Finding Opportunities to Fund Your Research Projects, including COVID-19

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Today's Agenda

- The Types of Funding Opportunities available for Postdoctoral Fellows and Junior Faculty
- Where to Find Funding Opportunities and How to Conduct a Valuable Internet Search
- COVID-19 Funding Opportunities
- Institutional Resources Available to Applicants
- Eligibility Requirements and Guidelines
- Creating an Application Timeline
- Advice from Peer Reviewers
- How to be a Successful Awardee
- Resources

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Types of Funding Opportunities for Fellows and Junior Faculty

Postdoctoral Fellows

- Fellowships: Federal and Foundation

- Institutional or Individual

- Postdoctoral Individual National Service Award (F32): To provide postdoctoral research training to individuals to broaden their scientific background and extend their potential for research in specified health-related areas. Requires green card.

- Ruth L. Kirschstein Institutional National Research Service Award (T32): To enable institutions to make National Research Service Awards to individuals selected by them for predoctoral and postdoctoral research training in specified shortage areas. The goal of this program is to prepare qualified predoctoral and/or postdoctoral trainees for careers that have a significant impact on the health-related research needs of the Nation. Requires green card.

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Types of Funding Opportunities for Fellows and Junior Faculty

Junior Faculty:

- Career Development Awards: Federal and Foundation

- Institutional or Individual

- Small Research Grants

- Mentored Research Scientist (K01): To provide support and protected time for an intensive, supervised career development experience in the biomedical, behavioral, or clinical sciences leading to research independence. Requires green card.

- Mentored Clinical Scientist Research (K08): To provide support and protected time to individuals with a clinical doctoral degree for an intensive, supervised research career development experience in the fields of biomedical and behavioral research, including translational research. Requires green card.

- Mentored Patient-Oriented Research (K23): To support the career development of individuals with a clinical doctoral degree, who have the potential to develop into productive, clinical investigators, and who have made a commitment to focus their research endeavors on patient-oriented research. Requires green card.

- NIH Pathway to Independence (PI) Award (K99/R00)
  Provides up to five years of support consisting of two phases: I - will provide 1-2 years of mentored support for highly promising, postdoctoral research scientists II - up to 3 years of independent support contingent on securing an independent research position Award recipients will be expected to compete successfully for independent R01 support from the NIH during the career transition award period. Eligible Principal Investigators include outstanding postdoctoral candidates who have terminal clinical or research doctorates who have no more than **4 year**s of postdoctoral research training. Foreign institutions are not eligible to apply. **PI does not have to be a U.S. citizen**.

  Temporary Extension of Eligibility for the K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award During the COVID-19 Pandemic: NOT-OD-20-158

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Where to Find Funding Opportunities

What's your Idea?

Where to begin?

- Look for "News" or "Reports" on agency websites

- Find out what has been funded in your field: NIH RePORTER, journal publications & announcements

- Sign-up for automated funding alerts: Email Alerts:
    - Community of Science: https://www.communityscience.com/enews.php
    - Candid (formerly known as The Foundation Center and GuideStar): https://candid.org/find-funding
    - NIH Weekly Guide: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/listserv.htm
    - Proposal Central: https://proposalcentral.com/OpportunityAlert.asp

- Attend conferences

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Some Sites to Search

- BCH Office of Sponsored Programs: http://web2.tch.harvard.edu/osp/mainpageS2612P4.html

- Grants.gov: https://www.grants.gov/

- GrantsNet http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/funding

- Grant Forward: https://www.grantforward.com/search

- Harvard University internal grants: https://research.fas.harvard.edu/postdoc_opportunities#internal

- Harvard University external grants: https://research.fas.harvard.edu/postdoc_opportunities#external

- Medical Foundation/Health Resources in Action: https://hria.org/work-in-action/the-medical-foundation/#funding

- National Science Foundation: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/

- NIH Parent Announcements: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/parent_announcements.htm

- NIH K Kiosk: https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/career-development

- Proposal Central: https://proposalcentral.altum.com/

Some Sites to Search-continued

- SPIN: https://spin.infoedglobal.com/Home/SOLRSearch

- Candid (formerly known as The Philanthropy Digest): https://philanthropynewsdigest.org/

- ECR Central: https://asntech.github.io/postdoc-funding-schemes/

- NIH F32 includes International opportunities: //researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/fellowships/f32

- NIH K Kiosk: https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/career-development

- Non-NIH Funding: https://www.fic.nih.gov/Funding/NonNIH?type=postdoctoral

- NSF: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/education.jsp?fund_type=3

- **Foundation websites**:

  - http://professional.heart.org/professional/ResearchPrograms/ApplicationInformation/UCM_316909_Application-Information.jsp
  - https://www.gatesfoundation.org/how-we-work/general-information/grant-opportunities

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How to Conduct a Valuable Internet Search

- Searches using diseases will be much more effective in searching for foundation funding with SPIN, GrantsNet etc.

