Funding Mechanisms for Trainees

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Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA
No disclosures
Outline

• List of available funding opportunities
• Focus on NIH funding mechanism
• Elements of F32 grants
• Suggested timeline
List of available funding opportunities

- Institutional
- Foundations
- Professional Societies
- NIH
# Foundational grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active Funding Opps</th>
<th>Upcoming Funding Opps</th>
<th>Closed Funding Opps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>APPLICATION DEADLINE</strong></td>
<td><strong>DESCRIPTION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, 3 Nov 2017 2:00 p.m. ET</td>
<td>2018 RWJF Culture of Health Prize</td>
<td>The RWJF Culture of Health Prize recognizes communities that have placed a priority on health and are creating powerful partnerships and commitments that will enable everyone to live as healthy as possible.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, 15 Nov 2017 3:00 p.m. ET</td>
<td>Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellows</td>
<td>The RWJF Health Policy Fellows are provided an opportunity to participate in the policy process at the federal level and use that leadership experience to improve health, health care and health policy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Evidence for Action: Investigator-Initiated Research to Build a Culture of Health</td>
<td>This program aims to support rigorously designed quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research that yields convincing findings regarding the population health, well-being, and equity impacts of specific policies, programs and partnerships.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Pioneering Ideas Brief Proposals</td>
<td>The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation seeks out and supports pioneering ideas and innovative solutions to foster a Culture of Health in America.</td>
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</tbody>
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**MacArthur Foundation**

**Policy Research Grant Guidelines**

**Encourage and Develop Clinical Research Careers**
The foundation supports the development of clinical investigators through the following competitive awards:

- Clinical Research Continuum: High School to College
- Clinical Research Mentorship
- Clinical Scientist Development Award
- Fund to Retain Clinical Scientists
- International Clinical Research Fellowship
Professional Societies

- ACS Resident Research Scholarships
- SUS Resident Research Scholar Award
- AAS Trainee Research Fellowship Award
Professional Societies

GI Surgery
- SSAT Mentored Research Award
- SSAT/SBAS Resident/Fellow Research Award
- AHPBA Research Fellowship Grants

Transplant Surgery
- American Society of Transplantation Grant Program
- ASTS Resident Scientist Scholarships
- ASTS Presidential Student Mentor Grant

Vascular Surgery
- SVS Resident Research Award
- VESS/Medtronic Vascular Resident Research Award

Cardiothoracic Surgery
- Thoracic Surgery Foundation Resident Research Fellowship Award
- Nina Starr Braunwald Research Award
NIH Funding Mechanisms

- R
  - R01
  - R03
  - R21
- K
- T
  - T32
- F
  - F32
F32 grants

What do you get?

• Principal Investigator (P.I.) status
• Salary support
• Small research budget
• Partial support for tuition
Challenges

- Time

- 34 different steps
  - Deadlines: August 8, December 8, April 8
  - Earliest start dates: April, July, September
  - Great to aim for August deadline, fall back on resubmission in December
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Evaluation components</th>
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<tr>
<td>Register Principal Investigator (PI) or Program Director (PD) in eRA Commons (Fellow is PI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Title (81 Characters)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cover letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior / Key Person Profile(s) (for eForm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and Fees-Budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Summary/Abstract (30 lines)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Narrative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Training Plan- Specific Aims (1 page)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Training Plan- Research Strategy (6 pages)</td>
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<tr>
<td>doctoral Dissertation and Other Research Experience (2 pages)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection of Human Subjects (No page limit)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inclusion of Women and Minorities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Targeted/Planned Enrollment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inclusion of Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Research Training Plan (No page limit)- for studies with animals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilities and Other Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resource Sharing Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Respective Contributions (1 page)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selection of Sponsor and Institution (1 page)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research (1 page)</td>
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<td>Applications for concurrent support (1 page)</td>
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<td>Current or prior Kirschstein NRSA support (1 page)</td>
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<td>Goals for fellowship Training and Career (1 page)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities Planned Under this Award (1 page)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doctoral Dissertation and Other Research Experience (2 pages)</td>
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<tr>
<td>List of Referees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor and Co-Sponsor Information (6 pages)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship Reference Form 1 (2 page max)-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fellowship Reference Form 2 (2 page max)-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fellowship Reference Form 3 (2 page max)-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PI Biosketch (New Biosketch Format)</td>
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</table>
Main evaluation components

