisms

<https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/career-development>

CHECK WITH INSTITUTION of INTEREST 1st!

5

- **K99/R00:** Pathway to Independence Award, 2 stages (up to 5 years): mentored (up to 2 years) and independent (up to 3 years), eligibility = no more than 4 years post-doc experience at time of initial submission, max total amount for R00 phase \$249,000/year, purpose = get you a tenure-track position, *R00 is not automatic, you have to have a faculty offer!*
- **K01:** Mentored Research Scientist Career Development Award, 3-5 years, 75% salary coverage, \$ for studies is institution dependent
- **K02:** Independent Research Scientist Development Award, 3-5 years, 75% salary coverage, \$ for some research related expenses but expected that you already have research support
- **K07:** Academic Career Development Award, for both junior and leadership candidates, purpose = enhance education and research at sponsor institution
- **K08:** Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award, 3-5 years, 75% salary coverage, \$ for studies institution dependent
- **K12:** Clinical Scientist Institutional Career Development Program Award, purpose = institutional award to prepare clinicians with a commitment to independent research and facilitate them getting a K08 or K23
- **K18:** Research Career Enhancement Award for Established Investigators, full or part-time support, purpose = for experienced scientists to acquire new skills or transition their research
- **K22:** Career Transition Award, 1 or 2 phases: mentored (Phase 1), independent research at extramural institution (Phase 2).
- **K23:** Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award, eligibility = clinical doctoral degree, focus on patient-oriented research.
- **K25:** Mentored Quantitative Research Career Development Award, purpose = for people in quantitative science/engineering to do NIH-relevant research
- **K24:** Mid-Career Investigator Award in Patient-Oriented Research, 25-50% protected time for research and mentoring, eligibility = have an active R01
- **K05:** Senior Research Scientist Award, eligibility = independent funding already

# NIH Options: K Awards continued...

6

- Specific Aims – 1 page
  - Differences of opinion on whether to include career development aims as well as research aims but research should predominate
- First 3 items of Candidate Information and Research Strategy – 12 pages
  - Candidates Background, Career Goals and Objectives, Career Development Training Activities During the Award Period
- Training in Responsible Conduct of Research – 1 page
- Statements by Mentor, Co-Mentor, Consultants, Contributors – 6 pages
- Description of Institutional Environment – 1 page
- Institutional Commitment to Candidate's Research Career Development – 4 pages
- Biographical Sketch – new formatting!!!!

# NIH “bonuses” to keep in mind...

7

- New Investigator = no previous R01, about a 5 point bonus
  - If you are a Co-PI on a funded R01 you are no longer eligible
  - If you are the PI of an R21 you are still eligible
- Early Stage Investigator = within 10 years of your terminal degree, not clear the exact #pts the bonus is

# VA Options: CDA

8

- **VA Office of Research and Development Services:**
  - RR&D = Rehabilitation Research & Development
  - BLR&D = Biomedical Laboratory Research & Development
  - CSR&D = Clinical Sciences Research & Development
  - HSR&D = Health Services Research & Development
- **CDA = Career Development Award**
  - Specific Aims, Career Plan (includes training plan), Mentoring Plan, Research Plan
- **CDA-I: 2 years, salary only**
- **CDA-II: 5 years, salary + \$65,000/year for study expenses**



# NIDILRR Options: Mary Switzer Research Fellowships

9

- Formerly known as NIDRR part of Dept of Education:  
<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/resfel/index.html>
- Now NIDILRR part of US Dept of HHS:  
<http://www.acl.gov/Programs/NIDILRR/Grant-Funding/Programs/resfel/awards.aspx>
- Completely discretionary
- Grant comes directly to YOU not your institution – YOU will pay income tax on this
- Award Amount = \$75,000
- Award Period = 1 year with option for no cost extension for an additional year
- Research area must be in line with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- ❖ Distinguished Fellowship, eligibility = 7 or more years of research experience in the subject area, methods or techniques directly relevant to rehabilitation research
- ❖ Merit Fellowship, mentored, eligibility = doctorate or other terminal degree

# Get ready, get set, write!

10

- If you have initial questions about eligibility or fit – contact your program officer.
- Once you have an fleshed out idea and specific aims page – email that to a program officer and request a time to talk on the phone.
- Get a good idea about the institute and study section you want your grant to go to → start to think about a cover letter
- Ask colleagues to share successful submissions (or successful sections of submissions).
- Consult *The Grant Application Writer's Workbook* by Stephen W. Russell & David C Morrison – especially for NIH proposals:  
<http://www.grantcentral.com/workbooks/national-institutes-of-health/>

# NIH Reporter

11

<http://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter.cfm>



NIH RePORTER

Version: 7.3.0

CHECK OUT FEDERAL RePORTER

About RePORTER  
DATA

FAQ

ExPORTER

RePORTER  
Manual

RSS of Newly  
Added Projects



QUERY

BROWSE NIH

MATCHMAKER BETA

SUBMIT QUERY

CLEAR QUERY

Fiscal Year (FY):  
Current FY is 2015

Active Projects

SELECT

## RESEARCHER AND ORGANIZATION

Principal Investigator (PI) /  
Project Leader:  
(Last Name, First Name)

Use '%' for wildcard in PI names

Enter several PI/Project Leader names OR PI Profile IDs

Organization:

LOOKUP

Please enter at least 3 characters to use Lookup.

