



The Medical Foundation
A Division of Health Resources in Action

Foundations

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Vice President,
The Medical Foundation Division

Foundations and Trusts

- Mission-driven philanthropies
- Donate 5% of assets each year
- Great freedom in choosing what to fund,
- Focus may change from time to time



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Test question:

- Your Terminal degree:
 1. MD
 2. MD, PhD
 3. PhD
 4. MD, MPH
 5. other



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Demographic questions

- Children:
 1. Now
 2. In the next 1-2 years
 3. Eventually
 4. Never



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Q1:

- Have you applied for any private foundation funding in the past?



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Q2

Which of the following are you currently applying for:

- Private Research Funding
- Career Development Award
- Internal Private Funding

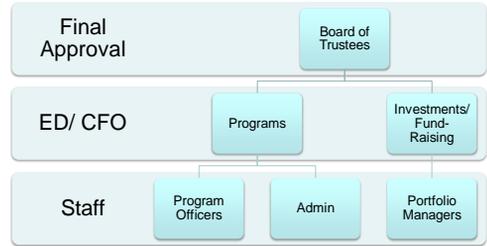


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General Types

- Disease Focus (AHA, ACS)
- Large (Gates, RWJ, Kellogg)
- Family Foundations
- Charitable Remainder Trusts (Yawkee)
- Corporate charities
- Institutional donor programs

Typical Foundation Structure

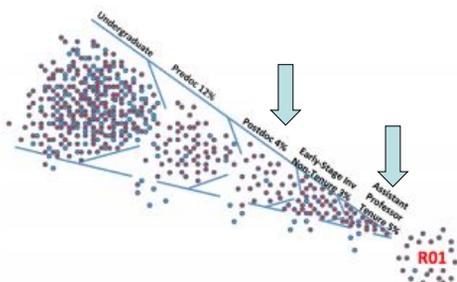


Special Philanthropic Roles

- Addressing the leaky pipeline in research careers
- Accelerating innovation in treatment
- Increasing research attention on conditions of interest

Types of support

- Career Development Awards
- Young Investigator programs
- Innovations / Innovator awards
- Research Grants



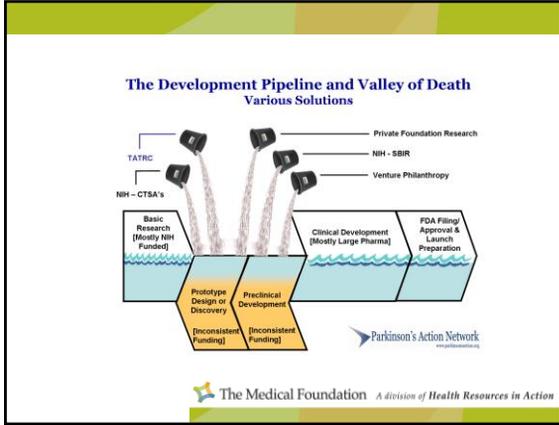
Addressing the *Leaky Pipeline*: Early Career Awards

Beth Stevens, PhD



- 2008 Smith Foundation Awardee
- 2015 McArthur Genius award:

I am so grateful for the support of the Smith family who funded my very first grant on microglia! This allowed us to accelerate this exciting new area of research and hire my first postdoc, Dorothy Schafer who just started her own lab at Umass Medical School.



Roles of Private Funds

- Creating new fields:
 - The Robert Wood Johnson Fdtn
- Advancing treatment:
 - Cystic fibrosis foundation
- Career development
 - Smith Family Foundation

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Things to think about

- Does this foundation fund unsolicited proposals?
- If not, how do you get on their radar?
- How involved are they in your work?

