

## Grant Resources: Locating Funding Opportunities

Locating funding for research is critical to any medical and/or academic institution. Understanding the funding process and the types of research being funded is essential for success, as is successfully searching available resources. The Grants Office (Sponsored Programs Administration – SPA) offers a variety of services and tools to facilitate the process including customizing funding searches, personal assistance with proposals, web access to NIH, NSF, DoD and other funding information such as deadlines, guidelines, and so much more. The Ehrman Medical Library also offers a variety of services and tools including funding databases, end-user search assistance, and management of data. Together, the Grants Office and the Medical Library will help you to navigate this complicated process.

### Overview of the Funding Environment

The funding environment is extremely complex. One must understand how to navigate the governmental versus privately funded processes. Budget development, grant-writing skills, submission of periodic reports, and follow up of application deadlines are an essential part of the process. One must be astute in knowing what is being funded and how to seek those opportunities that are available.

### The Searching Process: A Sample

#### What types of grants are you seeking?

I am seeking funding on grants for undergraduate medical student and residency training in the area of cancers of the female reproductive tract including but not limited to ovarian, uterine, endometrial, and other such types of cancer.

(See “Types of Grants Programs”: [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/funding\\_program.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/funding_program.htm)).

#### What types of grants have been funded?

Using the CRISP database, search by rank for the top 50 awards given in 2006. Select three to five awards that might be relevant.

*Questions you might ask:*

- 1. Do you see a lack of awards in the area you are seeking funding? Your topic may be what funding institutions are willing to award.*
- 2. Have you found awards from your institution? You may want speak with the Principal Investigator (P.I.) for tips on your proposal.*

#### What funding is currently available?

Funding databases have the same Boolean searching features using the “and” and “or” operators as bibliographic databases, but provide a very different type of output. Three types of results can be displayed: 1) the project title, 2) a brief description or synopsis, and 3) the full award record containing title, dates of the award, sponsor information, deadline information, cost sharing, award types, applicant types, restrictions, and other key information to assist you in determining if you should seek the funding opportunity.

Community of Science (COS) and Grants.gov cover biomedical research and science education. Governmental funding is readily located using these two databases. InfoEd: SPIN/Smarts covers a wide variety of opportunities from the government and private sector. Search each of the databases. After a review of the brief summaries, determine which database(s) would be most effective to search. If relevant, search all three.

#### How can I keep up?

How can I set up an automatic e-mail alert to learn of new funding opportunities or to keep up with opportunities in my area of interest? Check the resource’s help to see if the service is available!

## Reference Materials

**Grant application writer's handbook.** Reif-Lehrer, Liane., Sudbury, Mass: Jones and Bartlett, c2005.  
*MED Reference/DENT Reference Books – R853 .P75 R439 2005*

**Guide to effective grant writing : how to write a successful NIH grant.** Yang, Otto O., New York : Kluwer Academic, c2005  
*MED Book Stacks/DENT Reserve Books – RA11 .D6 Y36 2005*

**Successful grant writing : strategies for health and human service professionals.** Gitlin, Laura N. and Lyons, Kevin J., New York: Springer Pub. Co., c2004.  
*MED Book Stacks – HV41.2 .G58 2004*

**Proposals that work: a guide for planning dissertations and grant proposals.** Locke, Lawrence F., Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, c2000.  
*BELLEVUE Reference – Q180.55 .P7 L63 2000*

## Databases & Web Sites

**CRISP (Computer Retrieval of Information on Scientific Projects)** is a searchable database of federally-funded biomedical research projects conducted at universities, hospitals, and other research institutions. The database searches "current and historical" awards given from 1972-2006. Key search fields include types of activities ranging from research grants, research projects, and fellowships to program projects, and more. New, competing and non-competing are the three types of awards. Other searchable fields are available making CRISP an essential tool in the search for funding opportunities. CRISP is available on the Internet at <http://crisp.cit.nih.gov>.

**InfoEd: SPIN/Smarts** is a searchable database from more than 2,500 different sponsoring agencies, which comprise more than 11,000 separate opportunities. To ensure integrity, all SPIN information is obtained directly from the sponsoring agencies. *(Available from SPA)*

**Community of Science** is the world's most comprehensive funding resource, with more than 22,000 records representing nearly 400,000 opportunities, worth over \$33 billion. *(Available from Library)*

**GrantsNet** is a one-stop resource to find funds for training in the sciences and undergraduate science education. *(Available from Library)*

**TRAM**, developed by the Texas Research Administrators Group (TRAM), is a service site designed to meet the needs of researchers and research administrators at institutions of Higher Education. TRAM does not provide financial support. As search engine for locating funding opportunities from many different agencies, TRAM also contains a set of grant application forms collected from various sources, as well as standard agreements for subcontracts, non-disclosures, licenses, and links to other servers related to research funding and administration. *(Available from SPA)*

### **Grants.gov - <http://grants.gov>**

Grants.gov allows organizations to electronically find and apply for competitive grant opportunities from all Federal grant-making agencies. Grants.gov is THE single access point for over 1000 grant programs offered by the 26 Federal grant-making agencies. *(Available via Internet)*

### **Grantmakers in Health - <http://www.gih.org>**

More than 300 philanthropies offering more than 11,000 grants. *(Available via Internet)*

### **Grants and Funding: Extramural Programs National Library of Medicine**

#### **<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/ep/extramural.html>**

Provides grants and fellowships to organizations and individual outside the NLM interested in applying computers and telecommunication to improve storage, retrieval, access and use of biomedical information.

**Fee-based Services: Foundation Grants Index** contains records describing grants that have been awarded to nonprofit organizations by the larger independent, corporate, and community foundations (over 1,000 in 1995) located in the United States. / **Foundation Directory** is a comprehensive directory providing descriptions of more than 41,000 grantmakers, including private grant-making foundations, community foundations, operating foundations, and corporate grant makers. (Call 212-263-8483)