Putting it All Together: Supporting Your Career Path with NIH Funding

Session Transcript: 2022-2023 NIH Grants Conference

Teraya Donaldson, PhD: Thank you for joining today's presentation, Putting It All Together: Supporting Your Career Path With NIH Funding. My name is Teraya Donaldson, your moderator for this exciting session. I'm in the Division of Biomedical Research Workforce located within the Office of Extramural Research at NIH. Okay, so the poll should be posted now. So you should see them. So I'm pleased to introduce you to our expert panel today: Kenneth Gibbs, Chief Undergraduate and Predoctoral Cross-Disciplinary Training Branch at NIGMS; Lauren Ullrich, Program Director Office of Programs to Enhance Neuroscience Workforce Diversity at NINDS; Ashlee Van't Veer, Director at Office of Research and Career Development at NIMH. So today I'm going to quickly highlight the outline that the presenters will .. . Sorry, poll showing. So the presenters will be covering a short overview of navigating NIH, sharing some NIH-wide resources, and then we will open to Q&A from the audience. Now, I want to pass the session over to Kenneth Gibbs to start with some insights for applying to grants.

Kenneth Gibbs, PhD: Thank you so much. We will start with the take-home messages, which are, contact your program officers and don't self eliminate, go for it. Getting NIH funding can be a challenge, but you have to apply and apply again to make sure that there are a lot of opportunities and that you can take advantage of them. And so a few overarching comments, no matter what type of mechanism, I know the poll results were there briefly. I saw we had a good number of post-docs and early stage investigators, as well as those who both applied and received .. . Oh, there we go, they're back. So we had a good number of post-docs and early stage investigators as well as a number of you who have never applied or are in the process of applying or have applied and not been successful yet. So, I think .. . No matter where you are, it's important to understand the mechanism that you're applying for. NIH has a number of different mechanisms. There are research grants and different flavors of research grants, training and career development awards. So it's always important to read the entire Funding Opportunity Announcement, or the FOA. The purpose tells you why we're putting out that solicitation. There are also sometimes guide notices at the top, which can give you additional information, maybe like information about a webinar or, importantly, information about a change in the FOA that you need to be attuned to while you're applying. And especially, the review criteria. And it's important to follow all the instructions. Program officers like myself and my colleagues are your resources, right? And it's really our job, and we're here because we love science, and we love helping our fellow colleagues in the extramural community navigate the process. It's important to contact program officers early in the process. When you contact, it's really best to send a biosketch and a specific aims page because then we can help you by assessing whether or not you're potentially responsive to the funding announcement or pass you on to colleagues who might be better suited to meet your area of expertise. It also helps to determine whether you are eligible and meet the responsiveness for that Funding Opportunity Announcement and within the context of the institute or center that's funding it. In addition, it's important to reach out after you've received your summary statements to discuss next steps. And that can be the case whether you've got a perfect 10 or were not discussed. I know when talking to applicants, sometimes there's not an awareness that you can reach out to us. But our job is to be helpful. And so please reach out because our job is to be your resource. And again, as we said before, you have to go for it. Don't self eliminate. Submit and then submit again if you have to because you have to submit to be able to get the award. Let's see. And so how do you find program officers? One great way is to look at the NIH RePORTER tool and the Matchmaker feature. That allows you to put in your specific aims page and your research topic and gives you potential, again, the word being potential, program officials, institutes and centers and review panels that are best aligned for your research. And again, it's Matchmaker, so it's not a perfect system. But it gets you in the ballpark of people who might be best able to handle your area of research. Finally, no matter what mechanism you're applying for, it's important to think about these processes, these grant applications undergo peer review. Ands so what do reviewers look for? Really, they look for compelling research. We are a science-funding agency. And so that really is saying, "It's a significant and important problem that will have impact," looking for exciting ideas. In the context of research grants, almost always reviewers are looking for clear hypotheses with alternatives proposed and paying attention to the factors that we globally call rigor, so fiscal analysis, relevant biological variables, et cetera. What I often say to applicants is that the best research proposals are one such that even if your hypothesis is incorrect, you have so rigorously tested the mechanism that you have been able to advance our knowledge about a fundamental process of interest to the institute or center that's funding. It's also important to make sure there's an appropriate fit to the mechanism. Make sure you have realistic aims and timelines and don't be overly ambitious. I work a lot with training grants and career development awards, one very prominent one is the K99/R00, which provides the last 2 years of funding for your post-doc and the first 3 years as an independent investigator. It's great to have a career-spanning vision, but you don't want to put 30 years worth of work into a 5-year grant. So you have to make sure that there's realistic aim and timeline. And, specifically for those of you who are post-docs or grad students thinking about F or K awards, it's important to not just have good research, but to justify the need for additional training and career development, often like, I'm learning a new system, some new techniques, some new skills, and to make sure you have the appropriate mentors, collaborators and consultants. Finally, grant writing is important. Grantsmanship is not a review criteria, but it's important that you are able to write your ideas clearly and that they are easily understood by scientists from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds. Oftentimes, you'll have people who know your field exactly, or you'll also have reviewers who are generally knowledgeable about that area of science and some, depending on .. . especially if it's a training panel, might just be able .. . might be there to comment on the training aspects of it. But you need to make sure that it's easily understood by scientists from a wide variety of disciplines. And often a concise and well-written application helps you to do that. I now am going to turn it over to my colleague, Dr. Lauren Ullrich from NINDS.

