

Agenda: bit.ly/GRAD201

1. Lecture: Why and how to develop an independent research program (20 minutes, 10:10-10:30)
2. Faculty perspective 1: Planning and selecting your projects as a graduate student. (30 minutes, 10:35-11:05). Isha Jain, PhD. Sandler Faculty Fellow, Principal Investigator.
3. Faculty perspective 2: Developing and funding your independent research program as an international postdoc. Ernesto Diaz-Flores, PhD. Assistant Adjunct Professor, Department of Pediatrics. (20 minutes, 11:10-11:30)
4. Lecture: Getting started: Designing your research project. Ernesto Diaz-Flores (20 minutes, 11:30-11:50)
5. Working lunch: Write your one-page research plan (30 minutes, 12:00-12:30)
6. Group work: Get feedback on your plan (45 minutes, 12:30-1:15)
7. Faculty perspective 3 & Lecture: Using faculty feedback to improve the fundability of your research program. Felice Dunn, PhD, Assistant Professor (1 hour, 1:15-2:15)
8. Break (10 minutes)
9. Workshop: Your plan for identifying and reaching out to faculty (40 minutes, 2:25-3:05)
10. Wrap up and assignment (15 minutes, 3:05-3:20): Giving a chalk talk.

Course Objectives: bit.ly/GRAD201

1. Describe the research program expectations that faculty hiring committees have of candidates
2. Describe the successful components of a research program
3. Identify a unique research niche that would distinguish them from other scientists in the field
4. Identify mentors and collaborators that would allow them to develop this unique research niche
5. Present their research program in the form of both a research statement and a chalk talk

Where are you in your development?

bit.ly/GRAD201A

1

I understand the research program expectations that faculty hiring committees have of candidates

2

I can describe the successful components of a research program

3

I have identified a unique research niche that would distinguish me from other scientists in the field

4

I have developed a research proposal with specific aims

5

I have presented my proposal to faculty (in writing or orally) and have received critical feedback that can help me improve it

How to use this workshop series

1. Understand what makes a research program successful
2. Begin defining your vision & strategy for your future lab
3. Develop a network of faculty mentors who can offer critical feedback
4. Practice presenting your research plan to peers

If you are a graduate student:

Identify success metrics for your search for the right postdoc environment

If you are a postdoc:

Build your strategy to discuss independence with your PI

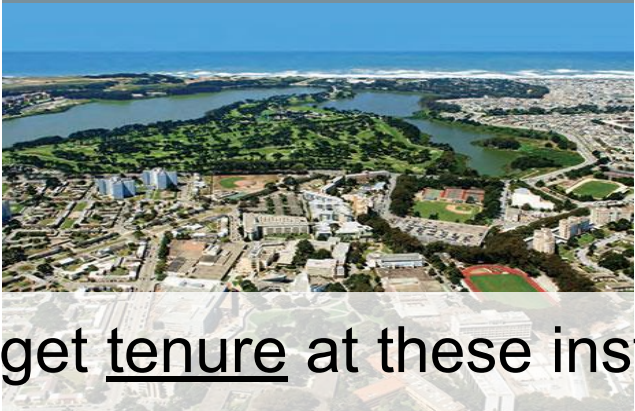
Why and how to develop an independent research program

Laurence Clement

Research-Intensive Institutions (R)



Research & Teaching Focused (RT)



Teaching-Only Institutions (T)



How to get tenure at these institutions



Research-Intensive Institutions (R)



Research & Teaching Focused (RT)



Teaching-Only Institutions (T)



How to get hired at these institutions?

Qualification

career.ucsf.edu/ACRA

Level 1

Level 2

Level 3

Level 4

Publications

	Candidate has produced a few papers, regardless of authorship or impact.	Candidate has produced first author papers during postdoc and (12) PhD (regardless of impact) (13).	Candidate has produced first author papers during postdoc and (12) PhD, with at least one paper contributing significantly to the field (14).	Candidate has produced first author papers during postdoc and (12) PhD, at least one of which was published in Cell, Nature, or Science (15).
RT 77% Required	9%	64%	5%	
R 100% Required		3%	95%	3%

Research Vision & Strategy

	Research program is exciting (16) with a clear direction and includes explicit, feasible steps to attain this direction over the first couple of years.	Level 1 & There is an interesting, broad, research question that fills important gaps in the field and provides direction for the next 5 to 10 years.	Level 2 & The research question is broken down into smaller, feasible projects that use appropriate methods to answer the question.	Level 3 & The candidate has demonstrated experience successfully implementing this or a similar vision independently. (17)
RT 77% Required	41%	18%	18%	
R 87% Required	13%	29%	34%	11%

Qualification

career.ucsf.edu/ACRA

Level 1

Level 2

Level 3

Level 4

Funding Plan

		Candidate can suggest specific funding agencies and program names to fund proposed research program. (18)	Level 1 & Proposed research program is ambitious and impactful enough to be funded by an R01 grant. (19)	Level 2 & Candidate has developed specific aims that can be realistically achieved with a first R01 grant. (20)	Level 3 & Candidate has developed a funding plan beyond the first R01 grant. (21)
RT	45%	45%			
R	68% Required	8%	24%	34%	3%