Contains  Begins with  Exact

Department:

SELECT

Organization Type:

SELECT

City:

Use '%' for wildcard

State:

SELECT

Country:

SELECT

Congressional District:

SELECT

DUNS Number:

## TEXT SEARCH

Text Search (Logic):

- And  
 Or  
 Advanced

Search in

- Projects  
 Publications  
 News

Limit Project search to

- Project Title  
 Project Terms  
 Project Abstracts

Limit Publication search to

Start Year

End Year

## PROJECT DETAILS

Project Number/  
Application ID:

Format: 5R01CA012345-04/  
8515397

Use '%' for wildcard in project number, e.g. %R21%  
Enter multiple project numbers/application IDs

OR

1 R01 CA 811099 01 A1S1

Agency/Institute/Center:

Admin  Funding

SELECT

NIH Spending Category:

SELECT

Funding Mechanism:

SELECT

Award Type:

SELECT

# The Career/Training Plan

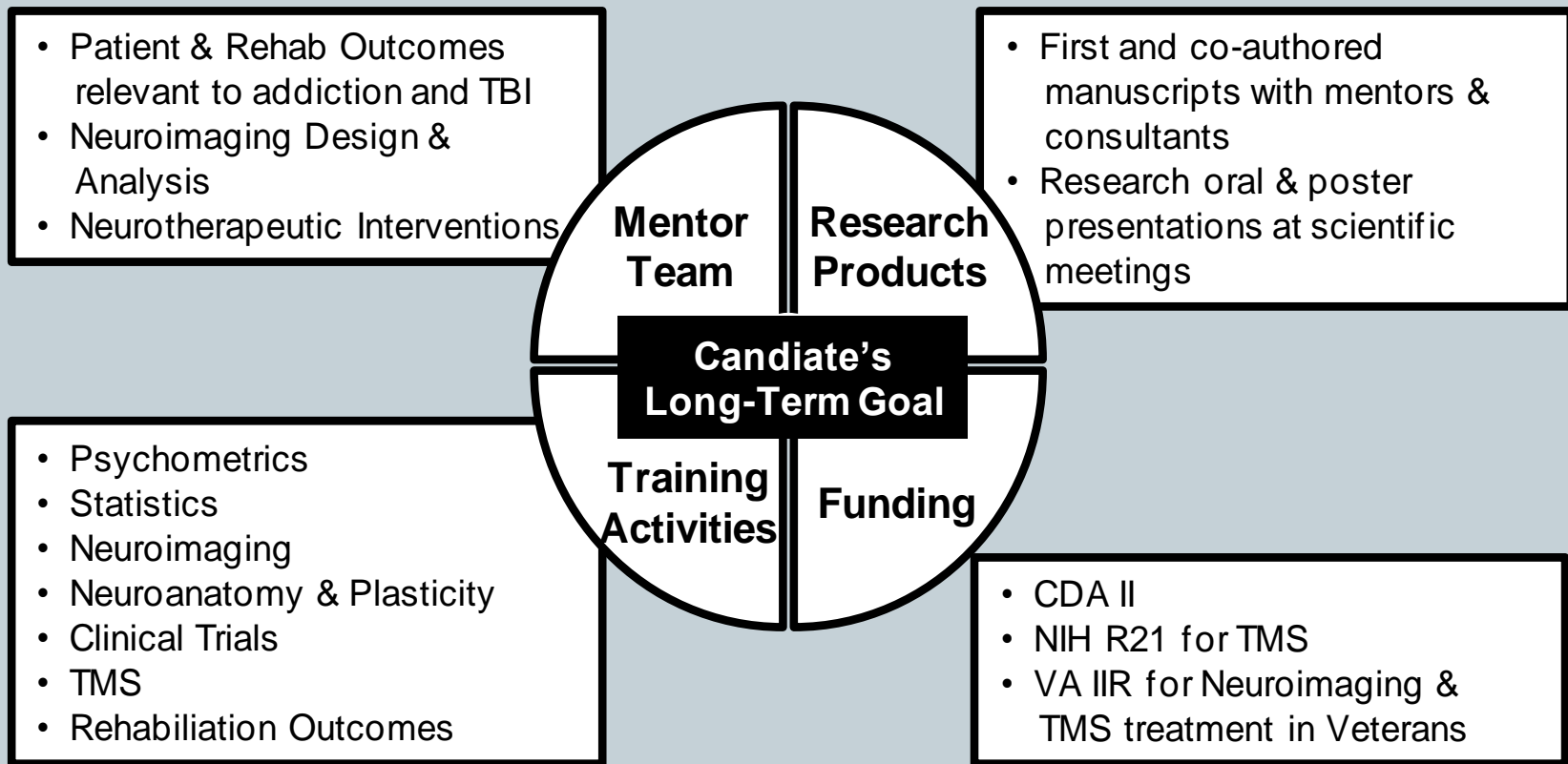
12

- **Keep it organized!**
- **A picture says a 1,000 words**
- **Be detailed and specific**
  - What workshops/courses/seminars you plan to go to?
  - When will they be and will this correspond with relevant aims of your research plan?
  - Will these workshops/courses/seminars even fit in with your budget?
- **Integrate this section with all other sections of the grant.**
  - Will certain mentors guide you on certain topic areas where you plan to expand your knowledge and expertise?
- **End goal of this grant is to set you up for the next step!**

# VA RR&D CDA-II Career Plan Example

13

**Figure 10. Candidate Goals and Components**



# VA RR&D CDA-II Career Plan Example

**Table 8. Timeline of Candidate Career Plan**

Year	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Research Plan (Sec 2a)</b>	Aim I				
		Aim II			
				Aim III	
<b>Mentoring Team (Sec 2c)</b>	Patient & Rehab Outcomes Team: Pape, Jordan, Chambers, Mallinson, Cobia, Sander & Li				
		Neuroimaging Design & Analysis Team: Pape, Parrish, Wang, Kapur, & Li			
				Neurotherapeutic Intervention Team: Pape, Kartje, Chambers, Rao, Sander & Li	
<b>Training Activities</b>	Grant & Scientific Writing, Statistics, Psychometrics, Rehab Outcomes		rTMS		
		Neuroimaging, Neuroanatomy			
	TBI, Substance Abuse, General Neuroscience				
<b>Research Products</b>		Aim I Manuscript(s)		Aim II Manuscript	Aim III Manuscript
	Oral Presentations and Posters at local, national, and international scientific meetings.				
<b>Funding Support</b>				Apply for NIH R21Grant	
				Apply for VA Merit & Pilot Grants	

# VA RR&D CDA-II Training Plan Example

15

Go to Career Plan Word Doc – Table 9

# The Mentoring Team

16

- Who do you chose?
- How big is too big?
