



Introduction to the Grants Process

Effective Grant Writing Strategies

| CENTER TO REDUCE
CANCER HEALTH DISPARITIES

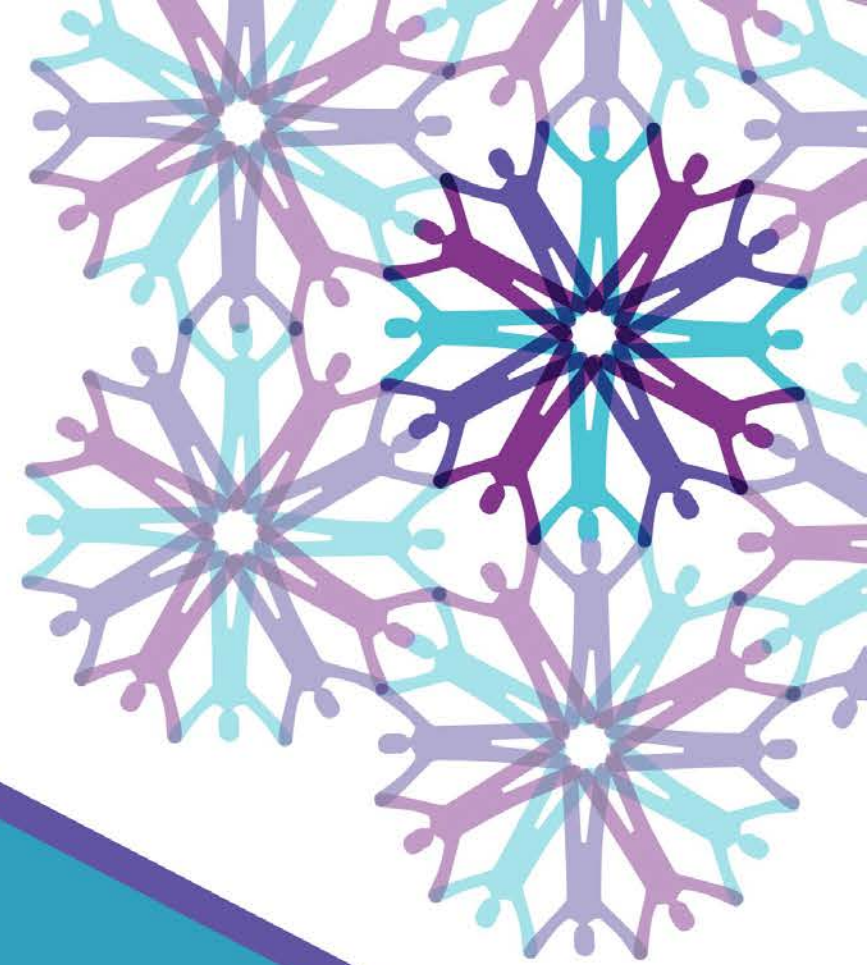
