

IFH FY 21 Grant Writing Workshop: Focus on Clinical Trials

The Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research (IFH) is pleased to announce the availability of a grants writing workshop targeted to talented faculty who are committed to developing and submitting a clinical trial R-level funding application to NIH or similar agencies/foundations. The workshop sessions will engage panels of Institute-affiliated, RBHS and Rutgers faculty with experience in grant writing and peer review involving diverse research topics, funding agencies, and study sections, in providing feedback on specific challenges for successfully negotiating the peer-reviewed grant system, and crafting compelling applications, targeted to workshop participants who are actively engaged in developing their own grant applications.

The approach will be interactive; workshop participants should be prepared to share draft Specific Aims and other grant sections for discussion in workshop sessions, and to participate in turn in providing feedback for other participants. Participants should have identified their research teams and mentors for their application with specific expertise in the area of their application, who can help them revise in response to workshop feedback.

Who Should Attend? Early career faculty (instructors, assistant professors and early stage associate professors) and advanced postdoctoral fellows/associates working on federal research grant applications in the areas of behavioral, social, health services, health policies and systems, intervention, prevention, outcomes, and related topics. Completion of all sessions is required and will be a factor within the review process for applicants. Eligible early career faculty should be planning or working on a NIH R-level clinical trial application or similar.

Application Deadline: Sunday, October 25th

Decision by: Sunday, November 1st

10 Weeks Workshop Starts by: Friday, November 13th

What Will be Covered?

Before Winter Break:

Overview of Grant Development Process: Structure of a NIH Clinical Trial Application.

Overview of NIH, POs and Review Committees: Overview of funding sources, choosing a right study section and major sections of a clinical trial application.

Developing a Strong Specific Aims Section: Workshopping Specific Aims. The formula of a Specific Aims section. Critique by responder panel of examples/drafts from participants.

General Overall of Major Design for Clinical Trials: Brief presentations of pilot trials, RCT, pragmatic trials, comparative effectiveness research, etc. Limiting bias in clinical trials and masking

Getting the Approach Section Right Part 1. Options for structuring Approach sections. Checklist for fully developed approach section; how to avoid being characterized as “underdeveloped”. What are recurring peer review criticisms of Approach sections and dealing with power calculations.

January Onward:

Approach Part 2: Methods Workshop. Developing Applications for different clinical trial designs. Applying combined qualitative and quantitative methods. Dealing with intervention fidelity. Randomization and variance control strategies. Power and sample size calculations

Human Subjects and Recruitment: Recruiting a diverse sample, establishing consent, adverse events, unique NIH requirements, protocol development and submitting applications for IRB approval

Surviving Peer Review. Thinking Like a Reviewer--Understanding Study Sections. Choice of a study section; expectations and "culture" of various study sections. First impressions and "red flags". Panel of experienced grant-funded researchers presentation followed by discussion with group and among panelists.

The Mechanics of NIH Applications: Getting All the Parts Right. Preaward process and budget. Other elements of an application that are critical to get right: Abstract; Personal Statement Sections of Biosketch; Human Subjects Sections; Rules on Appendices; Resources and Environment; Inclusion Tables.

Responding to Peer Review: It's Not Over Till It's Over. Writing the A1 submission. Introduction page, deciphering summary statements and recurrent review concerns.

Workshops will meet (attendance to all sessions mandatory) on **Fridays from 12-2pm** at the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research, 112 Paterson St, New Brunswick. Mode of meeting will be dependent on current public health situation, with the possibility of both socially distanced in person and remote learning. Free Registration. Accepted participants are expected to write, present and refine their specific aims and general sections during the course of the seminar. Participants are highly encouraged to have plans for submission in upcoming 2021 grant cycles.

To apply, please include the following information:

1. Name, Title, School, Department, Email, Phone.
2. Most Recent CV
3. What are the areas of grant development where you most desire help/information?
4. What do you most hope to gain from the workshop?
5. Working title(s) (can be tentative) for planned application.
6. Brief description of planned application: aims, data sources, key research questions, likely methods. Draft of specific aims is a preferred format; otherwise, please provide a brief description.
7. Any identified key personnel for your application

Please direct any questions or applications to Natalie Tuseth grantwriting@ifh.rutgers.edu or ntuseth@ifh.rutgers.edu