  - Don't pick so many good people that there's no one left to review your grant!
- Letters of Support
  - Ask well in advance
  - Offer to draft the letter for your mentor
- Topics to include in Letter of Support
  - The expertise of the person and why they are qualified to contribute to your mentoring team (supplemented by Biosketch)
  - Narrative of how they know you and how you've demonstrated to them that you are a great candidate (i.e., have great potential to be a successful independent investigator)
    - ✦ Highlight co-authored publications together – could even be poster presentations.
  - Specifically what they will do to help your project and you be better.
    - ✦ Define their role in th e project
    - ✦ Expertise
    - ✦ Access to resource
    - ✦ % effort



# The Mentoring Plan Example

17

- I had 12 mentors/consultants!!
- Strategy:
  - Organize into teams for each Aim
  - Primary mentor's support letter specifically addressed this
- *See/show example from Word doc*

# Common Critiques for Early Career Investigators

18

- Overly ambitious: need to propose work that can realistically be completed within the project time frame
- Specific aims are too interdependent, “house of cards”

# Strategy for Addressing Critiques

19

- See Additional Powerpoint Document

# General Strategies for Grant Success

20

- State the rationale clearly
- Present thorough and accurate literature review
- Include power analysis
- Publish regularly in high quality journals
- Be organized!
- Never assume reviewers know what you mean
- New Biosketch – create a cohesive story with your contributions to science
- Ask others to review your application
  - Within you lab
  - Within your department
  - Outside of your field

# Grant Writing Resources

- Professional organization meetings may hold grant writing workshops (e.g., Research Society on Alcoholism).
  - These can be great because they are more tailored to a specific NIH institute
- Training in Grantsmanship for Rehabilitation Research, 1 week course at UNC:  
<http://tigrr.bme.unc.edu/>
- Grant Writers' Seminars & Workshops, LLC:  
<http://www.grantcentral.com/workshops/>

# Fellowship Options at the VA

22

- Office of Academic Affiliations: Advanced Fellowships and Professional Development,  
<http://www.va.gov/oaa/specialfellows/>
- Addiction Treatment
- Advanced Geriatrics
- Geriatric Neurology
- ***Polytrauma/TBI***
- ***Health Services Research and Development***
- Medical Informatics
- Mental Illness Research & Treatment
- Parkinson's Disease
- Etc...

# Questions????

23

Can always e-mail questions to:  
[Amy.Herrold@va.gov](mailto:Amy.Herrold@va.gov)