Anil Wali, PhD



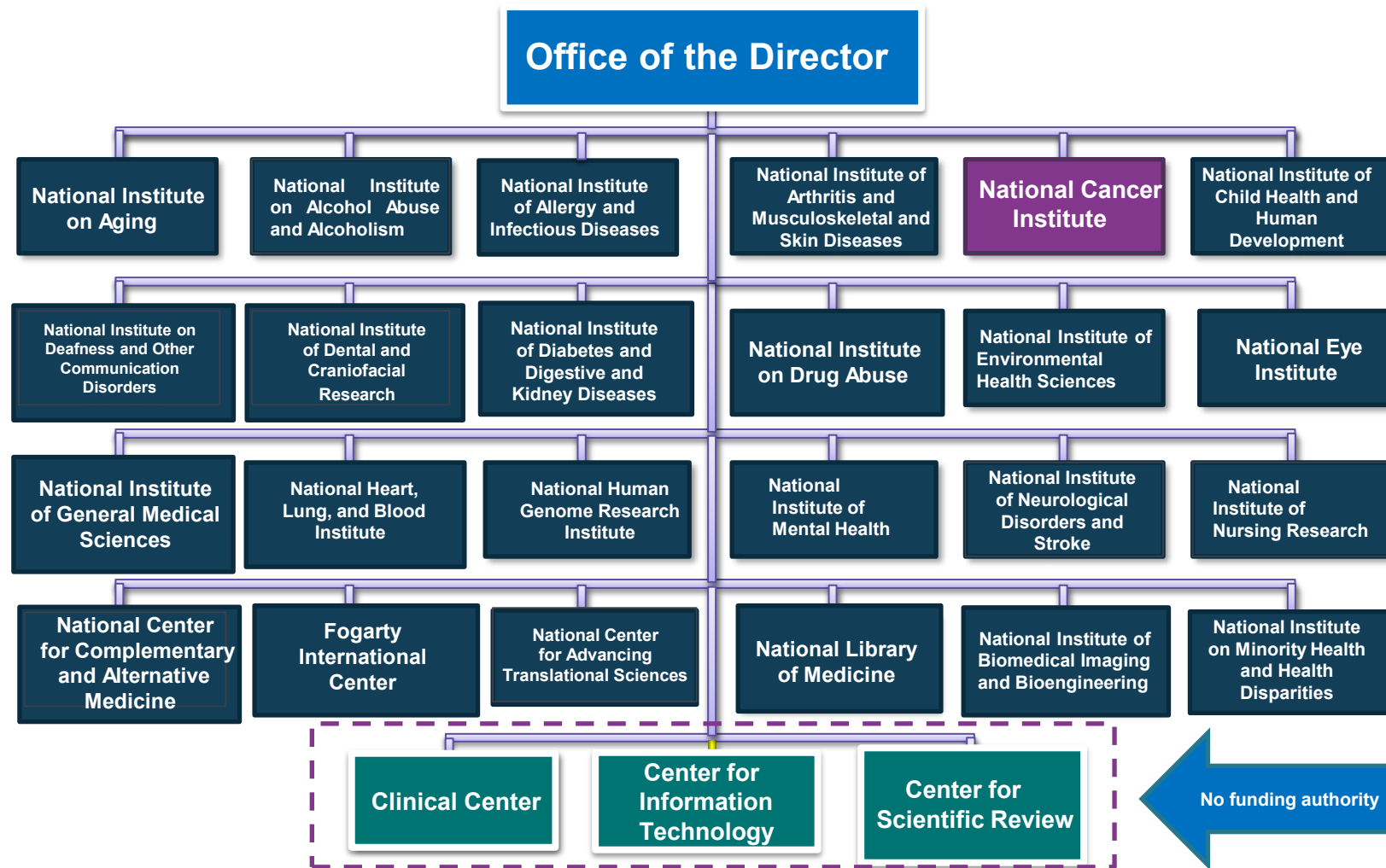
Outline

1. *NIH and the Grant Process*
2. *Effective Grant Writing Strategies:
An Overview*
3. *Funding Opportunities*

