

Research Funding Service

RFS NEWS

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Grant\$ for Lunch

Constructing Grant Budgets From the Ground Up

Wednesday, May 18, 2005

Noon to 1 p.m.

Location: South Campus Center, Room 303

Speaker: Janet Rasey, Ph.D., Director, RFS

Learn:

- Basic Budget “DOs” and “DON”Ts”
- What Reviewers Look for in a Budget
- Tips on Writing the Budget Justification
- Other Budget Development Resources

Bring your lunch and questions!

No pre-registration required.



Behind the Federal Report:

A Conversation with Barbara Perry

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (Please note later start time)

Location: South Campus Center, Room 303

Many of you receive Barbara's Federal Report through our FundingB Listserv. You've told us you've found the reports interesting and informative. Now here's your chance to meet and ask questions of Barbara Perry about her work in Washington, D.C. on behalf of research and the University of Washington.

Barbara F. Perry is Associate Vice President and Director of Federal Relations for the University of Washington.

Prior to this she served as Director of Federal Relations for the University of California System (nine campuses and three national laboratories.) She has also served as Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Policy and Director of Federal Relations for the 14 campus University of Maryland System.

Her involvement with university research policy issues including intellectual property management began at the University of California, Santa Barbara where she directed the contracts and grants program and later helped with the development of the UC Systems intellectual property policies and liaison with the National Science Foundation.

NIH Program Officers - Part 3



Kathy Etz, Ph.D., Program Officer, National Institute of Drug Abuse, Division of Epidemiology, Services and Prevention Research

Kathy Etz is a program officer with the National Institute of Drug Abuse. She has a Ph.D. in Human Development. Her scientific expertise is in the “origins and pathways to drug abuse in adolescence, the impact of biopsychosocial processes on drug abuse during multiple life transitions, and the transition from substance use to dependence.” She has been with NIH for six years but has worked part-time since the birth of her son four years ago. Kathy oversees about 38 active grants and works with about 60 new applications a year. In addition, she works with many professional organizations and attends professional meetings in Bethesda, Maryland and around the country. She’s also developed faculty mentoring programs. Her activities have run the gamut “from having lunch on a Zuni reservation in New Mexico to addressing a huge research conference.”

Prior to coming to NIH, she did research on gateway theories of drug abuse at the Center for Prevention Research at the University of Kentucky. She’s also worked on HIV prevention with IV drug users, has

been a therapist with recidivist DUI offenders and has worked in child protective services. She credits her analytical training in school and research and “people training” in various jobs and life venues that “exposed me to real life struggle” as preparation for being an NIH program officer.

When asked what she likes best about her job, Kathy said, “I love being involved in a breadth of science within my research area, as opposed to being involved in only a handful of studies. I enjoy working with people and like the opportunity my job provides for interacting with investigators, whom I respect for tackling such difficult research questions. I enjoy taking difficult scientific issues and developing strategies to tackle them or figuring out how to move science forward to fill important gaps in public health knowledge.”

Before contacting her, Kathy recommends a researcher become familiar with the various grant mechanisms, read relevant program announcements and be prepared with specific questions. She also recommends you have some idea of the research aims for your proposed project and be prepared to discuss them.

How have tighter budgets affected her and NIDA? Kathy says “More applicants are contacting us, making it challenging to respond to everyone. However, it is good that they contact us. I think applicants are relying on NIH staff for more guidance in navigating a system that is adapting to budget cuts. We are trying to strategize ways to continue funding with a smaller budget.”

She notes that “despite the tight budget, we continue to look for science that moves things forward. New investigators should not be discouraged. They are a program priority – growing the next generation. Good science will still get funded.”

Kathy advises that you can increase your chances of getting funded by being “really creative about how to use less money. For example, is there a possibility they could do a secondary data analysis instead of starting anew? We’ve spent millions to collect this data. Is there any way you can do this with existing data?” Think about “How can I answer these questions to be more budget conscious?” She also suggests thinking about how to break your project into smaller pieces for a scaled back R01 or use R03 or R21 mechanisms. It’s “much easier to pick up a \$100,000 grant versus a multi-year, \$1 million project.”

Kathy said that researchers need to keep in mind the three factors that determine whether their proposal gets funded: peer review, program priorities and Institute and Council priorities. They ask questions like “Do we

already have a lot of science in that area?” and “Is this a critical need or redundant?” She said that sometimes a proposal might be funded out of order if it fulfills a critical need even though it doesn’t receive a high priority score. She also said that the study section may not know as much about what’s in the pipeline and will score studies high even without being significant.

She said program officers make recommendations to their Institute director who makes the final determination as to which grants are funded. Advisory Councils “provide a secondary level of review.” “Some hold a lot of sway and others don’t,” said Kathy and recommends “being on Council as a great strategy.” “There are “definitely more senior people on Advisory Councils” and the “people who govern the review process in each Institute are responsible for inviting representatives to be on Council.”

