Professional Development Series:
Grant Writing and Funding

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Show Me the Money!

I asked Santa for a research grant.

You still believe in research grants?

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Show Me the Money!

- Who has applied or is planning to apply for a graduate fellowship or grant?
Funding Sources

good news: there are a lot!
bad news: they are competitive!

- **Internal (local):**
  - Department, college, university

- **External:**
  - Government, science (NIH, NSF)
  - Government, military (DoD, DARPA)
  - Private foundations (McKnight, Whitehall, HHMI, Sloan)
  - Professional societies (APA, APS, SFN)
  - Non-profits (ADAA, BBRF/NARSAD, Autism Speaks)
Funding Mechanisms

- Travel awards
- Dissertation grants
- Research awards and prizes
- Diversity fellowships
- Graduate stipend support
  - NIH National Research Service Award (NRSA)
  - NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
  - DoD National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship
  - NAS Ford Foundation Fellowship (Diversity)
Finding Funding Sources *(you have to hunt!)*

- APA ‘Free Money for Education’
- OGAPS funding opportunities
  - [https://ogaps.tamu.edu/Buttons/Funding-Opportunities](https://ogaps.tamu.edu/Buttons/Funding-Opportunities)
- PIVOT/Community of Science
  - [https://pivot.cos.com/](https://pivot.cos.com/)
- Scholarships for Women
  - [https://www.scholarshipsforwomen.net/psychology/](https://www.scholarshipsforwomen.net/psychology/)
Postdoctoral Funding and Training Grants

- NIH has awards for developing scientific workforce (https://researchtraining.nih.gov)
  - Postdoctoral NRSAs
    - Individual NRSA (F32)
    - Institutional NRSA (T32) [training grant]
  - Mentored research awards (K99/R00)
Grant Writing
Grant Writing Begins with a Big Idea

THE EVOLUTION OF INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

1. Before Grad School
2. Grad Student
3. Assistant Professor
4. Tenured Professor
5. Emeritus Professor

“I’m going to research whatever I want!”
“I’m going to research whatever my professor wants!”
“I’m going to research whatever my tenure committee wants!”
“I’m going to research whatever my grant committee wants!”
“I’m going to research whatever!”

“Research In Peace”

www.phdcomics.com
Grant Writing 101

- What is your big idea?
  - Can you say it in 6 words?
  - Start with a 1-page summary: brief background, hypothesis, and aims to crystallize your thoughts
  - Actively involve your mentor and/or others with proposal writing experience
Grant Writing 101

- **Read instructions, create timeline, and…..**
  - **START EARLY!!**
- Notify SRS for federal grants; they help with compliance and budget
- SRS requires final product at least 1-week before sponsor deadline
- Give your mentor plenty of time to read and give feedback (drafts, drafts, drafts…. )
Grant Writing 101

- Pay attention to detail!
  - Comply with all formatting requirements (font, margins, page length, etc)
  - Grammatical/spelling errors are unacceptable
  - Writing must be clear, succinct, to the point
  - Grab reader’s attention—highlight transitions/sections
  - Figures should be beautiful, informative, and efficient (don’t try to compress too much info at the expense of size clarity!)
Grant Writing 101

- Early (and frequent) drafts give your mentor sufficient time to provide constructive feedback.....
Grant Writing 101

- Successful grant writing requires fortitude and perseverance

Many challenges once you hit submit:
- Grant review panels want most outstanding science
- Agencies have limited resources for funding
- But...young investigators are prioritized—take advantage!

NEVER GIVE UP!