NIH and the Grant Process



NIH – 27 Institutes and Centers

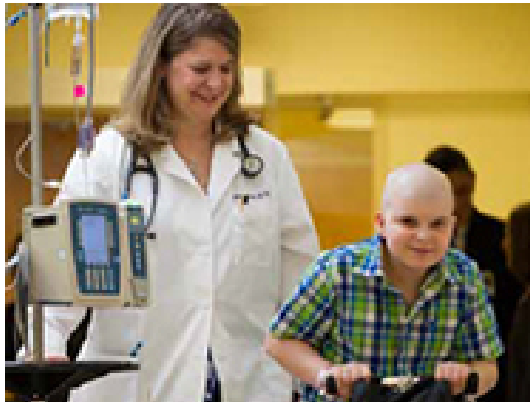


Different Missions, Responsibilities and Constituencies



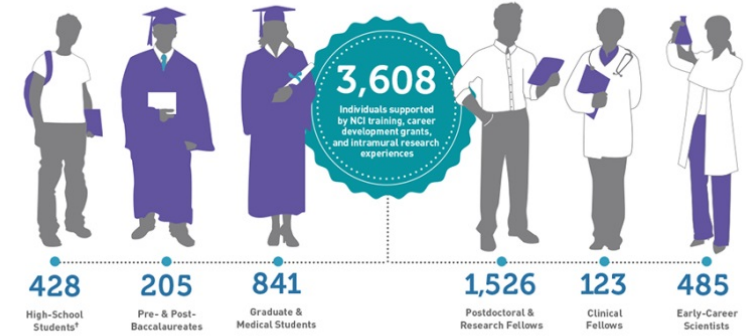
WHAT WE DO

genomics
public health clinical trials
surveillance scientific review
funding basic research
drug development
cancer survivorship
research
collaboration
treatment
prevention causes
health behavior cancer control
epidemiology PDQ
grants global health
cancer centers
patient education



TRAINING THE WORKFORCE

In FY 2014, NCI supported 3,608 emerging cancer researchers through training and career development grants and intramural research experiences.**



** Numbers do not include students and postdoctoral fellows supported by NCI research project grants, cancer center grants, and other non-training mechanisms
† Does not distinguish between summer research experiences and part- or full-time appointments

SCOPE OF OUR WORK



Important Websites:

- **Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (CRCHD):**
<https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/crchd>
- **NIH grants and funding information (OER):**
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm>
- **Division of Cancer Biology (DCB):**
<https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/dcb>
- **Division of Cancer Prevention (DCP):**
<https://prevention.cancer.gov/>
- **Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS):**
<https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/index.html>

Overall Grants Process at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)