Lauren Ullrich, PhD: Thank you, Dr. Gibbs. All right. So we're trying to get to the right slide. Here we go. So one of the resources that I want to direct you to is the researchtraining.nih.gov. And this is really your one-stop shop to learn about anything training related. So I know we had quite a few graduate students, post-docs and even there are opportunities for early career scientists in this portfolio. So there's information across the top where you can sort by career path or by program type. You can even see a matrix of which institutes or centers support which activity codes, in case you're confused. I know it's a little bit of an alphabet soup. You can also say, "Oh, hey, I'm a post-doc, what opportunities are available for me?" So that will be the colored bar across the top. Then on the right, if you say, "You know what? I know that I'm interested in fellowships," you can look only at fellowships and sort that way instead. And then finally, there are some really nice infographics that talk about the various types of research career pathways that there are. So a physician scientist, veterinarian, dentist, research scientist, whatever flavor makes the most sense to you. There, it sort of shows you as you advance through your career, what are the different opportunities available? Another key term that we want you to be aware of is the early stage investigator and the new investigator designations. So the early-stage investigator, ESI, is someone who has not received an R01 or equivalent, and the equivalent awards are down in the bottom-right corner, and has completed their terminal research degree or their clinical training within the past 10 years. So if you .. . If this fits you, then you should check your eRA Commons profile and make sure that it says early-stage investigator on it because this designation means you'll get special attention at review, and then you may also get potentially increased or better pay line. Depending on the IC, they sort of treat these early-stage investigators slightly differently. But you'll definitely get a second look. There are also extensions available for this 10-year window for childbirth and medical leave and various other situations. So if you go to the early .. . the ESI web page, there will be information about how to submit for an extension, and these are reviewed by a committee. The other flavor is new investigator. So this is anyone who hasn't received an R01 or equivalent. And some institutes and centers and some Funding Opportunity Announcements have a special designations for new investigators as well. And I also wanted to make sure that you're aware of some pre and post-award opportunities. So first, continuing this vein of flexibilities, we talked about the eligible extensions for ESI status, but there are also eligible extensions for the K99/R00 that Dr. Gibbs mentioned earlier. And once you have the award, there are built-in policies around leave of absences and part-time training or temporary reduction of effort on Fs and Ks. So this is something that I highly encourage you, both before you apply and after you have the award, to reach out to your program director and discuss, what policies are available? What flexibilities are available? Because we will try, within reason, within the policies that exist to figure out a way to accommodate you. After you get the award, there are also various flavors of supplements. So these are additional funds given to an existing NIH award that are used to achieve different ends. So the first one I'll talk about is the supplements to promote research continuity and retention. So this is for any K awards or a first-time R01 awardees. If you have some kind of critical life event, like childbirth, like a disability, taking care of an immediate family member with an illness, you can apply for a supplement to provide up to $50,000 to help you maintain your research progress while this event is going on. And normally, this might take the form of hiring a tech to continue the research while you're not able to be there. But there's lots of different ways to approach this. The other opportunities that you should be aware of is the diversity supplement program, which provides funds to existing NIH grants to support training in those labs. And this can support everyone from a high school student all the way to a junior faculty member. So it's a very flexible program. And every single NIH institute and center participates in it. Additionally, we have the re-entry and reintegration supplements, and these are available to either help someone re-enter science after an extended absence or if someone is experiencing some kind of harassment in their lab, and they need to quickly switch to a different lab, these supplements are available to accomplish those. And so now I will turn it over to Dr. Ashlee Van't Veer.