Research Independence

		Candidate has the technical expertise to run their proposed research program independently. (22)	Level 1 & Candidate shows ability to lead a research program, by developing own ideas and new collaborations independently. (23)	Level 2 & Candidate's proposed research program does not appear to be in competition with their current advisor's. (24)	Level 3 & Candidate can provide evidence of independence through advisor's recommendation letter.
RT	59% Required	27%	23%	5%	5%
R	82% Required	11%	32%	24%	16%
R	92% Required	24%	5%	32%	32%

Qualification

career.ucsf.edu/ACRA

Level 1

Level 2

Level 3

Level 4

Recommendations

	Enthusiastic and personalized recommendations from both PD and PhD advisors. (25)	Level 1 & letters from other respected scientists who are well known by the search committee AND who know the candidate well. (26)	Level 2 & letters emphasize candidate's ability to be successful as a principal investigator.	Level 3 & letters emphasize that the candidate shows the potential to become a leader in the field.
RT 73% Required	59%	9%	5%	
R 92% Required	24%	5%	32%	32%

Qualification

career.ucsf.edu/ACRA

Level 1

Level 2

Level 3

Level 4

Research Feasibility with Available Resources

		Candidate demonstrates ability to develop a research program within the limitations of the start-up funds. (8)	Level 1 & Candidate demonstrates the ability to independently manage and run the equipment required for their research program. (9)	Level 2 & Research program is feasible in the institution's research and geographic environment, which includes some minor constraints. (10)	Level 3 & Research plan is tailored to the non-R1 institution's highly limited resources. (11)
RT	82% Required	14%	9%	36%	23%
R	66% Required	16%	26%	24%	

Verbal Communication of Research

		Can present research clearly and effectively to labmates.	Can present science clearly to scientists in the same sub-discipline (for example, to other microbiologists).	Can present science clearly and effectively to scientists outside of subfield.	Can present science clearly and effectively and can spark the interest of scientists outside of subfield and non-PhD students.
RT	73% Required			14%	59%
R	87% Required		3%	61%	24%



New Results

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Next 

The Academic Career Readiness Assessment: Clarifying training expectations for future life sciences faculty

Laurence Clement, Jennie B. Dorman,  Richard McGee

doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/829200>

This article is a preprint and has not been certified by peer review [what does this mean?].

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Bioinformatics

Time to reflect on your developmental stage

1. Go to our in-class activity/survey: **bit.ly/GRAD201A**
2. Complete all questions 1 (on two pages) and stop at “wait for the instructor here”
3. Share with a partner

OCPD academic career programs are mapped to ACRA goals

Qualification	Teaching Experience	Pedagogical Practices	Ability to Serve a Diverse Student Population	Recommendations	Inclusion of Undergraduate Research Experiences in Research Plan	Experience Conducting Research with Students
Level of training required (majority institutions)	Trainee has been fully responsible for organizing and teaching a course.	Trainee is familiar with the evidence supporting the use of active learning strategies in the classroom.	Trainee demonstrates the sensitivity, respect for individuals of all backgrounds, and the interpersonal skills to interact with them.	Enthusiastic and personalized recommendations from both PD and PhD advisors.	Research plan is specifically tailored to the institution's undergraduate and/or Master's population.	Trainee can articulate a scientific mentoring philosophy that meets the needs of the non-PhD student population served by this institution.
Additional level of training required (more demanding positions)	Trainee has been fully responsible for organizing and teaching a variety of courses with undergraduate students.	Trainee demonstrates that they can use active learning strategies effectively in the classroom, reflects on own teaching effectiveness and uses an iterative process to teaching to improve curriculum.	Trainee has immersed self in a diverse community, or has mentored, advised or taught diverse populations of students.	Letters from other respected scientists who are well known by the search committee AND who know the candidate well.	Trainee is able to propose projects of different calibers for different student populations.	Trainee has experience conducting research with non-PhD students
OCPD Programs	STEP-UP Introduction to Pedagogy Course career.ucsf.edu/step-up-course (GRAD 302)			MANAGE-UP career.ucsf.edu/ManageUp	TRAIN-UP Introduction to Mentoring Course career.ucsf.edu/TRAIN-UP-course	
	STEP-UP USF-UCSF Teaching Residency career.ucsf.edu/step-up-teaching-residencies-usf	STEP-UP CCSF-UCSF Teaching Residency career.ucsf.edu/step-up-teaching-residencies-usf	TRAIN-UP CCSF-UCSF Mentoring Partnership career.ucsf.edu/NSFATE2018		TRAIN-UP CCSF-UCSF Mentoring Partnership career.ucsf.edu/NSFATE2018	