  - Use key words and Boolean searches (the same structure you would use on pubmed)

- Google is your friend

  - Search for postdoc fellowships

  - Search Professional organization website

  - General places like March of dimes (pediatric diseases, genetic diseases etc.)

  - Search for grant for women in science, first generation scientist from your ethnic background…be creative

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COVID-19 Funding Opportunities

- Boston Children's Hospital: http://web2.tch.harvard.edu/osp/mainpageS2612P4.html#COVID-19

- Frontiers Coronavirus Funding Monitor: https://coronavirus.frontiersin.org/covid-19-research-funding-monitor

- Health and Human Services: https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/grants/index.html

- Johns Hopkins University: https://research.jhu.edu/rdt/funding-opportunities/covid-19-funding-opportunities/

- National Institutes of Health: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/COVID-Related.cfm

- Stanford University: https://doresearch.stanford.edu/research-scholarship/covid-19-resources-research-community/covid-19-funding-opportunities

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Advice About Funding Opportunities: Network!

- Create a one-page summary of your proposed project (AKA Your Talking Points) to get feedback from your mentor, peers, Sponsor program officers, etc.

- Learn what the Sponsor is looking for and see if you're a "good fit"

- Check the agency's web site for other FOAs (look for information on past awardees/awarded grants)

- ASK QUESTIONS: Get More Information from the Program Officer
    - Are there other FOAs that would be better?
    - This FOA is about to expire. Will it be reissued?
    - Who is on the study section?
    - Will a lot of people apply for this grant? (What are my chances?)
    - Can you suggest any ways to improve my proposal?

- Remember to send a thank you.

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Institutional Resources

Office of Sponsored Programs

Supports the BCH research community by:

- Identifying funding sources and opportunities

- Reviewing applications for submission to Sponsors

- Collecting, reviewing, and submission of Just-In-Time Information (JIT) to NIH and other Sponsors

- Accepting awards on behalf of BCH

- Issuing, receiving, and negotiating subawards to and from BCH and collaborating institutions

- Serving as the primary interface with federal and nonprofit Sponsors and with peer institutions collaborating with BCH investigators

- Ensuring compliance with all applicable Sponsor, government, and BCH compliance regulations, requirements, and policies

- Posting RCR and Core/Facilities Descriptions for NIH Applications:
  http://websvc4:8090/display/ORI/About+RCR+@+BCH http://web2.tch.harvard.edu/osp/mainpageS2612P31.html

- Offering eSubmission application and other trainings

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Institutional Resources

Office of Fellowship Training

Supports the BCH research community by:
- Offers 6 grant writing courses
  - How to get your basic research funded with Dr. Jordan Kriedberg- Cosponsored by the OFD 12/1/20 12-1pm
  - How to get your K award funded: writing a career development statement with Dr. Maria Kontaridis cosponsored by the OFD-11/3/20 12-1 pm
  - How to get your clinical research funded with Dr. Zac Kohane cosponsored by the OFD- 04/13/21 12-1 pm
  - Three- part grant writing workshop with Dr. Jordan Kreidberg
  - Five-part grant writing workshop with Dr. Sonal Jhaveri and Dr. Jordan Kreidberg –Feb 2021
  - Currently supplies K99 assistance and support through a new offering K99 cohorts cosponsored with the HMS Office of Postdoctoral Fellows.
- Providing one-on-one help with searching for opportunities
- Provides guidance is developing and writing career development statements and biosketches
- Provides grant proofreading help

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Who is Eligible to Submit a Grant @ BCH?

Applicant/Principal Investigator:

- Is an employee at Boston Children's Hospital or one of its affiliated Faculty Foundations

- Received BCH Department, Division or Program Chair's Approval

- Has assigned research space at Boston Children's Hospital

- Will conduct more than 50% of the proposed work at Boston Children's Hospital

Source: [Eligibility to Submit a Grant](#)

Policies for Research

The purpose of our policies and procedures is to ensure our research sponsors that the grant funds entrusted to us will be spent in a manner that is consistent with the approved research plan and approved research budget as well as each sponsor's award terms and conditions. We value your feedback. Please send your input or questions to resadmin@childrens.harvard.edu

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Effectively Review Guidelines and Eligibility Requirements

- Read the Instructions, understand the Instructions, Follow the Instructions

- Read the Instructions, understand the Instructions, Follow the Instructions

- Read the Instructions, understand the Instructions, Follow the Instructions

- AND THEN REALLY READ THE INSTRUCTIONS

- Read the correct instructions

- Read all the instructions

- Read the current instructions

- Read the RFA, RFP and/or PA especially well as these are supplied to the reviewers

- If something appears unclear talk to your mentor, your administrator, and/or OSP. If it's still unclear, reach out to the Sponsor for clarification. Do this as early in the process as possible.

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Creating an Application Timeline

Start the proposal preparation process early: Think months & weeks instead of days & hours.