Application Alignment with Review Criteria

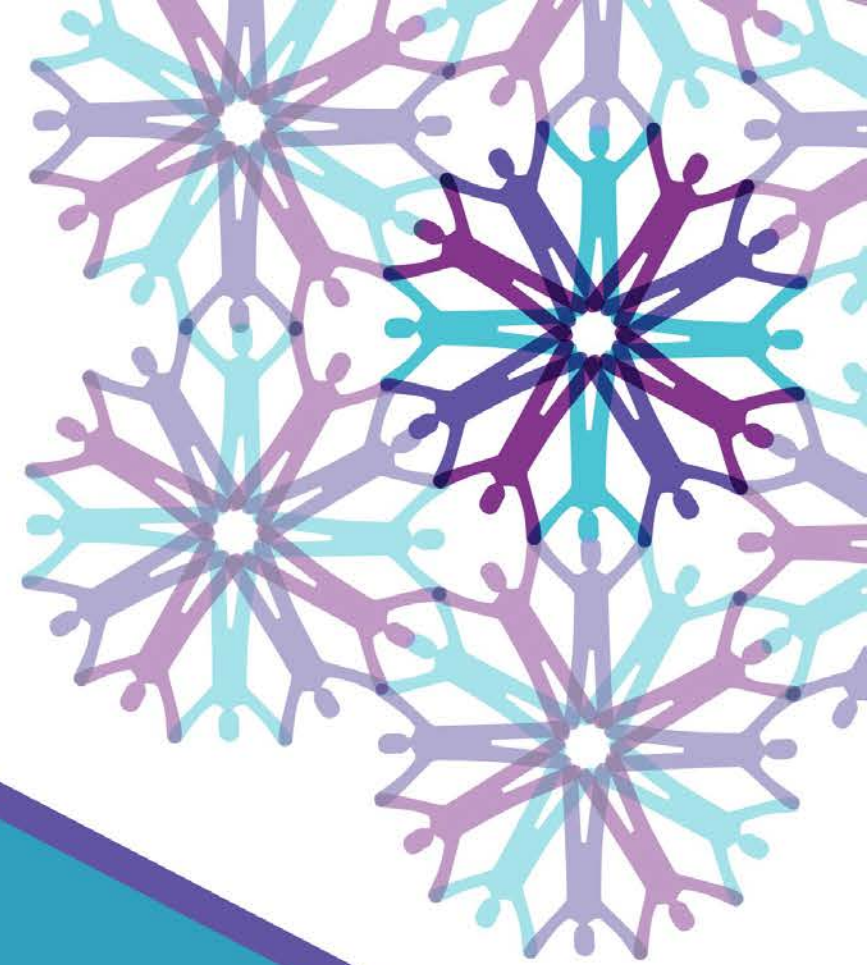
Review Criteria

- Significance
- Investigators
- Innovation
- Approach
- Environment

Application Sections

- Research Aim & Purpose
- Bio-sketches
- Research Strategy
- Research Methods & Analysis
- Resources

Effective Grant Writing Strategies: An Overview



Be Informed and Knowledgeable

- NIH Guide listserv:
 - <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/listserv.htm>
 - Search for current FOAs; grants process overview
- NIH RePORTER (Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tool):
 - <http://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter.cfm>
 - Reports, data, and analyses of NIH research

Grant Mechanisms

- **R03** – Small Research Grants (~\$50,000/yr, up to 2 yrs)
- **R21** – Exploratory/Developmental Grants (<\$200,000/yr, up to 2 yrs)
- **R01** – Research Projects (not set limit, up to 5 yrs)
- R13 – Conference Grants
- R15 – “AREA” grants
- P01 – Research Program Projects
- **K-Awards NCI** – Training Awards (e.g., K01, K07)
- R43/R44 – SBIR/STTR

For more information, please visit: <http://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/flash/awards.htm>.

Effective Grant Writing (Critical Elements)

- Good ideas are not enough: Active Action and Engagement are required!
- **A poorly written grant will never get funded, even if it is the best idea ever!**
- An excellent grant has the following:
 - A compelling question
 - Clear thought and expression
 - A strong and testable hypothesis
 - Strong aims that will address the hypothesis
 - Rigorous experiments and well-described approaches that will allow you to complete the aims and answer the research question
 - Clear delineation of the impact it will have on scientific area of interest or public health.

Evaluate Resources (Critical Self-Assessment Tool Kit)

Questions to ask:

- What is my level of expertise, interest, and comfort with this topic?
- Do I have the necessary skills or knowledge to carry out my idea?
- Do I have the time to complete the tasks that will be required?
- Am I willing and able to commit the time to **the** project?
- Do I have the resources needed to complete the project?
- Are others available to serve as collaborators to complement my level of expertise?

Develop Your Ideas

- Write a concept one-pager.
 - Include a brief description of the research idea, aims, and approach.
- **Talk to NIH staff, especially your Program Director.**
 - **This will help you to determine whether the idea fits the priorities of the funding agency you are targeting.**
- Talk to colleagues.
 - Get their feedback early and often throughout the process.
 - Circulating your research plan should not be seen as the final step.
- Refine and shape ideas based on conversations and further review of the literature.

Effective Grant Writing Strategies:

- Have you shared and discussed your proposal with the senior PIs, NIH PDs and/or other potential mentors in your PACHE partnership?

☐ Yes

☐ No

- Have you utilized your PACHE internal Grant Review process and/or other PACHE available resources (e.g., biostats core) to help assess the scientific merit of your project?