Qualification	Publications, Scholarship	Research Vision & Strategy	Funding Plan	Research Independence	Research Feasibility with Available Resources	Verbal Communication of Research
Level of training required (majority institutions)	Trainee has produced first author papers during postdoc and PhD (regardless of impact)	Research program is exciting with a clear direction and includes explicit, feasible steps to attain this direction over the first couple of years	Trainee can suggest specific funding agencies and program names to fund proposed research program.	Trainee has the technical expertise to run their proposed research program independently.	Research program is feasible in the institution's research and geographic environment, which includes some minor constraints.	Trainee can present science clearly and
Additional level of training required (more demanding positions)	Trainee has produced first author papers during postdoc and PhD, with at least one paper contributing significantly to the field .	There is an interesting, broad, research question that fills gaps in the field and provides direction for the next 5 to 10 years. The question is broken down into smaller, feasible projects that use appropriate methods.		Trainee shows ability to lead a research program, by developing own ideas and new collaborations independently. (5 evidence of independence through advisor's recommendation letter.)	Research plan is feasible to the non-institutional environment with limited resources.	
OCPD Programs	PAC-UP Applying for faculty positions https://career.ucsf.edu/pac-up-events	PAC-UP Preparing for an Academic Career Course Developing an independent research program (GRAD 201)			Applying for grants	
		PAC-UP Getting feedback on your research statement, Demonstration: Giving a chalk talk for a faculty position			https://career.ucsf.edu/pac-up-events	





We asked faculty what they did to develop an independent research program when they were trainees.



HAVE A STRATEGY

1. Take the time to plan your career path
2. Select the right lab environment
3. Stay open to multiple research directions
4. Take the time to choose and design your projects
5. Take the time to plan your projects early-on
6. If you haven't done so yet, move to your independent project in the last few years of your training
7. Calculate the resources needed for the projects
8. Get your first independent project funded



EVALUATE

9. Get feedback on your project plans from your lab early-on
10. Regularly track and assess progress on your project(s)
11. Connect with faculty about your independent project
12. Ask for critical reviews from faculty
13. Address all critiques
14. Identify and cultivate mentors and sponsors



CONVINCE

15. Identify the big picture and target audience (funders, departments)
16. Learn how to communicate your project
17. Be proactive about promoting your work
18. Use fellowship opportunities to have a discussion about independence with your PI

Common challenges faced by faculty who did succeed

Afraid to admit my career goals to my PI

Perceived as an implementer of my PI's ideas

Not having a discussion about independence

Not considering faculty on equal footing when engaging with them



Common challenges faced by faculty who did succeed

Relying on my PI's validation to know if I am ready for the next step

Getting wrong advice on how to spend my time in grad school/postdoc

Not knowing if I am qualified for a faculty position

Believing the idea I pitch is my life project



Common challenges faced by faculty who did succeed

Underestimating the time it takes to complete the project

Not knowing how to demonstrate potential impact of my work

Not being comfortable with the "PR" required

Not having a long term plan



Common challenges relate to *systemic issue* with graduate and postdoctoral training

Afraid to admit my career goals to my PI

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Not having a long term plan



supervisor-
employee






mentor-
mentee






trainer-
trainee

There are different relationships for a research mentor and their trainee

Role**	Is responsible for...	When?
 The traditional mentor (advisor)	Career development Psychological support	When you are expected to support a mentee to attain their career goal or navigate professional challenges.
 The educator (trainer)	Scientific knowledge Technical skills Critical and analytical thinking Identification of creative projects	When your mentee is expected to learn new knowledge and skills for which you have expertise during their time with you, as part of an educational or training program.
 The supervisor (manager)	Performance Behavior Productivity	When the performance, behavior and productivity of the mentee impacts your success or that of someone on your team, and you have the authority to hire, fire, pay, and recommend someone for promotion.

**Laurence Clement, Karen Leung, James Lewis and Naledi Saul, 2016

There are different relationships for a research mentor and their trainee

Role**	Is responsible for...
 The traditional mentor (advisor)	Career development Psychological support
 The educator (trainer)	Scientific knowledge Technical skills Critical and analytical thinking Identification of creative projects
 The supervisor (manager)	Performance Behavior Productivity

Some of these roles are in conflict with each other

Common challenges relate to *systemic issue* with graduate and postdoctoral training

Afraid to admit my career goals to my PI

Perceived as an implementer of my PI's ideas

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Not being comfortable with the "PR" required

Not having a long term plan



supervisor-
employee



mentor-
mentee



trainer-
trainee

Time to reflect on own barriers

1. Go to our in-class activity/survey: **bit.ly/GRAD201A**
2. Complete questions 2 and 3 (on two pages) and stop at “wait for the instructor here”
3. Share with a partner (what you feel comfortable sharing)

Faculty perspective 1:
Planning and selecting your projects as a
graduate student

Isha Jain, PhD.
Sandler Faculty Fellow
Principal Investigator.

Notes from Isha's talk: Choosing Projects

- Choose at least 1 collaborative project
- Re-evaluate projects regularly (4-6 months)
- 1-2 high risk projects, 1-2 low risk projects
- Every project has two “humps”
 - After 6 months: can I get a paper out of this?
 - What is the paper outline?
 - Figures
 - Narrative as bullet points
 - 3-4 years: is this going to have an important impact?