SAMPLE APPLICATION TIMELINE	
Time Period before the Application Deadline	Description of Task
When Grant Application Package is Available	Download the Application Package. If you are a new applicant, request CHeRP access and work with your Research Administrator to create the CHeRP Funding Proposal (FP)/record.
Two Months	Meet with your project team to review the submission guidelines, determine overall parameters of your project, and develop detailed action plan and timeline for completing proposal components.
Six Weeks	Begin gathering quotes and other information needed for budget and budget justification.
Five weeks	Contact Mentor, Chief, Collaborators, Referees, Contractors to request Letters of Support or Recommendation.
One Month	Request Biosketches and Other Support Pages (as applicable) from Mentors and designated Key Personnel.
Three weeks	Complete draft research proposal and distribute it to your internal reviewers to feedback.
Three weeks	Complete draft budget and budget justification and distribute it to your Research Administrator and internal reviewers for feedback.
Two Weeks	Follow-up on status of Letters of Support and feedback on the research proposal and budget.
Two Weeks	Ask someone else review proposal materials for clarity, understanding, grammar and typos.
Ten to Seven Days	Revise research proposal and budget/budget justification based on internal review feedback. Compile application documents and send to your Research Administrator for initial review.
Five Business Days	Submit your Application to OSP for Review (draft version of research proposal is acceptable).
Five Business Days	Complete all CHeRP administrative requirements (electronic approvals (applicant, chief, & BCH mentor), COI disclosures, and COI training).
Three Business Days	Revise Application based on OSP's Review
One Business Day	Submit Application to the Sponsor
Day of the Deadline	Rest and then do something fun to Celebrate

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Helpful Hints

Submit applications to OSP five business days before the Sponsor's Deadline

- OSP reviews to ensure that applications comply with all applicable Sponsor, government, and institutional compliance regulations, requirements, and policies.

- Issues need to be resolved before an application is submitted for Sponsor's review and approval.

- Applications are legally binding documents.

> 17. By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications* and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances* and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S Code, Title 18, Section 1001)
>
> ☑ *I agree
>
> * The list of certifications and assurances, or an Internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions

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Why Grants are Not Funded: Some of the Reasons

- Guidelines are ignored

- Importance and/or relevance of the project is unclear

- Hypotheses are not supported by literature and/or preliminary data

- Aims are dependent on each other

- Research plan/methods are unfocused and/or hard to understand

- Potential obstacles and/or alternate approaches are not discussed

- Poorly written career development plan

- Workload, budget and/or timeframe are not realistic

- Necessary personnel and/or expertise not included

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Advice from Peer Reviewers

- "The quality and innovation of the idea is important."

- "Be realistic: don't be too ambitious or spread yourself too thin. "

- "Make the presentation clear and simple: clearly state how your proposal will advance the science"

- "Know your audience: NIH and other sponsors make review committee member names known to the public."

- "Proofread, proofread, proofread!"

- "Make the presentation easy to read: don't make reviewers hunt for information."

- "Don't be afraid to address pitfalls and/or challenges."

- "Present and document gaps that need to be filled."

- "Ask questions which are answerable."

- "The volume of work proposed should be proportional to the time of support requested and your other obligations."

- "Resubmissions are expected, but you will learn a lot from review comments."

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Be a Successful Awardee

Understand that as the Principal Investigator/Awardee, you are ultimately responsible for the project and award

Your role is to:

- initiate and develop all proposals for support.

- recruit qualified personnel and assure that needed resources are in place.

- make all spending decisions in a manner which reflects the approved work scope, is fiscally responsible, and staying within budget.

- be responsible for assuring that all staff working on supporting the program complies with all applicable policies and procedures.

- be responsible for program reporting to the Sponsor, disclosing inventions to the Hospital, and assuring regulated activities (use of human subjects, animals, biohazards, radioactive materials, etc.) are conducted with the appropriate, ongoing committee approval.

Don't rely on undocumented and/or "handshake" approvals: Document, Document, Document!

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Resources

- Boston Children's Hospital Trust: http://web2.tch.harvard.edu/trust/

- OSP Application Guidance Documents: http://web2.tch.harvard.edu/osp/

- OSP Institutional Info for Applicants: http://web2.tch.harvard.edu/osp/mainpageS2612P2.html

- NIH Research Career Development Awards: https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/career-development

- NIH Center for Scientific Review for Applicants: https://public.csr.nih.gov/ForApplicants

- NIH Tips for Applicants: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lAOGtr0pM6Q

- Grants.gov: https://www.grants.gov/

- GrantsNet http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/funding

- Harvard University: https://research.fas.harvard.edu/postdoc_opportunities#external

- Medical Foundation/Health Resources in Action: https://hria.org/work-in-action/the-medical-foundation/#funding

- National Science Foundation: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/

- Proposal Central: https://proposalcentral.altum.com/

- OSP Guidance on Grant Submissions: http://web2.tch.harvard.edu/osp/mainpageS2612P29.html

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