

# Perspectives on roles for nongovernmental organizations in early career research support

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NIH Primarily Funds People and  
Programs at the Career  
Development Stage

And the “Programs” fund People

# Funding People

- F30 – MD/PHD students
  - F31 – PHD students
  - F32 – Postdocs
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- Stipend
  - Tuition (for predocs, primarily)
  - Institutional Allowance = \$~4K-~\$8K

# Funding People

- K99 – Postdocs
- K22 – Diverse Postdocs
  - Salary, fringe
  - \$~20K-\$25K research costs
- K08 – Clinicians – basic research
- K23 – Clinicians – clinical research
  - Salary, fringe
  - \$~50K research costs
  - Two workshops in 5 years

# Funding Programs

- T32 – Institutional training grants
  - Stipend
  - ~\$4K-8K training related expenses
- R25 – Residents and Fellows
  - Salary, fringe
  - \$0 for research
- National K12s (Neurosurg, Ped. Neurol., Ped. Critical Care...)
  - Salary, fringe
  - ~\$30-\$50K research

# NINDS has a defined research mission

- NINDS Training and CDA funding is “disease agnostic”
- Awards are made to the “best,” as defined by peer review, without regard to research area (as long as within the NINDS mission)

# My Perspective

## Ideal if

- NGO support leveraged NIH support
- NGO support complemented NIH support
- NGO support filled gaps left by NIH support

# My Perspective

Two goals:

- Highly significant research
- Success



# Givens

NINDS primarily supports salaries/stipends and runs workshops

NIH peer review, by it's nature, tends to reduce the boldness of scientific projects

# What's missing?

1. Intensive workshops designed to help trainees get the next grant

Direct help with grant writing – not just lectures on grant writing (one-one, small groups)

- If they get the grant, the science will be done
- If they become good grant writers, more science will be done
- Need to impart understanding of good grant writing

# What's missing?

2. Research seed money for those who've gone through peer review and received “salary support”

- Two cents: Should have articulate, well-reasoned, clearly explained, need for requested funds
- Two more cents: applicants need to learn how to present their work for support (continued...)

Digression: “Applicants need to learn how to present their work for support” (cont.)

## Elevator and shark tank pitches

- I’ve started asking trainees to explain to me why somebody should give them a million dollars for their research

Push serious critical thinking through writing

- Science will be better and career will be longer

# Create infrastructure to generate bolder research projects

- NIH peer-review tends towards “safer” research projects
- NGOs could create mentoring opportunities (and subsequently provide support) to generate bolder research by those who have salary/stipend support
- Encourage Fearlessness

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