Notes from Isha's talk: Day-to-day

- Start the day with exciting science
 - I read the twitter feed of a favorite scientist
 - Or skim a few new papers
 - Instead of checking email
- Take the time to plan: schedule it
- Be deliberate about planning “down time”

Notes from Isha's talk: Getting new ideas/developing your research

- Attend talks outside your field
- Read up on topics that are unfamiliar
 - Papers that are a one-paper-radius away from your project
 - After all, you're trying to establish yourself in something DIFFERENT from what your PI studies!
- Have an "ideas" book/document/OneNote
 - Over time you will accumulate hundreds of ideas, the best of which can fuel your first grants
- Take the time to train in the skills you need before starting a lab
 - OCPD's programs: TRAIN-UP to manage, hire, fire
 - Ask to be involved
 - Managing a budget
 - Talking with journal editors
 - Editing papers
 - Hiring people
 - Ask to be a corresponding author
- Keep a whiteboard with 3 aims, add to it over time

Notes from Isha's talk: Get help/connect/network

- In the last 3-6 months of her postdoc, Isha emailed 10-15 faculty she didn't know in her region and asked for:
 - Feedback on her research program
 - Sponsorship for conferences
 - Hosting for talks
 - ...gave her a foot in the door to "the club"
- When she had her first paper, she reached out to people she didn't know
 - Some will turn into advisors/mentors
- Stay in touch with your thesis committee, grad school advisor, send them your paper
- Did a mini-sabbatical after postdoc, traveled in Europe visiting labs and giving talks
 - How to protect your ideas at this stage?
 - Is it a 2-way conversation? As you share more, do they share more too?
 - What's their reputation?
- Have an online presence
- Submit abstracts for talks at conferences

Faculty perspective 2:
Developing and funding your independent
research program
as an international postdoc

Ernesto Diaz-Flores PhD
Assistant Adjunct Professor
Pediatrics Department (UCSF)
ernesto.diaz-flores@ucsf.edu

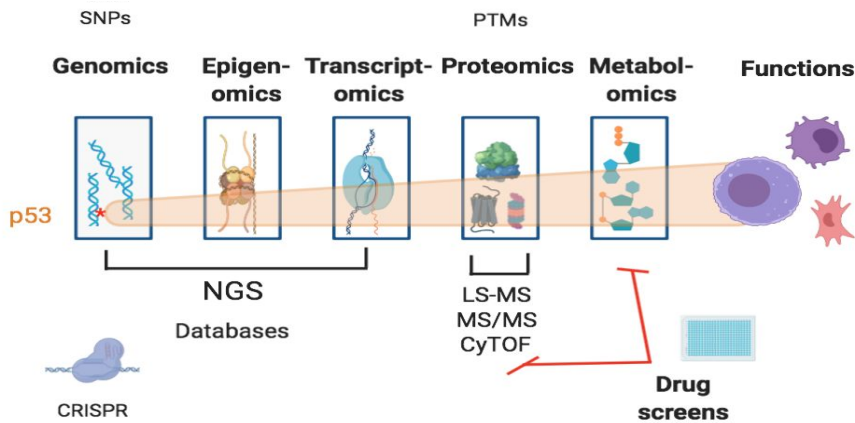
Developing your project

- Discuss scope of project with your PI and colleagues
 - What is the major question in the field?
 - What is the question you want to address?
 - Does your work provide advances beyond the scope of your particular field/project?
- Delve into the literature and become a scholar in your field
- write your project in 1 page
 - Get it reviewed and learn the different aspects of it to shape your project
- Be mindful of your timeline:
 - Year 1 (learn), year 2 (produce and write), year 3 (apply: K99/R00, K,...)

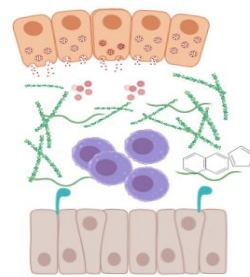
Implementing your project

- Plan your project as a funnel (from top to bottom) and start your project (from the bottom up)
- Be creative and productive
- be systematic and efficient to generate compelling data
- Learn the craft:
 - how to write (competitive) grants, (high impact) papers and (winning) abstracts
 - how to give dynamic presentations
- Stay on top of literature: read reviews
- Set up collaborations (go to learn skills to other institutions)
- Attend conferences (large and small), seminars and workshops
- make beautiful visuals of your data (Prism, R, BioRender)