Kenneth Gibbs, PhD: You're muted, Ashlee.

Ashlee Van't Veer, PhD: Double muted, sorry, everyone. You'd think, after all this time, I would remember that I have two mute buttons. So I have a few slides of a few more resources, but I want to encourage everyone to be putting their questions in the Q&A feature because we'll be wrapping up the formal part soon, and we have lots of time for questions. So please, send away. So first I'm going to talk about, briefly, the early career reviewer program, and this program is really one of the best ways to build your grant-writing skills by serving as a reviewer on the NIH panel. So the Center for Scientific Review has this program that they developed to train scientists without prior review experience so that they can become effective reviewers and help emerging researchers advance their careers by exposing them to peer review and enriching the existing pool of NIH reviewers. So this .. . The website is below, and I will put it in the chat as well. But I encourage you, if you're interested, to look into that program. It's focused on individuals that are already at the faculty level. So post-docs or below are not eligible, but if you have not reviewed grants for NIH, and you're at the faculty level, please do look at this program. The second opportunity .. . let me just put that one in the chat for everyone .. . and then I'm going to put this one in there too, while I'm at it .. . is the NIH Loan Repayment Program. So this program you sign, basically, a commitment with NIH to do 2 years of research in exchange for getting up to $50,000 per year of your student loans repaid. And there are six different programs that are available. So if you have student loan debt and you're doing research, then you should definitely look into the LRP program. The applications are due once per year, generally in November. And there's lots of resources on the website that I sent. And you don't need to have an NIH grant to be eligible. But it is for US citizens and permanent residents only. And then the final resource that I'll tell you about are these two podcasts, which have a wealth of information about grants and the process and how NIH works. There's a lot there if you're interested in hearing instead of reading about how NIH works. So first is the "All About Grants" podcast. You can Google this pretty easily, but again, I will find it, and I will put it in chat. It goes over a range of topics. So in that bar across your screen, you can see the different categories. Within each category, there are multiple podcasts that go .. . that pertain to these topics, from preparing to apply to post-award activities and then special programs that NIH runs. And then the other one is the "Building Up the Nerve" podcast that NINDS has produced. And this one also goes through the grants process, but gets into some additional topics around mentoring. And you see, season four, coming soon, will be about the hidden curriculum of a biomedical career. So these are interviews and information from NIH staff, but also other researchers, investigators, those who have gotten grants or are mentors. So it's both really excellent resources if you just want to understand more about the entire biomedical research enterprise and process. So I'll turn it back to Dr. Donaldson to wrap up.

Teraya Donaldson, PhD: Thank you. I would like to thank all of our presenters today, Lauren, Ashlee and Kenny, for their time and sharing their knowledge and sharing their resources with the audience today. I know that it's been a lot of information over this first day of the grants conference event. So we really appreciate you. And now we want to switch to moving into the Q&A portion of the session. So if you haven't had the time to submit your question, please submit your questions in the Q&A box, and I'll start with a question from the audience. And additionally, if there's a question that's posted there that is relevant to your situation, please make sure to upvote the question. So let's go into here and .. . So the first question that has the most upvotes right now is the question about the roadblocks, and it just poofed. So what are some of the biggest hurdles, roadblocks that you've seen as for, first-time investigators for those who are applying for the grants for the first time? And anybody, I guess, could answer that one. Should call on somebody? How about Kenny?

Kenneth Gibbs, PhD: Sure. I think a lot of hurdles, so one, going back to the big points I made earlier, not reaching out, and not reaching out with enough time because the day of, the week of or the week before are not appropriate times to reach out about the application. It's not that .. . It might not be too late to get some quick pointers, but if you're going to have some deep and formative developmental feedback, often reaching out a few months ahead of time is helpful, being mindful that we have rather large portfolios and numbers of folks to deal with. I would also say not fully reading the FOA and the review criteria, because that is how you will be evaluated. And so what I often tell applicants is to ensure that you can answer each of those questions, yes, in a clear and compelling manner and that it's easy for the reviewers to find that information so they don't have to hunt for it. Sometimes you show and feel the idea that you don't take the step back to put yourself in the mind of a reviewer. I'll pass over to my colleagues, Lauren and Ashlee, if they have any additional thoughts.