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Differences from NIH

- May be quite focused
- Typically smaller than R01s
- Vary in review processes
- May require some digging to find them

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Topics

- The Medical Foundation – Who We Are
- The Review Process in the Foundation World
 - What Gets Funded
 - The Reviewers
 - What Makes an Exceptional Application
 - Mistakes to Avoid

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The Medical Foundation

-Creating and managing customized grant programs

Smith Family Awards Program for Excellence in Biomedical Research	Charles A. King Trust Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program
Jeffress Trust Awards Program in Interdisciplinary Research	The Taub Foundation Grants Program for MDS Research A PROGRAM OF THE HENRY AND MARILYN TAUB FOUNDATION
Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Research Fund	Charles H. Hood Foundation Child Health Research Awards Program
Lymphatic Education & Research Network Award Programs	Robert E. Leet and Clara Guthrie Patterson Trust Awards Program in Clinical Research
Edward N. & Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation Awards Program in Alzheimer's Disease Drug Discovery Research	Edward N. & Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation Awards Program in Age-Related Macular Degeneration Research

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The Medical Foundation

- a nonprofit, Boston-based organization

- Medical Research Grant Programs.....12
- Scientific Reviewers in 2014.....124
- Applications Received in 2014.....636
- Currently funded researchers.....178
- Total researchers funded (1958-2014).....2,375
- Amount Awarded (2011-2014)..... ~\$62 million

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Scientific Review Process

1. RFA issued in consultation with trustees
2. Applications received and screened for compliance
3. Applications assigned to Scientific Review Committee
4. Recommendations for funding sent to trustees
5. Grants awarded

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Nuances

- Are institutions restricted in the number of applications that can be submitted?
- Trustee roles:
 - Do they pre-screen?
 - How often do they change committee recommendations?

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What Gets Funded

- Scientific Merit
- Qualifications of the Applicant
- Relevance to Foundation Mission

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Keys to success

- Read and follow the instructions
- Fit a round peg into a round hole
- Understand the review process
 - Institutional role
 - Foundation trustee role
- Pre-submission internal review

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What Makes an Exceptional Application

- Scientific Merit
 - Concise review of the literature with appropriate bibliography (ask a senior researcher to OK your references)
 - Specific Aims and Methods: Logical, feasible and innovative
 - Think "Beyond": In a brief Limitations Section, discuss how you will handle unexpected results

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What Makes an Exceptional Application

- Applicant Qualifications
 - C.V.: Use the NIH R01 PHS 398 Form and arrange publications by peer review, non-peer review, in preparation and in submission
 - Letters of Recommendations: Send points to your recommenders about your qualifications, your research project and the Foundation's mission

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Pre-submission internal review

- Is application clearly responsive to Foundation mission and RFA?
- Is bibliography complete?
- Is scope of work reasonable?
- Are applicant credentials well-matched to intent of RFA?

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The Reviewers' Perspective

- Reality:
 - Reviewers are accomplished investigators who are volunteering their time to serve on Scientific Review Committees
 - Reviewers often are asked to critique applications that are somewhat outside their areas of expertise
- Consequence: Write clearly and have someone outside your laboratory proof your application

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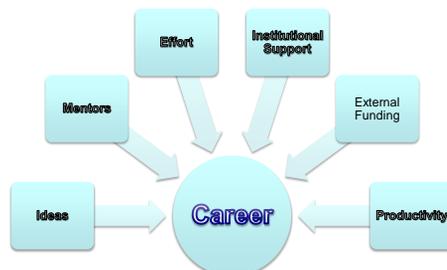
Reviewer perspective:

Competition for 16 awards

- 145 applications scored on 9-point scale
- 30 chosen for discussion, all with scores below 3.0.
- 5 of these were practically perfect
- Result: SRC needs to nitpick to recommend 11 of 25

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Big Picture



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Q3:Foundation Niche

- How well does your passion / research interest fit with NIH funding? (respond 1-5 scale)
 - 1= perfect
 - 5= not so well

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Scenario 1

- NIH is a perfect fit
 - Anticipate first award at median age 42-44
 - One R01 won't be enough
 - Use foundations to get you there, and to supplement funding

Scenario 2

- NIH funding is imperfect fit:
 - Be persistent at finding foundations
 - Maintain a high (enough) profile to come to the right attention
 - Pursue alternative funding

Summary

- Follow your passion
- You are the only person who knows what makes a meaningful life
- You are going to succeed – but it won't be easy