☐ Yes

☐ No



Tips for Grant Applications:

- Find NIH grants and funding information:
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm>

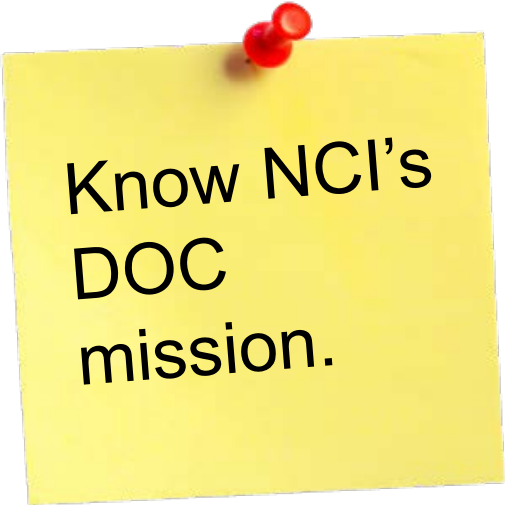
- Visit NIH extramural diversity website:
<https://extramural-diversity.nih.gov>

- Learn about peer review at NIH Center for Scientific Review:

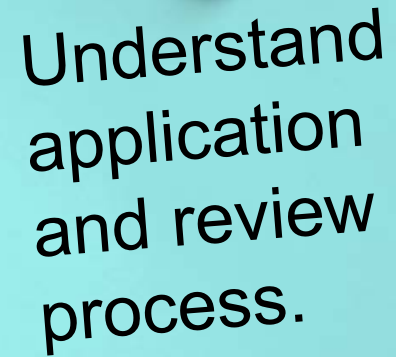
<https://public.csr.nih.gov/ApplicantResources/Pages/default.aspx>



General Tips for Funding Success




Know NCI's
DOC
mission.



Understand
application
and review
process.




Find mentors,
collaborators,
and consultants.



Improve
writing skills.

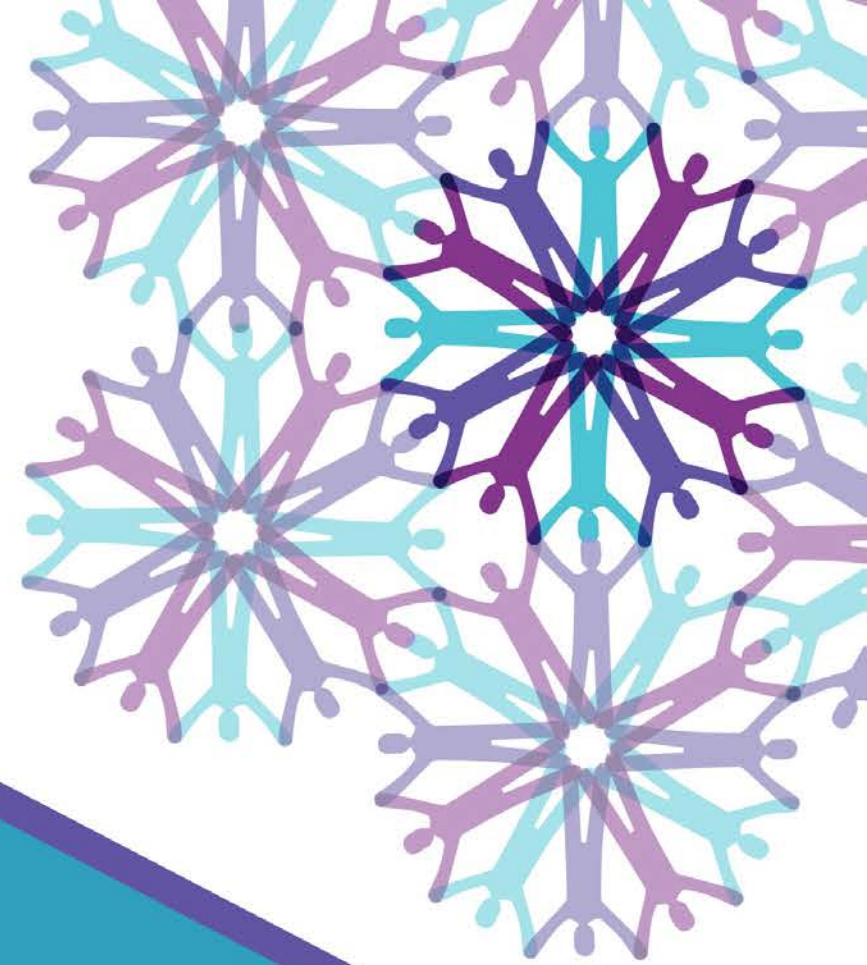


Contact
Program
Directors
early.



