Funding Opportunities for Young Investigators

ORED Seminar Series
September 29, 2016
Today’s Agenda

- Overview
- Targeted Funding
- Best Practices/Tips
- Resources Available
- Q&A
Who is Considered a Young Investigator?

a. Someone less than 30 years of age
b. Someone who has had PhD less than 5 years
c. Someone with the title of Assistant Professor
d. It depends...
Who is Considered a Young Investigator?

Correct Answer: It depends...

Each agency or funding announcement will specify who they classify as a “Young Investigator”.
Who Funds Young Investigators?

a. National Science Foundation
b. National Institutes of Health
c. Department of Defense
d. All of the above, and then some!!
Who Funds Young Investigators?

Correct Answer: All of the above, and then some!!

Many agencies, foundations, and other types of organizations have special programs for this group of people.
Why?

- Promote and support young faculty
- Provide “start-up” funding
- Encourage mentorship
- Set the foundation for future, larger award
National Science Foundation (NSF)

- Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER)
  - Proposals due in July
  - PI can only submit one per year and no more than three overall
  - Minimum of $400K for 5-year duration
NSF CAREER, cont.

• PI Eligibility
  – Must have doctoral degree by deadline date in field supported by NSF
  – Must be untenured until Oct 1 following the deadline
  – Have not previously received a CAREER award
  – In Tenure-track (or tenure-track equivalent) position as assistant professor (or equivalent title)
NSF CAREER, cont.


• ORED Seminar Series from 2/6/12: http://www.research.msstate.edu/rresources/seminar_11.php

• ORED Seminar Series from 3/30/10: http://www.research.msstate.edu/rresources/seminar_09.php

• ORED Seminar Series from 3/24/09: http://www.research.msstate.edu/rresources/seminar_08.php
National Science Foundation (NSF)

- NSF Astronomy and Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellowships (AAPF)
  - Proposals due in October; submitted directly to NSF by individual
  - PI can only submit one per year
  - Award amount up to 36 months at $100K annually
  - Eligibility:
    - Citizen, National, or Lawful Permanent Resident
    - Earned doctoral degree in appropriate scientific field within 5 years prior to deadline or by Oct 1 of award year
    - Has not participated in postdoc training for combined full-time equivalent duration of more than 3 years prior to deadline
  - Fellows may engage in observational, instrumental, theoretical, laboratory or archival research in any area of astronomy or astrophysics in combination with a coherent educational plan
National Science Foundation (NSF)

- **Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (MSPRF)**
  - Proposals due in October; submitted directly to NSF by individual
  - PI can only submit one per year
  - Total award amount is $150K, including stipend, research allowance, and annual benefit allowance; 48 month fellowship period
  - Eligibility:
    - US Citizen, National, or legally admitted permanent resident alien of US
    - Doctoral degree held 2 or less years as of Jan 1 of award year
    - Propose research in area of mathematics or statistics
    - Has not been PI or Co-PI on previous NSF award (other than grad fellowship or conference/workshop award)
    - Research plan cannot duplicate that in another NSF proposal
    - Has not been previously offered MSPRF award
    - Doctoral degree conferred before postdoc appointment start date
National Science Foundation (NSF)

• EAR Postdoctoral Fellowships (EAR-PF)
  – Proposals due in January; submitted directly to NSF by individual; no more than 1 per year
  – Total award amount is $87K, including stipend and fellowship allowance; Up to 24 months of support
  – Eligibility:
    • US Citizen, National, or legally admitted permanent residents of US
    • Grad student or, at deadline date, served in position requirement doctoral degree for no more than 18 full-time-equivalent months since earning degree
    • Research should fall within purview of NSF Division of Earth Sciences
    • If postdoc fellowship at institution where PhD was earned, must: (1) be at institution for at least 12 months at time of submission, (2) present strong justification, and (3) have 2 scientific mentors – 1 at host institution and 1 at another institution
    • Research plan must be original; not previously submitted
    • Project must not have been submitted concurrently to another NSF program
National Science Foundation (NSF)

• Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology (PRFB)
  – Proposals due in November; submitted directly to NSF by individual
  – PI can only submit one per year and no more than 2 successive years
  – Award amount of $69K per year; 24-36 months
  – 3 Competitive Areas:
    • Broadening Participation in Biology
    • Interdisciplinary Research Using Biological Collections
    • National Plant Genome Initiative (NPGI) Postdoctoral Research Fellowships
  – Depending on which competitive area, must not have served in any position requiring doctoral degree for more than 6-12 full-time months prior to deadline
National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- [https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/career-development](https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/career-development)

**Definition of New Investigator:** In general, a Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) is considered a New Investigator if he/she has not previously competed successfully as PD/PI for a substantial NIH independent research award.