Lauren Ullrich, PhD: I guess, yeah, I think that point you made about getting .. . stepping back and getting feedback from other people about your grant. And that means finishing the grant before the deadline, so you have time to get the feedback. But a lot of times, I see that applicants get their summary statement back, and they're like, "But I said this. Why are the reviewers saying I didn't say this?" And then you go back to the actual grant, and it's just .. . It's not clear, right? And it's people .. . The reviewers can't read your mind, and they don't know what you don't tell them very explicitly. And the other thing .. . I'll just reiterate another point you made, Kenny, which is resubmission. So a lot of times, I see new investigators, they submit one grant. It doesn't get discussed, and then they are .. . give up and move on to the next idea. But a lot of these grants, these R01s, I see them being funded on the second, third, even sometimes even the fourth try. And so it's important to talk to the program officer, see, do they have any insight? Is it going to the right study section? Is it going to the right institute? Do you need to change your aims a little bit? There's a lot of tweaking that can be done and not just give up and throw it away and start over.

Kenneth Gibbs, PhD: I'll add one more, actually, which is sort of applying so much that you don't take the time to get the feedback. I know that there are different institution types where there's different types of pressure. In my experience, the PIs who apply every round tend to be less successful than the ones who take the time to reflect and put in one solid proposal a year or two, recognizing that people have different types of pressure to deal with. But that's just to piggyback on Lauren's point.

Teraya Donaldson, PhD: Great. Thank you. I'm going to move on to the next question. Eduardo asked, "Could you please discuss the early career reviewer program in more detail? Is the program done as a summer institute, virtual over a period of time, hybrid? Thank you again for your time and help."

Ashlee Van't Veer, PhD: So I'd really encourage you to go to the website for more information and contact the NIH contacts available there. Through the program, you would serve as a reviewer on a study section. So it's not like a training program. You're on the review committee. There are resources to train you, but you will be reviewing applications as part of the grant review process. And this could be done in person or virtually, depending on how the study section is organized for the section that you're assigned to. And that will depend also on your expertise and what you think the appropriate scientific fit is for you to review applications.

Teraya Donaldson, PhD: Thank you. So another question, "How would ESI and NI, new investigators, be approached differently in the study section review and funding decisions?" So I guess, what's the distinction between how ESIs and NIs are evaluated in study section?

Lauren Ullrich, PhD: Yeah, I can talk about that. So it's my understanding that in study section, the ESIs are all discussed at the top, together. And then the other applications are discussed. So reviewers are sort of oriented to the fact that it's ESIs, and so they may not have as much experience and be as well-versed in the lingo of NIH and the way that applications are written and things like that. And then, on the funding side, a lot of institutes have different paylines for early stage investigators. So at NINDS, we'll fund 10 points beyond the payline, we're a very payline-driven institute. And other ICs might approach is more as just giving them a second look or being slightly more likely to fund them than otherwise. Those are the kinds of considerations that are given to ESIs.

Kenneth Gibbs, PhD: I would also add, because I'm at a not-payline-driven institute, we don't have a payline at NIGMS. But again, the idea of secondary consideration is important. A few other thoughts to be mindful of, is that there are also specific funding opportunities aimed at ESIs or new investigators. So a number of the neuroscience ICs have an R01 Research Opportunities for new and at-risk investigators to promote workforce diversity. NIGMS has our MIRA program. We have one flavor that's just for ESIs, early-stage investigators. We also allow new investigators to apply through a separate FOA announcement. So I think it's important not just think about the consideration you get, but also identifying, are there specific funding announcements that are aimed at the population that you're a part of?

Teraya Donaldson, PhD: All right. Thank you. Next question, "So is there a mechanism that would be appropriate, as we were talking about what the right sort of funding announcements for your stage, is there a mechanism that would be appropriate for someone who completed a PhD, 2 to 3 years of post-doc, has been in research administration for several years but is now interested in coming back to the lab in independent funding" So someone who has been out of the traditional lab environment and is interested in coming back?

Lauren Ullrich, PhD: So you might try the re-entry supplement. You'd have to go do a deep dive in FOA and see if it aligns to your particular pathway, a way and back to science. But if you have not been doing research for a while, the re-entry supplement will fund you to work in an NIH-funded lab. So that's one option.

Kenneth Gibbs, PhD: That sounds like a great idea. And maybe some .. . There might be some K awards because depending on their level of targeting, there might be some K awards that are appropriate. Oftentimes, they're for people that have continuously doing research at the same point. This goes to the don't self-eliminate. Ask, talk to the program officer, say, "Here's my situation," right, because all of our advice is general, but each situation is specific. So when you speak to the person who is over those various funding announcements, they can give you a better sense of what they've seen and how to better position yourself for success.

