

Session 1 – Writing a Career Development Grant: Insights from Across the Research Pipeline

Sunday March 10, 2019, 1:00pm – 2:15pm

Co-Chairs: Traci Bethea, PhD, Boston University,
Jesse Plascak, PhD, Rutgers University, and
Anushree Sharma, PhD, UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

Panelists: Elisa Bandera, MD, PhD, Cancer Institute of New Jersey
Lauren Peres, PhD, MPH, University of Virginia
Heather Jim, PhD, Moffitt Cancer Center

Having an externally funded, continuous research program is a major expectation of faculty employed within various academic positions. Receiving a career development award is one way to jump-start progress towards this goal. Aspiring graduate students and junior faculty need to learn about the art of successful grant writing. However, gathering information about what a successful career development grant looks like is no easy feat. A popular aphorism suggests that the quality of grant writing cannot help a bad idea, but that bad grant writing can doom a good one. So, what *is* good grant writing? This session seeks to answer that question through insights shared by an expert panel consisting of an awardee, a mentor, and a study section reviewer for career development grant mechanisms, with a focus on NCI K mechanisms. Participants will gain access to resources to assist with grant writing. Additionally, attendees will have the opportunity to engage with the panel during the question and answer period.

Session 2 – Strategies for Success: Landing your First Academic Position and Navigating the Early Years

Sunday March 10, 2019 2:30 – 3:45pm

Co-Chairs: Saira Khan, PhD, MPH, Washington Univ.in St. Louis and
Sheetal Hardikar, MBBS, PhD, Huntsman Cancer Institute

Panelists: Bette Caan, DrPH, Kaiser Permanente Division of Research
Jeanine Genkinger, PhD, MHS, Columbia University

Finding your first faculty position is time-consuming and tedious work. Furthermore, once you land this coveted position, the early years of faculty appointment can be a challenging and overwhelming experience, having to juggle the many research, teaching, and administrative responsibilities. This session will focus on strategies for success during the postdoctoral and early faculty years, arguably the most critical time period in the quest for gaining research independence. The session will provide tips for securing a faculty position, starting with best practices during post-doctoral training, defining priorities (research vs. teaching), resources for job postings, getting your application packet ready, and tips for faculty interviews. The latter half of the session will focus on early faculty years, addressing topics such as balancing competing priorities (grants, papers, teaching, and administration), seeking mentorship, time management, maximizing productivity, and facilitating collaboration with a special emphasis on interdisciplinary and consortia work. We will conclude with a question and answer session conducted by panelists across the academic continuum - from post-doc to senior faculty. Session panelists include Saira Khan, PhD, MPH (Post-doctoral Fellow), Sheetal Hardikar, MBBS, PhD (Assistant Professor), Jeanine Genkinger, PhD, MHS (Associate Professor), and Bette Caan, DrPH (Senior Research Scientist).