**Definition of Early Stage Investigator:** A Program Director/Principal Investigator who qualifies as a New Investigator is considered an Early Stage Investigator (ESI) if he/she is within 10 years of completing his/her terminal research degree or is within 10 years of completing medical residency (or the equivalent).
National Institutes of Health (NIH)

• NIH Pathway to Independence Award (Parent K99/R00)
  – Support for outstanding postdocs to facilitate a timely transition from a mentored to an independent position
  – Up to 5 years of support in 2 phases: K99 for 2 years of mentored postdoctoral research and career development and R00 for 3 years of independent research
National Institutes of Health (NIH)

• NIH Director’s New Innovator Award (DP5)
  – Support for outstanding early-stage investigators as they pursue high risk/high reward research
  – Early stage investigator with no R01 or equivalent NIH grant
  – Must be within 10 years of doctoral degree or medical internship/residency
  – Awards up to $300K per year for up to 5 years
National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- NIH Director’s Early Independence Award (EIA) (DP2)
  - Support for exceptional, early career scientists to skip the postdoc
  - Must be within 12 months of terminal research degree
  - Awards up to $250K per year for 5 years
Department of Defense (DOD)

- Office of Naval Research Young Investigator Program (YIP)
  - Proposals due in November
  - Award amount up to $170K per year for 3 years
  - Funds for capital equipment may be requested the first year
  - Eligibility:
    - US Citizen, National, or Permanent Resident
    - Holds first or second full-time tenure-track/tenure-track equivalent faculty position
    - PI must have started full-time appointment on or after 11/4/11
Department of Defense (DOD)

• Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Young Faculty Award
  – Proposals due in April
  – Focuses on non-tenured faculty, emphasizing those without prior DARPA funding
  – areas of Physical Sciences, Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine, Biology, Information and Social Sciences
  – Awards max of $250K per year up to 2 years
Department of Defense (DOD)

- Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) Young Investigator Program
  - Proposals due in June
  - Award amount of $120K for 3 years; exceptional proposals may be considered for higher funding level and duration
  - Eligibility:
    - PhD received in the last 5 years
    - US Citizen, National, or Permanent Resident
    - Employed full-time and holds a regular position
Department of Defense (DOD)

• Army Research Lab (ARL) Young Investigator Program
  – Proposal deadline ongoing
  – Award amount of $50K per year for 3 years
  – Core research areas:
    • Mechanical Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Mathematics, Electronics, Computing Science, Physics, Chemical Sciences, Life Sciences, Materials Science, Network Science
  – Eligibility:
    • US Citizen, National, and resident aliens
    • Tenure-track positions
    • PhD or equivalent held for fewer than 5 years at time of application
  – Outstanding projects may be considered for Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), the highest honor bestowed by the Army on outstanding scientists and engineers beginning their independent careers.
Department of Energy (DOE)

• Early Career Research Program
  – Pre-Proposals due in September; Full proposals in November
  – Only one proposal per PI per year; no more than 3 overall
  – Research Areas:
    • Advanced Scientific Computing Research, Biological and Environmental Research, Basic Energy Sciences, Fusion Energy Sciences, High Energy Physics, Nuclear Physics
  – Award minimum of $750K over five years
  – Eligibility:
    • Untenured Assistant or Associate Professor on tenure track
    • No more than 10 years since PhD was awarded as of the deadline date
    • No Co-PIs
Department of Education (DoEd)

• Research Training Program in Special Education: Early Career Development and Mentoring
  – Offered through the Institute of Educational Sciences (IES)
  – Proposals due in August
  – Award amount up to $400K for 4 years
  – Focus on early intervention or special education for children with or at risk for disabilities
  – Only one PI and no co-PIs
  – Eligibility:
    • For FY16, completed doctoral degree or postdoctoral program no earlier than 4/1/13, and no later than the start of the award period
    • Hold tenure-track position or research scientist position
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

• Fellowships for Early Career Faculty (ECF)
  – Award amounts of $200K per year for 3 years
  – Proposal submitted to the ROSES program elements with addendum for ECF application
  – Eligibility:
    • PhD received within 7 calendar years of the proposal submission
    • May not already be in either “permanent” or “permanent track” position at time of submission
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

• New (Early Career) Investigator Program in Earth Science
  – Proposals solicited every two years
  – Award amount of $80-90K per year for up to 3 years
  – PhD within 5 years prior
Others?

- Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation
- Hope for Vision
- The Russell Sage Foundation
- National Multiple Sclerosis Society
- PhRMA Foundation
- Thrasher Research Fund
- The Kinship Foundation
- American Psychological Foundation
- March of Dimes
- The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation
Best Practices/Tips

• Don’t assume anything!
• Use the resources available to you.
• Sell your idea!
• Allow plenty of time
  – For preparation
  – For approvals
• Don’t be discouraged!
MSU Resources Available

• ORED
• OSP Proposal Services
• College / Center / Department Support
• Grants Resource Center
Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP)

- Cooperative initiative of 10 federal agencies and 155 institutional recipients of federal funding.
- Purpose: Reduce administrative burdens associated with research grants and contracts.
- Faculty Workload Survey, working groups, pilot initiatives.
- MSU Representatives:
  - Jennifer Easley (OSP), Administrative
  - Todd French (Chemical Engr), Faculty
  - David May (Sociology), Faculty Alternate

- [www.thefdp.org](http://www.thefdp.org)
Council on Governmental Relations (COGR)

• Association of research universities, affiliated medical centers, and independent research institutes.
• Advocates for policies and practices that fairly reflect the mutual interests and separate obligations of federal agencies and research institutions as it relates to research and graduate education.
• www.cogr.edu
Grants Resource Center (GRC)

• Unit of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU).
• Membership provides access to tools/services:
  – GrantSearch – funding search database
  – Funded Proposals Library
  – Agency Fact Sheets
  – Faculty Alerts
• MSU’s login info: http://osp.msstate.edu/grc/
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