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## Scientific Editing and Research Communication Core

### Securing Funding with help from the Division of Sponsored Programs (DSP)

You've worked for months to put together a fabulous grant proposal to fund your research, but getting it submitted almost seems more daunting. Never fear! The Division of Sponsored Programs (DSP) offers a variety of resources and services for faculty, staff, and trainees seeking funding for their research. Our Scientific Editing Intern, Ryan Betters, had a chance to chat with DSP Associate Director, Lynn Hudachek, about the DSP's perspective on the grant submission process and what researchers can do to improve their chances of success.

#### **What aspect of your services would you highlight to faculty who might view the DSP as just another stop on the path to securing funding?**

- First, we're all in this together, and we really want to help them succeed. We have to check some compliance stuff, so some people think that's where our interests lie, but we like to see those awards come in just as much as they do!
- We have lots of resources on our website to help people find relevant funding opportunities. We continually update the [Grant Bulletin Opportunities](#), and you can even be on its [ListServ](#) and it'll send out new opportunities out every other week or so. That's where we post the [Weekly NIH Funding Opportunities and Notices](#) as part of the [NIH's Guide for Grants and Contracts](#), but the DSP also has a [webpage](#) to help you set up personalized external funding alerts for all the different federal sponsors and a lot of private sponsors.

#### **Many graduate students are unfamiliar with the DSP as a source of funding opportunities as well as assistance with grant writing and submission. When in the process should students come to DSP versus the Graduate College?**

- There are certainly situations where coming to the DSP first would be most helpful. If it's an external sponsor and not an internal competition, we will ultimately be the ones guiding them through the process of applying for and hopefully securing these opportunities. Hopefully the Graduate College will point them towards us since most students don't know who we are!
- Something else they may not know is that their first and most helpful stop might be their department's [research administrator](#). We often connect people with research admins because grant submission can be overwhelming. It's usually not the scholarly aspect of the proposal that trips people up; it's the little things that can be hard to find, like "Who's the authorized official?" or "What's our tax I.D. number?" The research administrator in their department or college can really help lead them through that part of the process.

#### **Most faculty are familiar with the major scientific grant-funding sources such as the NIH and NSF but tend not to look outside of these agencies when deciding where to apply. Do you feel that any funding sources are underrepresented at the University of Iowa?**

- I don't know if I can give you a specific sponsor per se, but I think this is in part because the NIH is a well-oiled machine that gives 5 years of reliable funding.
- We understand the hesitation many faculty and staff have with other sponsors such as the Department of Defense (DoD); you might get 2–3 years of funding but they require a lot of administration. I've had several PIs say that these seem more like contracts with their quarterly reports and a lot of overhead, which can take time away from conducting the actual research project.
- It's always good to diversify your portfolio, and even more involved sponsors like the DoD [Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs \(CDMRP\)](#) offer various health-related funding mechanisms.
- I also always encourage people to look at private sponsors such as the [American Heart Association \(AHA\)](#), [Cystic Fibrosis Foundation \(CFF\)](#), and [Parkinson's Foundation](#). Many targeted organizations, even if limited in their scope, offer great funding opportunities for a wide range of topics.

#### **Although many faculty have stayed ahead of the curve with the changing expectations of funding agencies, some have been caught by surprise. The new NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy comes to mind. What resources do you recommend for staying on top of future changes?**

- There are policies like this one where we've had fair warning, but it's still a lot to absorb! They keep pushing out information and FAQs (sometimes conflicting). I was hoping policies would be standardized between all the NIH institutes and centers, but they all have their own twists.
- We are always happy to train departments on upcoming changes, and we also send out the [Research Administration Dispatch \(RAD\)](#) to push out important policy changes. Anybody can sign up, but the intent is for research administrators to get these alerts and send them to their PIs.
- Signing up for specific sponsor notices is always a good idea, such as the [Notices of NIH Policy Changes](#).

### Upcoming Opportunities

#### **Have a question about writing grants or research articles?**

[Email us](#) your question and we'll answer it in a future newsletter.

#### **Hardin Open Workshops: NIH Data Management and Sharing Plans**

Feb 8, 10:00 am–11:00 am (Zoom)

These plans will be required for NIH funding proposals starting Jan. 25, 2023. This session will help you create a well-written plan by digging into the types of data in your proposed project; standards for data and metadata; how to select a repository; how to address preservation and access requirements; and considerations for accessing, reusing, and redistributing data. Examples and UI and NIH resources will be discussed. Bring your draft plan if you have one.

[Register or request a session for your group](#)

#### **Hardin Open Workshops: Data Management Essentials**

In this workshop, you will learn how to securely store and organize data, track changes to your files, create accompanying documentation, and submit your data for publication. These strategies will be directly applicable to developing Data Management and Sharing Plans, which will be required by the NIH starting Jan 25, 2023.

[Request a session for your group](#)

#### **Virtual NIH Grants Conference**

February 1 & 2, 2023

Two days of sessions designed to clarify the NIH grants process and policies, as well as provide the latest news and information. There will also be opportunities to engage with NIH staff and access to an on-demand library of related resources

[View the schedule](#) or [register](#)

#### **Broader Impacts/Research Impact Seminars**

February 3 & 17 and March 3, 17, & 31  
9:00am-11:00am (virtual).

Sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Research

The Training Team from the National Science Foundation (NSF)-supported [Advancing Research Impact in Society \(ARIS\)](#) organization will conduct five interactive virtual workshops on broader impacts (BI). BI relate to how the proposed research will "benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes" and is one of two criteria used to review NSF proposals. BI are increasingly used as the differentiator between which excellent proposals to fund or not.

[More information](#)

#### **ResearchDataGov**

ResearchDataGov is a web portal that is now open for discovering and requesting access to restricted microdata from federal statistical agencies. The portal offers a simplified way to apply for access to protected data sets maintained by 16 federal agencies. The site also allows researchers to track the status of their request and makes it easier to request data from multiple agencies.

**Featured DSP services and resources**

- [Quick guide to the external funding process](#) (Webpage and PDF)
- [Finding funding](#) (Grant Bulletin)
- [UI Routing Policy](#)
- [Preparing a proposal](#)
- [Preparing a budget](#)
- [Award procedure](#)
- [Frequently needed information](#) (University codes, audits, tax ID, etc.)

[More information](#)

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