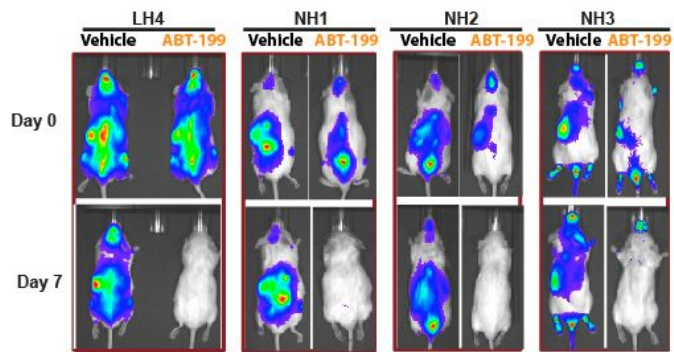
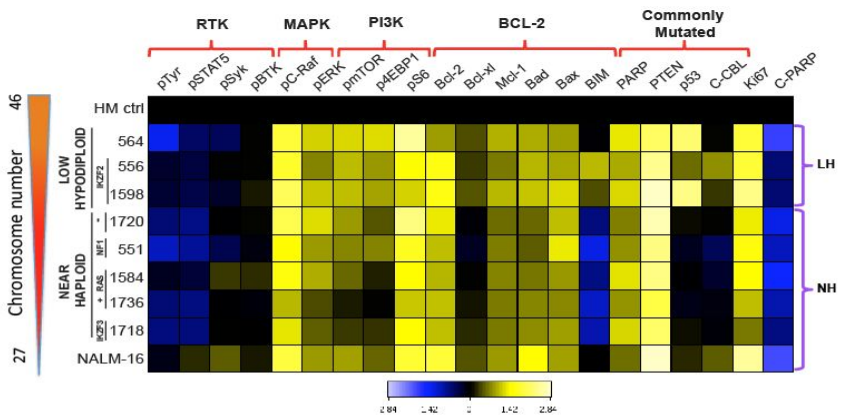
Examples of compelling visuals



Microenvironment



BioRender.com



Diaz-Flores, et al., Cancer Research (2019)

Designing your independent research

- What is missing in your field?
- What is missing in your lab's research that would benefit from another perspective
- Start working on it as a side project
- Set up your goals and be strategic on how to pursue them
- Become an expert in your field and start developing a track record
- Present it when you have a compelling case
- Establish independent collaborations
- Apply to a K99/R00 and other grant opportunities
- Think about the Oscars, you want to compete in the top categories

Funding your project as an international student

- Identify grant sources
 - From labmates
 - Foundations (use your keywords)
 - Pivot
 - Listservs
 - Companies
- Make a list to keep track
- Establish strategic collaborations
- Set up a reviewers committee

Example of a list of grant opportunities

1	Grant name	Sponsor	due date	amount	Title	website
2	Keck foundation Medical Research	Keck Found	15-May	1M	Deciphering the genome beyond their coding sequence: Controlling the fate, fitness, and properties of cells by altering the number of chromosomes.	http://www.wmkeck.org/grant-programs/research
3	A Award	ALSF	20-May	\$200k	Dissecting aneuploid-derived vulnerabilities to design selective therapies against childhood hypodiploid leukemia.	https://www.alexslimonade.org/sites/default/files/2019_a-award_guidelines_final_0.pdf
4	When everyone survives	WES	1-Jun	\$50k	Transcriptomics-guided preclinical study to identify and validate effective therapies against high-risk childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia	https://www.wheneveronesurvives.org/grant_application
5	R01 (PA-19-056)	NIH	5-Jun-19	\$400/Y	Exploiting aneuploidy to identify therapeutic targets and prevent relapse in pediatric hypodiploid leukemia	https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-19-056.html
6	R21	NIH	5-Jun	\$200k		https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-19-053.html
7	Cookies for kids Cancer Clinical and	Cookies for	June 19th LOI	\$200k	Identifying vulnerabilities in childhood leukemia with high risk of relapse to inform novel therapies with curative potential	https://orit.research.bcm.edu/CookiesForKidsCancer/Default.aspx
8	Children Leukemia Research Grant	CLRA	30-Jun	\$100k	Identifying specific therapeutic opportunities in high-risk childhood leukemia exploiting genomic alterations due to aneuploidy.	http://www.childrenleukemia.org/research-grants-summary.asp
9	Kleberg Foundation	Kleberg Fou	July 9th LOI	\$1M	Reversing the poor prognosis of hypodiploid leukemia through cancer mapping: Identifying vulnerabilities that inform selective therapeutics while reducing the risk of relapse	http://www.klebergfoundation.org/grant-guidelines/medical-research/
10	RAP	UCSF	23-Sep	\$40K	Targeting polyploidy in hypodiploid leukemia to prevent relapse	
11	NSF	UCSF-Troy	29-Sep	\$160K/Y	MECOMP.NET Project: Cell computing inspired by membranes in vivo	
12	LLS Australia	LLS	August 31 LOI	\$650k	Precision medicine in hypodiploid ALL to increase efficacy, red	https://www.lls.org/research/translational-research-program
13	Rita Allen	Rita Allen	11-Sep			http://ritaallen.org/apply/ http://ritaallen.org/scholars/
14	Michelson prize	Michelson r	31-Oct	\$150K	transformative research in human immunology	https://humanvaccinesproject.submittable.com/submit/d8a488c1-9717-47a1-a8f2-f580c620a01d/the-michelson-prizes-initial-application
15	Innovation Grant	ALSF	4-Nov	\$250k/Y		http://www.alexslimonade.org/grants/guidelines

Special Recommendation: Excel at Writing

Learn to write Science in English:

- Grammar courses
- scientific writing courses
- get Grammarly

Learn to write competitive grants:

- learn to write compellingly
 - Book resources:
 - "The elements of style" by Strunck and White
 - "Designing and writing scientific research papers" by Thomas Annesley
 - "Essentials of Writing Biomedical Research Papers" by Mimi Zeiger
 - "Publishing and Presenting Clinical Research" by Warren Browner
- Get them reviewed by peers and someone external

A final word: Remember that
the world would always be ready to embrace
people with talent

ernesto.diaz-flores@ucsf.edu

Starting an independent career: Designing your project

Ernesto Diaz-Flores

Designing a research plan

1. **Step 1:** Identify what you are most passionate, excited about. What is your scientific vision and mission?
2. **Step 2:** Convince your target audience that they should care about your vision and your mission: impact, significance, relevance of the work?
 - a. study section at specific funding org
 - b. hiring faculty at research institutions
3. **Step 3:** Convince the audience that you can successfully lead this project on your own.
4. **Step 4:** Determine if the environment, department, institution is conducive to your success.

Designing a research plan

1. Identify what you are most passionate, excited about. What is your scientific vision and strategy?

Passion: Be specific - avoid generalities like “I am passionate about biology or social sciences”. What are values drive your interests? *“Someone I know had this disease, and my mission is to find a treatment for this disease.”*

Vision: What is the big picture goal of your future lab? *“I want a lab where I would use proteomics to solve cancer-related biological challenges.”*

Strategy: *“I want to develop new tools in proteomics, because I believe that it will solve cancer-related biological challenges than genomics.”*

Designing a research plan

2. Convince your target audience that they should care about your vision and your mission: impact, significance, relevance of the work?

Relevance: Tailor to the funding context, or to what already exists. Instead of saying “*I want to find a new therapeutic targeting X protein,*” which already exists, you say that “*I will develop a project that will help understand X protein’s biology.*”

Significance: How novel is this? What is different about your approach? What is your edge, your niche? “*I will use Y technique in addition to the other things I do (that may not seem novel).*”

Impact: How is this going to change your field? “By better understanding the biology of X protein, our field will be able to and”

Designing a research plan

2. Convince your target audience that they should care about your vision and your mission: impact, significance, relevance of the work?

Impactful but not relevant:

We will define the crystal structure of X protein, but we don't know where it is expressed and why this protein is important.

Designing a research plan

3. Convince the audience that you can successfully lead this project on your own.

Technical expertise: What technical expertise do you have to support this strategy? *“I have experience in computational science in my graduate work, and have developed animal experimentation skills in my postdoc.”*

Scientific expertise: What scientific expertise do you have to support this strategy? *“My understanding of the physiology of type 2 diabetes and the neural pathways in food intake equip me to address this issue.”*

Productivity: What have you accomplished as a trainee? What did you publish? Is it potentially impactful? Have you secured fellowships or grants?

Designing a research plan

4. Determine if the environment, department, institution is conducive to your success.

Physical resources: What physical resources will be available for you in this department, at this institutions? Do you have everything you need to successfully run your program?

Scientific experts: Will your colleagues be able to mentor you or support you? Have they been productive and successful in their own work?

Collegiality: How collegial is your department? Have your predecessors succeeded in this environment?

Working Lunch

Write your research plan.

You will share it with others after lunch.

Working Lunch

Write your one-page research plan, to share after lunch.

1. **Step 1:** Identify what you are most passionate, excited about. What is your scientific vision and mission?
2. **Step 2:** Convince your target audience that they should care about your vision and your mission: impact, significance, relevance of the work?
 - a. study section at specific funding org
 - b. hiring faculty at research institutions
3. **Step 3:** Convince the audience that you can successfully lead this project on your own.
4. **Step 4:** Determine if the environment, department, institution is conducive to your success.

Group work
Get feedback on your plan
Laurence Clement

Improving your research plan: Share in groups of 3

- Present for 4 minutes to your peers
- Peers discuss it for 10 minutes: ask questions, share their reaction, make suggestions

1. **Criterion 1:** Is the scientific vision and mission clear?
2. **Criterion 2:** Is it clear what is the impact, significance, relevance of the work?
 - a. study section at specific funding org
 - b. hiring faculty at research institutions
3. **Criterion 3:** Is it clear that the strategy can get them to their outcome? Is it clear that they can successfully lead this project on their own?
4. **Criterion 4:** Is it clear whether the environment, department, institution is conducive to their success? Can they do this work with the expertise and resources available to them?



Faculty perspective 3 & Lecture:
Using faculty feedback to improve the
fundability of your research program

Felice Dunn, PhD, Assistant Professor

Workshop
Your plan for identifying
and reaching out to faculty
Laurence Clement

The “feed forward” process

Suggested by Keith Yamamoto, PhD,
UCSF Vice Chancellor for Science Policy & Strategy

1. Identify 3 faculty and invite them to be part of your mock review committee
2. First meeting (90 minutes)
 - a. Do not provide anything in writing.
 - b. Discuss your ideas.
 - c. Allow them to “grill” you on why this is important, what difference it would make if it was done.
 - d. Listen actively to their questions, concerns, suggestions. Observe their disagreements.
 - e. Use what you learned to write one page of three to five specific aims, addressing their points.
3. Second meeting:
 - a. Send your 1-pager with enough notice for them to read it
 - b. Listen actively to their debate, let them grill you further.
 - c. If they don’t like it, throw it away and start again.
 - d. If they like it, you are good to go - write your full proposal.