Make use of
available
resources.

Funding Opportunities



Other Research FOAs That May Be of Interest:

- **PAR-18-869: Modular R01s in Cancer Control and Population Sciences (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)**
 - Promotes a diversity of research topics and scientific challenges in the population sciences that lend themselves to a shorter time span and reduced budget (\$250,000 direct costs annually for up to **5 years**)
 - **Due Dates:** November 6, 2020; March 8, 2021
 - **Contact:** Scott Rogers, MPH at rogerssc@mail.nih.gov

PAR-19-018 (R01) & PAR-19-019 (R21): Mechanisms of Disparities in Etiology and Outcomes of Lung Cancer in the U.S.: The Role of Risk and Protective Factors

- Promotes multidisciplinary research to understand the underlying causal factors and mechanisms that result in lung cancer disparities in U.S. health disparity populations.
- **Due Date:** March 4, 2021 (last receipt date)
- **Contact:** Damali Martin, PhD at martinda@mail.nih.gov; Anil Wali at walia@mail.nih.gov

PAR-19-093 (R01): Leveraging Health Information Technology (Health IT) to Address Minority Health and Health Disparities

- Examines the impact of leveraging health information technology (health IT) to reduce disparities.
- **Due Date:** March 04, 2021 (last receipt date)
- **Contact:** April Oh, PhD at april.oh@nih.gov

Mechanisms of Disparities in Chronic Liver Diseases and Cancer PAR-20-081 (R21) and PAR-20-088 (R01)

Objective: To understand the etiologic factors and the underlying mechanisms responsible for chronic liver diseases and cancer disparities among racial/ethnic minority and socioeconomically disadvantaged populations in the US.

Proposal Details:

- Multidisciplinary research is encouraged.
- Projects may focus on the interplay of genetic, behavioral, environmental and/or structural factors that drive the observed racial/ethnic differences in health outcomes.
- Projects may involve primary and/or secondary data collection and analysis.
- Projects should include a focus on one or more NIH-designated health disparity populations.

■ **Budget:**

- R21: Direct Costs for 2 years ≤ \$275k, ≤ \$200k per year
- R01: Up to \$500K per year for 5 years

■ **Submission Deadlines:**

- April 1, 2020, April 1, 2021, and April 1, 2022

Sponsored by:

- *National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)*
- *National Cancer Institute (NCI)*

Administrative Supplements to Support Cancer Disparity Collaborative Research

- **PA-18-842: Trans-NCI funding opportunity** with the participation of DCB, DCCPS, DCP, DCTD, and CRCHD to promote cancer health disparities research
- **Purpose:**
 - Promotes collaborative research between **non-cancer disparities researchers** (i.e., applicant/parent grant PI) and **investigators with cancer disparities expertise** (i.e., collaborator)
 - Accelerates and strengthens multidisciplinary cancer disparities research in wide-ranging areas
- **Budget:** \$150K DC a year for up to **2 years**
- **Application Due Dates:** September 10, 2020 (last receipt date)



NCI's Provocative Questions Initiative



- **Funding Opportunity Announcements (*recently updated*):**
 - RFA-CA-20-004 (R01) and RFA-CA-18-005 (R21)
 - Stimulate specific areas of cancer research that are deemed understudied, neglected, paradoxical, or have been difficult to address in the past.
 - **Budget:**
 - R21: Direct Costs for 2 years cannot exceed \$275K, with up to \$200K per year.
 - R01: Budgets are not limited but need to reflect the needs of the proposed project, up to 5 years.
 - **Submission Deadlines:**
 - June 02, 2020/November 17, 2020
- <https://provocativequestions.nci.nih.gov/>

Additional Resources: Geographic Management of Cancer Health Disparities Program



Uses a regional approach to support disparities research, diversity training & outreach activities.