Teraya Donaldson, PhD: All right. I'm moving through questions, and I'm trying to select. So this question here, assuming .. . from Jen, "Assuming that your application addresses everything in the FOA, does it hurt your changes of being funded if you didn't reach out to the program officer prior to submission?"

Kenneth Gibbs, PhD: I would say no. I know I encourage you to reach out. The vast majority of people don't, and so what we're seeing though, particularly for those trying to navigate the system, it's important. And oftentimes, here's a little tip, sometimes, no matter what the score is, particularly for not-payline-driven institute, sometimes we see something, and we say, "Hey, this might warrant some additional consideration. Peer review raised a few comments. Can you please respond to those comments, so we can have that information as part of consideration?" right? You should always respond because a number of people don't. And so then, we're left trying to make a decision. Yeah, you don't have to reach out. It usually is your benefit. And again, reach out with kind of a specific ask. Here's my aims, here's my biosketch, does this fit? Can we talk about that? Here's what I got from the summary statement. Can we meet to discuss this in the likelihood of funding and/or what the next steps are? I would definitely .. . it doesn't make you less likely to get funded if you don't reach out, I would say.

Lauren Ullrich, PhD: Yeah, we're not going to penalize you and say, "Oh, this person didn't e-mail me." But it's more about .. . it's an easy way to avoid just common mistakes that people make. So you might be submitting something, a clinical trial to a clinical trial not allowed FOA, or you might be submitting research that is not a priority for that institute. You might be missing out on some of the review criteria that are really emphasized in review, and the program officer knows that because they've gone to review for .. . every one for the past 5 years. So it's these kinds of insights that you can get from the program officer, and they can kind of help you decipher things just based on their knowledge of the system.

Teraya Donaldson, PhD: An anonymous attendee wants to know about .. . They want us to provide some insight on what an ideal grant path would look like for a post-doc/early faculty researcher. The attendee mentioned that they have an F32 under review, but they're not clear when they should be submitting a K99/R00. And so what's the ideal path?

Ashlee Van't Veer, PhD: So I guess my answer would be that there's really not an ideal path because everyone's path is different. So you just need to consider what your goals are and your career trajectory and what funding opportunities there are that would help you meet those goals. So for someone who has an F32 and is looking to apply for a K99/R00, first it's important that you recognize the period of eligibility for a K99. You cannot have, generally, more than 4 years of post-doctoral research experience. So you want to ensure that you get your application in on time, but also that it fits with your plans for transitioning to independence. The K99/R00, while it's a really fantastic opportunity to transition to independence, it doesn't fit everyone's timeline. Some people want additional post-doctoral training. They have one post-doc, they want to do a second post-doc to move into a new area. The K99 might not fit that kind of career path. But if you are considering the K99, make sure that you're within the eligibility period, you get your application in on time, don't wait until the last deadline you're eligible for and make sure it's a strong plan for having that additional piece of mentored research training that's feasible within 1 to 2 years of the K99 portion and is going to position you to be successful on the job market when you're transitioning to the R00 phase. Now, if that doesn't seem realistic, there are other K opportunities available that you can look into. So different institutes fund different kinds of awards for different reasons, so that's why, again, like you've heard many times, you should reach out to program because we can help you with the other opportunities that may be available depending on your goals and your research area.

Teraya Donaldson, PhD: Thank you. We have a question on what to do if the PO assigned to the FOA that you're interested in does not answer your e-mails or phone calls?

Lauren Ullrich, PhD: Yeah, this is a great question. POs are human too. Sometimes they have inboxes that are out of control. And so you can try to find somebody else at the institute that might be able to help you navigate the system, they might be able to reach out to the person and sort of poke them and say, "Hey, this person is trying to get in contact with you." So you can try somebody in the same sort of division that might have a .. . similar, but not exactly the PO, or it .. . institute that will .. .

Ashlee Van't Veer, PhD: Give it like a week for us to respond because our job is basically answering e-mails. So we get a tremendous volume of e-mails, and sometimes it takes a while to get through them. So don't expect a response that day or the next day. Possibly you got us at a good time, and we can get you a response quickly. But I'd wait a week. If you still don't get a response, try again. Wait another week, assuming you have this much time. You should be contacting us with plenty of time. And then if you don't hear anything, as Lauren said, I think it's totally a terrific suggestion to find someone else in the institute, or maybe you know of another program officer that your mentor has been working with that you can start with as well. So it's another way to get a response. Generally we're not trying to ignore your e-mails, but sometimes, they get buried.