Source: Dr. Yamamoto and <https://www.nigms.nih.gov/research/application/pages/tips.aspx>

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Why would people in your professional community help you?

1. Because you're doing interesting work
2. Because your work could forward their goals
3. To share their knowledge
4. Because they have hard won lessons
5. Because they wish someone had helped them
6. To repay a favor
7. To help a friend
8. They have the time/interest to do so
9. Because they consider it part of their job
10. You have an affinity to each other; they see themselves in you
11. Because they like something about you
12. Because you remind them of someone
13. Because you asked respectfully

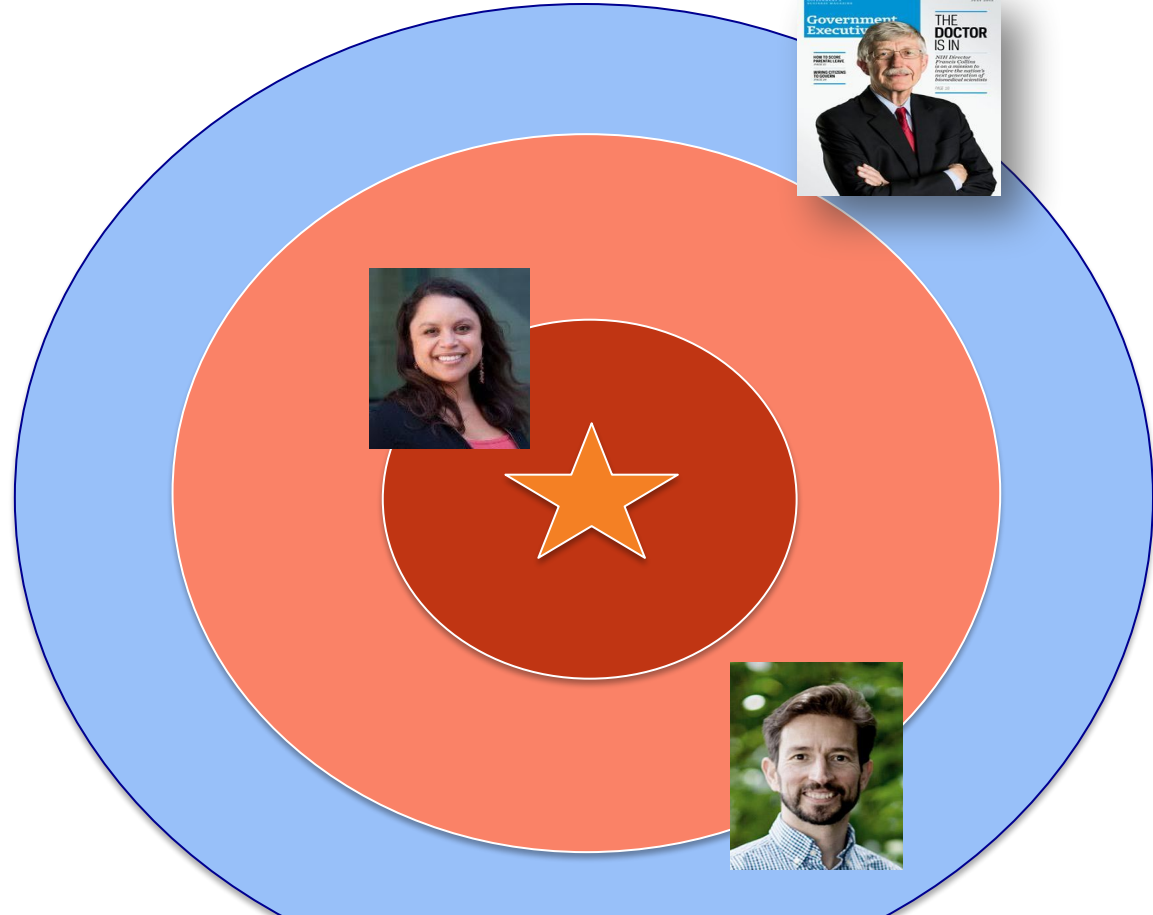
In Your Academic/ Professional World



You can talk to anyone in your professional community, but you need to modulate how you speak with them

The farther people are from you, the more clear and concise you need to be

- People you don't know at all
 - People who are senior in their field
- People who know your friends or colleagues
 - People 1-2 stages ahead in their careers
- People you know
 - People who are the same stage in their career



Application Materials

Things to note

- **What?** Get feedback on statements (research, teaching, diversity)
- **Who?**
 - Someone who can critique your work with an ‘insider’s eye’.
 - You do not have to know this person well.
 - You do not need to like this person.
- **Why?** Determine **whether your statement is compelling.**
- **How?** You can use our ACRA to guide the discussion (for e.g. you may need feedback on your **vision, strategy, rationale, fundability, structure**)

Dear Dr. Franklin,

I know it’s been a while, and I hope you’re well. I’m applying for tenure track R1 positions and would like to ask if you would consider reviewing my research statement.