- Monthly e-newsletter
- **Funding opportunity announcements**
- **Job Announcements**
- NIH/NCI career development opportunities

Information



- Conference meet-ups
- Regional peer matching
- Mentor-mentee Matches
- Partnership Development

Interpersonal



- Webinars
- Workshops
- **Travel Scholarships**
- **Pilot Grants**
- **Expert Application Review**

Career/Professional Support



- **Researcher Connections**
- **Regional Resources and Tools**

Regional Resources



Additional Resources: Regional GMaP Network

- Are you a member of your GMaP region?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
- Are you interested in attending GMaP sponsored grant writing workshops held in your area?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No



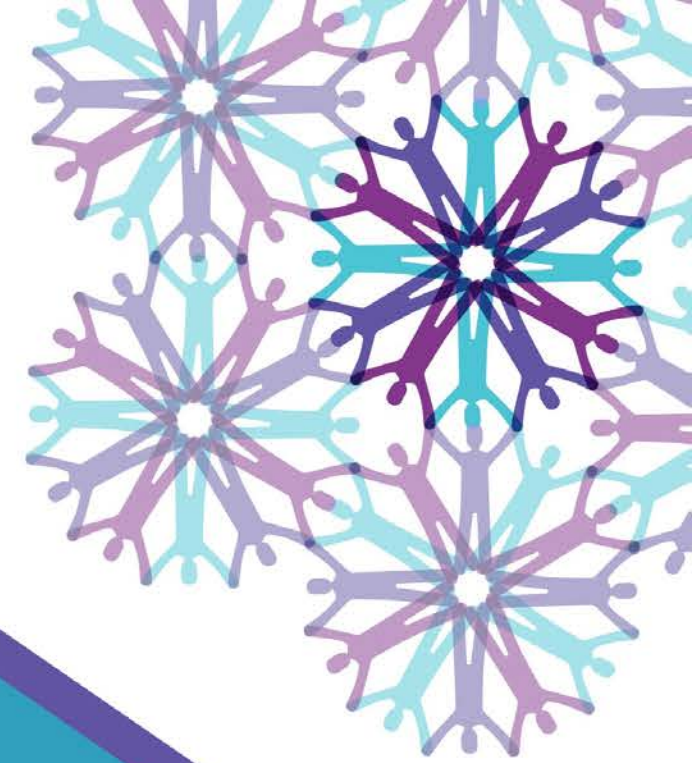
GMaP TAW Opportunities: Sign up for regional e-blasts!

<https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/crchd/inp/gmap#hubs>

GMaP Region	Workshop/ Webinar/Event	Event date (if known)	Event time (e.g., PST, MST, CT, EST)	Point of Contact (RCD)	Email Address
Region 1 South	Annual Research Symposium (virtual)	September (Date – TBD)	EST	Anissa Vines	avines@email.unc.edu
Region 1 North	CURE on Tour Webinars: Informational webinars to help navigate CURE funding mechanisms.	September and November, specific dates TBA.	EST	Erin Oakley	Erinjoakley@uky.edu
Region 2	“Footsteps to Funding” technical assistance workshop	November 2020	EST	Z’Kera Sims, RCD; Vivekka Suppiah,	zkera.sims@moffitt.org; vivekka.suppiah@moffitt.org
Region 3	“The NIH Review Process” and You	August 12, 2020	1:00 pm MT	Miria Kano	MKano@salud.unm.edu
Region 4	Science Topics (Most recent: Implementation Science, held June 29 th)	TBD	EST	Carrie Norbeck	Carrie.Norbeck@fcc.edu
Region 5	Virtual Career Development Workshop	August 3-4	12-4:15 PST	Sara Cole	scole2@fredhutch.org
Region 6	None planned at this time	--	MT	Emily Kay	Emily.Kay@hci.utah.edu

Questions?





**NATIONAL
CANCER
INSTITUTE**

cancer.gov/crchd