Conducting Your Research during COVID Times

How to pivot, maintain focus, and keep your research going

9/14/2020

K-Club

Sponsored by:

[Logos of Emory University School of Medicine, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, CFAR, and Georgia CTSA]
Hot tips to enhance your K-Club experience

Hot Tip #1: Use speaker view (instead of Gallery View) to highlight the person speaking at any given time

Hot Tip #2: Use screen region clip shortcuts to when taking notes

Hot Tip #3: Use the chat feature to pose questions to our esteemed panelists at any time during today’s K-Club
K-Club

• For anyone looking to build their research career
• Started by The Emory Dept of Pediatrics 11 years ago this fall
• Now proudly co-sponsored by Emory Depts of Pediatrics and Medicine, Georgia CTSA and Center for AIDS Research
• Bookmark our website for videos and slides from previous sessions -
  https://www.pedsresearch.org/research/resources/career-development/k-club#tab=tab03
2020 so far…

“Definitely would not recommend”
2020 Fall K-Club Schedule – full schedule

• Sept 14 (today) – Conducting your research during COVID times
• Oct 19 – Types of NIH (and other) Awards
• Nov 9 – Competitive Grantsmanship Strategies
• Dec 14 – NIH Review Process

Oct, Nov, Dec K-Clubs will be based off a series titled Transitioning to Research Independence: Funding and Grantsmanship for Newly Independent Investigators*. Each month we will highlight one topic presenting key concepts inviting panelists to provide their unique perspectives.

*originally hosted by the National Research Mentoring Network and presented by Jaime S. Rubin, PhD
Survey Drawing

Take the Survey

ENTER to Win

PRIZE DRAW

WE HAVE A WINNER
Announcement:

2020 NIH Virtual Seminar on Program Funding

• Tuesday, October 27, 2020 – Friday October 30, 2020 (afternoons)

• Three tracks
  – Track A: NIH Grants Process
  – Track B: NIH Policies and Programs
  – Track C: Let’s Talk About It

• Why Attend?
  – Learn Directly from HHS & NIH Staff!
  – Gather Resources to Use & Share!
  – Engage & Network with Your Peers!
  – Attend for free!

Who Should Attend

• Those who are new to working with the NIH grants process
• Early stage investigators, graduate students, and administrators
• Select agenda items of potential interest to K-Clubber’s
  – Navigating NIH Programs to Advance Your Career
  – Grant Writing for Success
  – Rigor & Reproducibility: Back to Basics
  – Writing and Effective “K” Application
  – NIH Peer Review: "Live" Mock Study Section
  – Finding the Right Mentor
  – All About Costs: A Post-Award Primer
  – After Your First Award: Next Steps in Your Journey with NIH

Today’s Panelists

• **Larry Boise, PhD**, Professor, Emory Hematology
• **Ann Chahroudi, MD, PhD**, Associate Professor, Emory Pediatrics, ID
• **Kristy Rostad, MD**, Assistant Professor, Emory Pediatrics, ID
• **Rabin Tirouvanziam, PhD**, Associate Professor, Emory Pediatrics, PACS
• **Meredith Capasse**, Manager, Children’s IRB
• **Maria Davila**, Assoc Dir, Emory IRB
• **Holly Sommers**, Emory OSP Director, Assist VP Research

Discussion facilitated by

**Stacy Heilman, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Emory Pediatrics
Work from home strategies

(Or perhaps more accurately phrased as “Coping while living at work...)

• What was your own personnel greatest challenge with this?

• How did/do you maintain focus and productivity with so many things competing for your attention?

• What are your best tips for managing this balancing act?
Keeping your research team engaged

- Unique approaches to staying connected
  - Communication strategies including verbal, written, and otherwise
  - Team building activities
  - Any apps you have found particularly valuable?

- Addressing team member concerns and fears

- Promoting behaviors to mitigate risk
  - Shift work and proper social distancing
  - Enhanced PPE
  - Handwashing, sanitizing work stations, etc

- Key PI responsibilities and key research team member responsibilities during these times
Adjusting your research mechanics

• Doing more with less (coping with the hiring freeze, spending restrictions, maximum density requirements)

• Using time for activities that can be accomplished remotely
  – Writing manuscripts
  – Career development activities (many meetings and courses are now virtual so no travel and less time required!)

• Changing in-person research activities to virtual
  – Virtual recruitment and study visits
  – E-consent
  – What else?
Pivoting your research focus

• Have you successfully re-framed your research aims to appeal to current COVID-specific funding or publishing priorities?

• Have you formed any new collaborations and/or research aims to address COVID-related questions? How different are they from your pre-COVID research?

• What advice do you have for positioning non-COVID research to stand out as a continued priority to fund and publish?
Predicting the future

• How do you prepare for the unknown?
• Is there anything you did pre-COVID that allowed you to be better prepared?
• What practices might be permanently changed either because of continuing circumstances or perhaps it’s a practice improvement?
• How might NIH and other sponsors and compliance bodies respond and adjust for the foreseeable future?
• Should funded researchers be actively communicating with PO’s and GMO’s? If so, what should they be saying?