Kathy recommends universities train their researchers by “providing students with opportunities to be involved in the grant writing process. They should especially encourage students and post-doctoral fellows to apply for individual pre- and post-doctoral training awards (F30, F31, F32), perhaps by including writing these or other applications as part of a professional seminar experience. In addition, university faculty should try to help orient students to the various funding agencies and staff. Researchers should be encouraged to interact with NIH staff to help demystify the process.”

Even with the best of grant writing training, the reality is that most grant proposals do not get funded on the first try. Kathy says “we’re seeing proposals come in three times now before they are funded. It’s worth it to resubmit.”

Her best advice for new and established researchers:

- “Be resilient.
- Think about multiple mechanisms.
- Talk to program officers.
- Send in a concept paper to the program officer. They will give you feedback and tell you if there’s a mismatch. They can refer you to another program officer at another Institute.
- Don’t be intimidated.
- Go for it.”

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NIH Releases Final Policy on Enhancing Public Access to Archived Publications that Result from NIH-funded Research

The following notice appeared in the April 29, 2005 NIH Guide:

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) announces its policy on enhancing public access to archived publications resulting from NIH-funded research. Beginning May 2, 2005, NIH-funded investigators are requested to submit to the NIH National Library of Medicine’s (NLM) PubMed Central (PMC) an electronic version of the author’s final manuscript upon acceptance for publication, resulting from research supported, in whole or in part, with direct costs¹ from NIH. The author’s final manuscript is defined as the final version accepted for journal publication, and includes all modifications from the publishing peer review process.

This policy applies to all research grant and career development award mechanisms, cooperative agreements, contracts, Institutional and Individual Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards, as well as NIH intramural research studies. The policy is intended to: 1) create a stable archive of peer-reviewed research publications resulting from NIH-funded research to ensure the permanent preservation of these vital published research findings; 2) secure a searchable compendium of these peer-reviewed research publications that NIH and its awardees can use to manage more efficiently and to understand better their research portfolios, monitor scientific productivity, and ultimately, help set research priorities; and 3) make published results of NIH-funded research more readily accessible to the public, health care providers, educators, and scientists.

This final NIH Public Access Policy (the “Policy”) reflects modifications and clarifications to the proposed policy released September 3, 2004, in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts and September 17, 2004, in the Federal Register and the more than 6,000 public comments received through November 16, 2004. The most significant change in the Policy from that originally proposed is to provide more flexibility for authors to specify the timing of the posting of their final manuscripts for public accessibility through PMC. The proposed policy indicated a six-month delay of posting through PMC. The Policy now requests and strongly encourages that authors specify posting of their final manuscripts for public accessibility as soon as possible (and within 12 months of the publisher’s official date of final publication). The Policy also clarifies that the publication date is the publisher’s

official date of final publication.

Effective Date: May 2, 2005

NIH Public Access Website:

For further information Contact: Office of Extramural Research, National Institutes of Health, 6705 Rockledge Drive, Room 350, Bethesda, MD 20892-7963 or by e-mail to PublicAccess@nih.gov.

Extramural RFS Staff Activities for May

Bonnie McTaggart will be attending the Medical Library Association meeting in San Antonio, Texas from May 13-18.

Bonnie will be teaching "Finding Funding: Search Strategies for Success," Tuesday, May 31, 2005 from 1-2 p.m. in the HSL Teaching Lab. This class is full but send an email to rfs@u.washington.edu to get on the wait list in the event of cancellations.

Janet Rasey will teach a workshop called "Tips on Getting Your Grant Funded" at the American Society of Neuroradiology annual meeting in Toronto from May 23-27.

Ramona Hensrude will be assisting the Leadership, Community and Values Initiative as a member of the President's Staff Forum.

Leadership, Community and Values Initiative

As a member of the President's Staff Forum, I've had the opportunity to provide input to the team selected to organize the Leadership, Community and Values Initiative that was launched on April 7, 2005 in the University Week.

The Initiative Team has scheduled several discussion groups in May and June for staff and faculty to collect ideas about leadership, community and values at the University of Washington. All discussions have a scribe or will be audio recorded although comments will not be attributed. Everyone will also be sent a Catalyst survey that will provide faculty and staff an opportunity to "give their impressions of the values, culture, work environment and diversity within the broad UW work environment." The team will also be collecting ideas from other universities and the private sector. The survey results will be published in the University Week and on their web site. President Emmert will focus on the Initiative and the team's recommendations in his State of the University address in October.

I've attended two discussion groups and found them to be lively, candid and thoughtful conversations. If you would like to participate in a discussion group, register [here](#)

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