• Research plan
• Candidate
• Career development plan
• Mentors and collaborators
• Environment and institutional commitment
Research Plan

• Specific Aims
  – 1 page

• Research plan
  – 6 pages
  – Significance
  – Innovation
  – Approach
Research Plan

How to write Significance?

• What is your vision? What do you want to **change**?

  *What pisses you off the most?*

• Dissociate **clinical interests** from **research interests**
  – Come up with a topic that is generalizable across specialties

• What is the **barrier** to that vision?

• What do you think could remove that barrier? What is your hypothesis?

• When completed, this study will have a **tremendous** and **sustained** impact
  – From small to big. Think about some impact for the larger society. Who are the stakeholders?
Research Plan

• Be very clear about the scope

• Be very clear about the language

• Be very thorough in your discussion of limitations
  – Better you mention it, than for reviewers to notice it

• Don’t try to do everything
  – Mention how you will find the expertise, and/or get the relevant training
What are they looking for in an F-grant applicant?
Candidate

F32

Better jump shot
Better defense
↑free throw shooting %
+60 lbs of pure muscle

R01
“Where would I end up in 2 years?”

“Where can I be in 2 years?”
Surgical Perspective

The Hidden Consequences of the Volume Pledge

“No Patient Left Behind”?

Dana M. Schwartz, MD,* Zhi Ven Fong, MD,* Andrew L. Warshaw, MD,* Michael J. Zinner, MD,†§ and David C. Chang, PhD, MPH, MBA*†

Annals of Surgery • Volume 265, Number 2, February 2017
Career Development Plan

- Candidate’s background
  - Prior research and training
- Career goals and objectives
  - Career goal
  - Career objectives and rationale for the training
- Career development/training activities during award period (timeline)
  - Enhance knowledge in X
  - Develop skills in X
  - Career development (grand rounds, journal clubs, conference presentations)
- Mentorship team (committee)
  - Mentor, vs collaborators
  - Expertise
  - Meeting schedule
Example

- **Typical HSR mentoring committee:**
  - Health services researcher
  - Epidemiologist
  - Biostatistician
  - Clinical content expert

- **Mixed methods mentoring committee:**
  - Health services researcher
  - Survey expert
  - Qualitative researcher
  - Clinical content expert

- **QI project mentoring committee:**
  - Implementation scientist
  - Clinical content expert
  - Economist
Timeline

• Soul searching: Until New Year

• Preliminary studies? January, February

• Specific Aims: February (two or three statements)

• Research plan – significance: April (1-2 pages)

• Research plan – approach: May, June (3-4 pages)

• 30 other miscellaneous steps: July (lots of little pages)
“Talk early with the Grants Management people. There’s almost nothing worse than an administrative deadline sneak up on you.”

Brian Gilmore, MD
Duke Surgery F32 recipient

“The strongest grant applications highlight an important topic with a tangible scope, include strong mentorship/teams, and are tailored to meet the specific goals of the funders/foundation.”

Rajshri Mainthia, MD
MGH Surgery, HMS Patient Safety Fellow

“The key here, in my opinion, is picking the right mentors. It is hard to get your application funded if your mentor doesn’t have experience reviewing, editing, and guiding you in preparing a successful application. And the mentors doesn’t necessarily need to be faculties; awardees of similar grants at their institution are extremely helpful too.”

Madhukar S Patel, MD, MBA, ScM
MGH Surgery, ACS Resident Research Scholarship recipient
“There is no elevator to success. You have to take the stairs.”

Zig Ziglar

Thank You!

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