Dear TTUHS El Paso community,

Success in obtaining extramural funding is highly competitive and will likely become even more so in the foreseeable future. Grantsmanship is recognized nationally as an important tool to increase funding of already scientifically meritorious proposals.

The “Intensive R Grant Writers Workshop with Mock Study Sections” will be designed to use small-group interactive grantsmanship coaching to craft a fundable proposal. Senior grantsmanship coaches (Dr. Raj or others) will be assisting to lead it. Participants will attend six weekly two-hour long sessions in which they are engaged in peer review of each other’s target grant sections for that week. In addition, there will be mock “Grant Review Study Sessions” (divided into clinical and basic science grants) approximately four weeks prior to the final NIH submission deadline.

The “Successfully Obtaining an R” (SOAR) Program is offered by the Office of Research. It is directed by Dr. Clegg, vice president for Research. We are pleased to announce an R Grant-Writers Workshop for the June 5, 2022 NIH submission cycle. The application deadline for participating in the SOAR Intensive R Grant Writers Workshop is Jan. 20, 2022. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the sessions will be virtual.

**Expectations for the Intensive R Grant-Writers Workshop**

1. Be a senior postdoc (prior approval to attend required from PI/mentor), assistant or associate professor. Professors are also welcome, under certain circumstances.
2. Have a body of work that will be competitive for NIH R01 research grant or an equivalent NIH grant (e.g. R35, but not R23, R03, etc). VA Merit Award or Department of Defense grants are also eligible.
3. Commit time outside of the workshop to:
   - Write and turn in your sections for the week – no later than the date listed below – in Microsoft Word format.
   - Read and critique two other participants’ sections prior to the session date, and offer constructive verbal (as well as edits with track change) feedback at each session.
   - Work on other sections of the grant not included in the workshop (e.g. budget, letters of collaboration, resources, cover letter etc.).
4. Attend and be actively engaged in all session discussions:
   - You must arrange your schedule accordingly. Missing more than one session (without substantial and unavoidable justification) is highly discouraged.
   - Your proposal will be reviewed in a Mock Study section (tentatively either May 3 or 5, 2022).
5. Have a complete “close to final” draft (including all sections not covered by the workshop) by April 25, 2022 for submission to the Mock Study sections.
6. Submit an R-Grant Writers Workshop evaluation (form to be provided) after completion of the workshop.
7. Notify us when you receive your grant review scores, and/or obtain this or other types of grants. We will be tracking your progress to determine if the Soar R-Grant Writers Workshop achieves its stated goals to justify institutional investment in the program.

**R Grant-Writers Workshop Schedule**
Table 1: Workshop Schedule and Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Meeting Date</th>
<th>Meeting Virtual Zoom</th>
<th>Time for Zoom Sessions</th>
<th>Section Due Date to Dr. Clegg (9 a.m.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Specific Aims I</td>
<td>02/24/2022</td>
<td>5-7 p.m.</td>
<td>02/21/2022</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Approach I: Significance/Innovation</td>
<td>03/3/2022</td>
<td>5-7 p.m.</td>
<td>02/28/2022</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Approach II for each specific aim</td>
<td>03/10/2022</td>
<td>5-7 p.m.</td>
<td>03/7/2022</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Specific Aims II</td>
<td>03/17/2022</td>
<td>5-7 p.m.</td>
<td>03/14/2022</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Approach III</td>
<td>03/24/2022</td>
<td>5-7 p.m.</td>
<td>03/21/2022</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Specific Aim III, biosketch and other sections</td>
<td>03/31/2022</td>
<td>5-7 p.m.</td>
<td>03/28/2022</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7A.</td>
<td>Submit final grants to Helen Yin, for distribution to Mock Study section members</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>04/25/2022</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7B.</td>
<td>Attend one Mock Study section</td>
<td>5/3 or 5/5/2022</td>
<td>5-7 p.m.</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2: Announcement and Application Timeline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Announcement</th>
<th>Formal Application Due</th>
<th>Acceptance</th>
<th>Workshop Start Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Announcement date</td>
<td>Statement of intent (preferred but not required)</td>
<td>Application submission deadline</td>
<td>Letter of support from department chair (could also include division chief in addition to dept. chair) or center director,..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/20/2021</td>
<td>1/3/2022</td>
<td>1/20/2022</td>
<td>1/26/2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grant-Writers Application and Selection Criteria**

A. **Candidates and Prerequisites:** This workshop is designed for NIH R01 research grant (or equivalent) writers who are already competitive for NIH grant funding (i.e. history of publications; other previous grants). It is highly encouraged to have a working draft of your grant application by the start of the workshop.

B. **Application Timeline:** The anticipated application and acceptance timeline are summarized in Table 2.

A completed application has four parts:
1. The application form in CAYUSE
2. A draft of your Specific Aims page, with proposed grant title.
3. A draft of your NIH biosketch in the current NIH-mandated format.
4. A letter of recommendation from your division chief/or department chair/or center director, stating that he/she supports your enrollment.
Items 1-3 should be uploaded to CAYUSE by the candidate by Jan. 20, 2022 (Table 2); item 4 should be sent by your supervisors (chairs or division chiefs) directly to CAYUSE by Jan. 26, 2022.

**C. Candidate Selection:** The R Grant Writers Workshop is a small-group interactive program that can only accommodate 10 participants per cycle. In the event the demand exceeds this, we will regrettably have to admit a subset of applicants for this workshop.

Selection criteria include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Whether you are submitting an R01 research grant or equivalent.
2. Our assessment of
   - Your readiness to submit a competitive grant, based on your specific aims page, publication records and grant funding history (from your NIH biosketch).
   - Your commitment to the workshop.
3. Consideration will be given to assemble a diverse group of writers from a variety of disciplines.

**D. Candidate Notification and Letter of Commitment.** Those not immediately accepted will be waitlisted and notified should there be an unexpected opening.