Funding Sources for Pediatric Trauma Research

Teresa Maria Bell, PhD
Indiana University School of Medicine
November 14, 2019
Overview of Funding Sources

- **Less Competitive/Common Funding Sources**
  - Philanthropy
  - Advocacy
  - Internal Awards
  - Foundations
  - Regional/Federal Pass-through

- **NIH/AHRQ**
  - Award Mechanisms
  - Strategies for Applying

- **Other Sources**
  - DOD/CDC/PCORI/NSF
Philanthropy

• Most universities and health systems have foundations set up to solicit donations
  – Request regular meetings and provide list of projects you need funding for
  – Ask if there are donors who align with your work
• Establish your own non-profit or university cost center for patients that want to donate to your research
• Refer patients that want to donate to your department’s development staff
Advocacy

• Work with your state legislators to draft legislation that funds research in trauma
  – Indiana TBI legislation
  – California Violent-injury legislation
  – Arkansas trauma system

• Think about where the money could come from (license plate sales, lottery, tobacco taxes, etc.)
Internal Research Awards

• Most universities and health systems distribute funds through grant announcements
  – Check both university and college research office listings for awards
  – Often hospital foundations release competitive grant announcements

• If your institution belongs to a **CTSA**, there are often grants for a variety of things including career development awards, pilot funding, projects grants, grants to use university core services (biostats usually included)
Foundation Awards

• Major trauma professional associations
  – EAST
  – Western Trauma Association
  – AAST

• Trauma-specific foundations/awards
  – American Trauma Society
  – Kessler Foundation (TBI awards)

• Think about other subspecialties (ortho, neuro, plastics) and outcomes you can examine in the trauma population (PTSD, disability, opioids)

• Local foundations

• Generally less restrictive on how funds are used, but smaller award amounts
Regional Awards

- Awards from your state
  - Dept of Health
  - Dept of Transportation
  - Law Enforcement Agencies

- Federal agencies that send money to states
  - VOCA
  - SAMHSA
  - CDC
  - CMS
NIH/AHRQ Awards

• NIH is technically a group of institutes, each with a specific mission
  – None are trauma-specific, although some offices promote trauma-related research
    • NHLBI – vascular injuries/exsanguination
    • NICHD – child development/disability prevention
    • NIAAA – alcohol use
    • NIDA – drug use
    • NIMH – mental health disorders (not quality of life)
    • NIMHD – minority and underserved populations
    • NINR – nursing research, focuses on lifespan

• AHRQ
  – Funds health services research, including projects focusing on patient safety and education
  – Has identified children as a priority population
Common NIH/AHRQ Award Mechanisms

• **Career Development Awards**
  – K23, K08 for clinicians
  – K01 for PhDs
  – Not all institutes fund K awards

• **Project Grants**
  – R03/R21 Exploratory research, 2 years long
  – R01 Larger project grants ($250k-500k or more per year), usually 5 years
  – P grants – Multiple R01-scope projects, forming a center with multiple project PIs

• **RFAs**
  – More specific that general than investigator initiated grants (PAs), however reviewers are more knowledgeable in content area
NIH Proposal Strategies

• Specify Scientific Review Group with Needed Expertise
  – https://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections
  – SAT: Surgery, Anesthesiology and Trauma Study Section

• Include language from Institute's Mission and Priority Statements
  – Increased scrutiny from institutes wanting to make sure proposals awarded are responsive to priorities – Many 5 year priorities were updated this fiscal year!
  – http://www.nichd.nih.gov/about/org/der/branches/ptcib
  – Discuss study aims with institute program officers
  – Frame project according to institute’s priority, not necessarily trauma. This may mean focusing more on an outcome than the pediatric trauma population

• If a New Investigator of Early Stage Investigator, include senior researchers as Co-Is on larger grants (R01)
AHRQ Strategies

• Track record of progressive funding in an area (K to R21 to R01)
  – No New Investigator or Early Stage Investigator bump
  – Unpublished paylines, however, often higher than NIH

• Make sure there is a solid evidence base being referenced
  – Less focused on “gaps” in knowledge
  – Want to be sure project is not too high risk
  – If there are few publications in your area, consider R18 mechanism

• Reviewers like to see other AHRQ funded projects referenced
General Strategies for Getting Funded

• **Build your track record in a specific area**
  – Publish in focused areas – think about “contribution to science” on biosketch
  – Seek funding in related areas
  – Want to look like THE expert in a specific area when asking for money to do a project in it

• **Build infrastructure**
  – Home institution usually has to invest resources to get large grants
  – Work with service cores, become familiar with facilities on campus

• **Build a team**
  – Hire research staff and coordinators to collect pilot data/demonstrate capacity
  – If you aren’t senior, find someone to “chaperone” your study
  – If you lack expertise in an area, find a Co-I or collaborator who can provide it
Other Federal Sources

- **Department of Defense (DOD)**
  - Recommend talking to someone who has had success with DOD proposals

- **Centers for Disease Control (CDC)**
  - Injury Control Research Centers
  - Other injury-related awards, however funding can change after being awarded

- **Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)**
  - Review process very different from NIH
  - Generally wants three-arm trials and does not fund new investigators
  - Serious about having patient and stakeholder involvement in drafting the proposal

- **National Science Foundation (NSF)**
  - Typically focus on advances in physical, biological, and social sciences
  - Mission is not health-focused, so clever packaging of your project is important
  - Recently started putting out joint funding announcements with NIH
Upcoming/Current Announcements

- Infrastructure for **NICHD Multisite Clinical Trials** (NOT-HD-19-034)
- **Emergency Medical Services for Children Innovation and Improvement Center** (HRSA-20-037)
- Notice of Special Interest: **Research on Emergency Medical Services for Children** (EMSC) (NOT-HD-19-022)
- Collaborative **Pediatric Critical Care Research Network** (CPCCRN) (NOT-HD-18-013)
- Studies in Neonatal and **Pediatric Resuscitation** (PA-18-491)
- Research Grants for **Preventing Violence and Violence Related Injury** (RFA-CE-20-003)
- Disability and **Rehabilitation Engineering** (PD-20-5342)
- Grants to Support **New Investigators** in Conducting Research Related to Preventing Interpersonal Violence Impacting Children and Youth (RFA-CE-20-002)
- **Young Faculty** Award (YFA) (DARPA-RA-19-01)
Questions or other words of wisdom form the audience?