It would be extremely helpful to get perspective on my research program, because of your work on X. I would be grateful for any feedback you find necessary, but in particular your thoughts on the scope of my work and it’s potential fundability would be most welcome.

Currently, I’m preparing materials for UPENN’s Biology department and Harvard’s Biochemistry department. I’ve attached my materials to this email. If you are able, I defer to your preferred style of giving feedback (by email, in person, on the phone, etc.).

Thank you for considering my request.

Best,

Albert Einstein

Where are you in your development?

1

I understand the research program expectations that faculty hiring committees have of candidates

2

I can describe the successful components of a research program

3

I have identified a unique research niche that would distinguish me from other scientists in the field

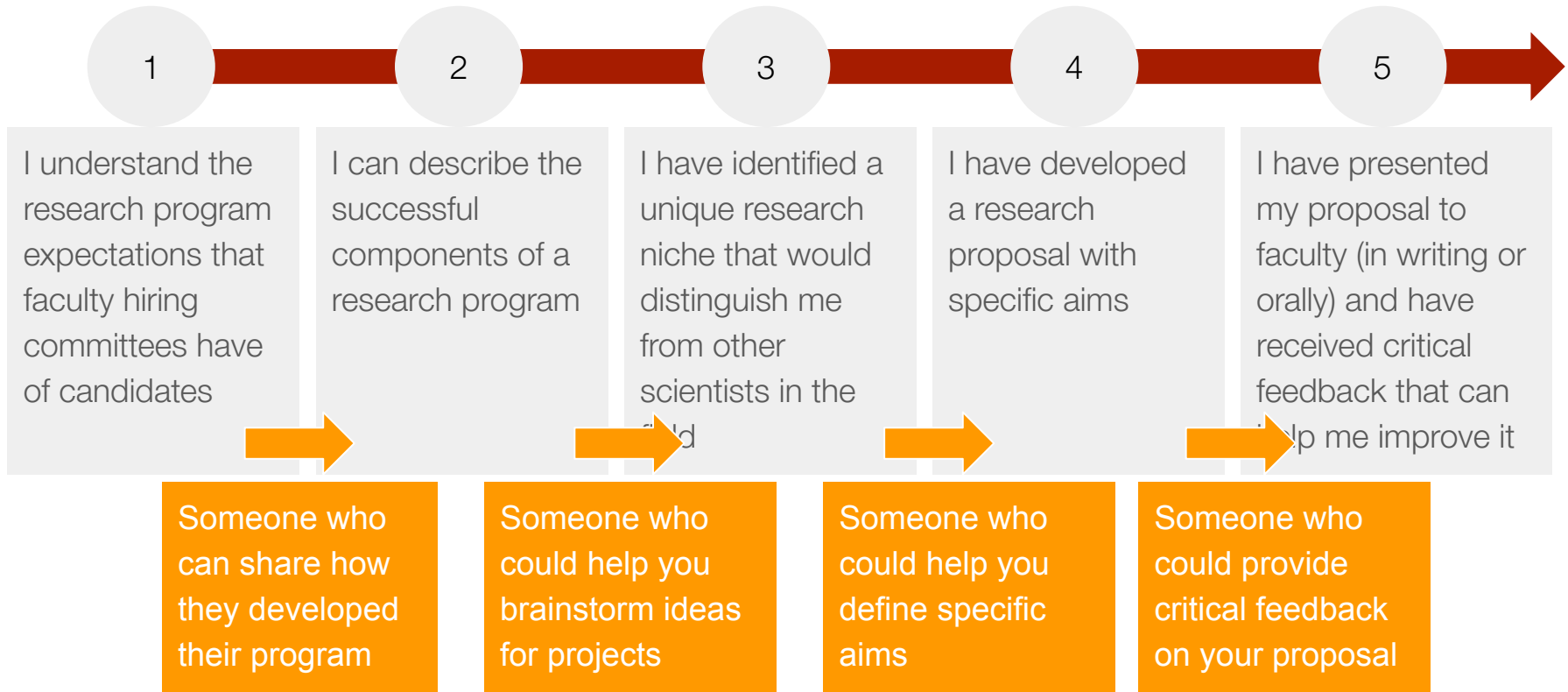
4

I have developed a research proposal with specific aims

5

I have presented my proposal to faculty (in writing or orally) and have received critical feedback that can help me improve it

Your stage of development and your ask



Workshop:

Your plan for identifying and reaching out to faculty

1. Identify 3 faculty and invite them to be part of your mock review committee

- Why are they the most appropriate people? What value, perspective will they bring to the proposal?
- What concerns do you have about approaching them? How can you overcome your concern?
- What will be your ask to them? What language will you use to invite them?

Assignment, due next session

1. Finish your research plan using the feedback received today (to turn in next session, for credit students)
2. Identify 3 faculty members to ask for support that matches your level of development
3. Prepare to present your updated plan in 10 minutes in groups of 3 using a board (no slides!)

(Watch the video of Seemay Chou's Chalk Talk Demonstration at bit.ly/ChalkTalkdemo, also linked on Syllabus)