Kenneth Gibbs, PhD: And sometimes they go in spam filters. And so I've had to look sometimes, and I was like, "Oh, I didn't know this was here." Also, each institute has what's called a Division for Extramural Activities. They oversee all the funding and usually grants-making for the institute. And so, if all else fails, find the director for the Division of Extramural Activities. They're a highly positioned person who can usually move any blockages. That said, to Ashlee's point, give it some time because sometimes, even on holiday weekends, people will e-mail and then e-mail again on a federal holiday and say, "You're not responding." And it's .. . This is not .. . We're a national institute, right? And so we have a national reach. So people from across the nation, right? So just be mindful of that in terms of timelines.

Teraya Donaldson, PhD: We have a few more minutes before we need to wrap up. One question that recently came in, "If one has just started 10-year track position without previously receiving a K99, is it still possible to apply for the R00, or are you no longer eligible for the R00 portion of the K99/R00?"

Ashlee Van't Veer, PhD: You cannot apply for the R00 alone. It's a combined award, so it's not possible.

Kenneth Gibbs, PhD: That said, a number of institutes have other early .. . So there's some institutes have what's called R03s, R21s, you can even apply for the R01, and at NIGMS, we have the R35 that we use for early-stage investigators. So just to think about there are lots of other options that exist. But the R00, as Ashlee mentioned, is not something you can apply for as a stand-alone.

Teraya Donaldson, PhD: So one question that came in, this is related to the early career reviewer program, "Does one need to be a US citizen to apply for this program, or to apply to be an early career reviewer?"

Ashlee Van't Veer, PhD: I'm actually not sure. I don't think you need to be a US citizen, but there's a message in the chat right now, which is the e-mail for the program. So I'd just encourage you to reach out to them and get the information about the eligibility and how to apply.

Teraya Donaldson, PhD: Skipping around, trying to find some more general questions. So if .. . how would one decide between, I guess a regular K01 award versus a Katz award? Are you .. . are our panelists familiar with the Katz award?

Lauren Ullrich, PhD: So NINDS doesn't participate in the Katz award, but it's my understanding that you're supposed to submit the R01 on something that you don't have any preliminary data in. It's like you're going into a brand-new field. And so that is very different than a K01. So the K01 would be to get further training to establish yourself and generally you don't want to be doing it on something you have no experience in. So I think the Katz is for a very specific situation where you don't necessarily have the background or the preliminary data, and you just have this idea and you want to pursue it. And the K01 is more a career development award to hone your skills.

Ashlee Van't Veer, PhD: Yeah, and as Lauren said, the K .. . It's a mentored award. So you're going to have a mentor and someone working with you on the project, where the Katz award you should be in independence already and proposing a project that is a deviation from your background and expertise in a new direction that you don't have preliminary data on.

Teraya Donaldson, PhD: We .. . here's one. I'm not sure if we covered that, we kind of talked about ESIs earlier, but are there any specific institutional initiatives for the ESIs? And generally there's a different type of funding or at least different type of review that goes into those who are part of the ESI or at least a categorization where they are classed with other early investigators. But is there any other sort of programs that are specific for ESIs?

Ashlee Van't Veer, PhD: Yeah, so Kenny mentioned some that were at NIGMS.

Kenneth Gibbs, PhD: Yeah, there's the MIRA program at NIGMS.

Ashlee Van't Veer, PhD: The Katz .. .

Kenneth Gibbs, PhD: The Katz, there's DP2, so there are a number of different ones. And so you want to look at the FOAs, the Funding Opportunity Announcement, see the purpose, see who's eligible because some say you have to be an early-stage investigator. I also just wanted to highlight one question that we didn't mention, but was answered in the chat to be aware of: If you're an early-stage investigator, if you apply with somebody who's not an early-stage investigator and that award is funded, you lose your ESI status. And so it's really important, when at all possible, to make sure you get your independent award first as an ESI before working as a multi-PI on somebody else's award. It's to your benefit to do that. And so that's just something to be aware of. Everybody on the award has to be an ESI for the ESI status to hold.

Teraya Donaldson, PhD: Okay, so we're actually coming up on time. So it is 5:46 p.m. and I would like to thank our panelists for devoting some time today in answering the variety of questions that we received. The slide with our thank-you shows their e-mail. So if you have some questions that you would like to follow up with, then please reach out to the panelists, specifically, if there's a question regarding a program within their IC that they manage. And for other questions, you can also contact me for basic training policy-related questions. And we also have the NIH training mailbox at nihtraining@nih.gov if you have some questions on various policies, related training.