Training Grants: Preparing for Success
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Go/No-Go Decision

Ready to apply?
- No: perform thorough analysis of what it would take to be competitive
  - Develop a plan to get there
  - Timeline of 1-3+ years

- Yes! Get in touch with Proposal Enhancement
  - Timeline of 6-8 months
Why would you want a training grant?

• Pays student stipends!
• Encourages you to do a deep dive into your curriculum
• Increases prestige of your graduate program, which...
• ...helps recruit stronger, more diverse students
• Promotes connection and collaboration among faculty
Proposal Development

- PI(s)/Director
- Core writing team
- Administrative support for data-gathering
  - Unit-level
  - Proposal Enhancement
  - Graduate school
- Red team review
Institutional Support and Sustainability

UNIT → COLLEGE → GRAD SCHOOL → OFFICE OF RESEARCH → PROVOST

Types of potential institutional support:
• Additional trainee slots
• “Topping off” NIH stipends
• RAIT/VIP program
• Funding for part-time admin
• Funding for student activities:
  • Speakers
  • Retreats
  • Conference Travel

WORK WITH JAKE ON INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT REQUEST!
The “Go/No-Go” Decision, in Detail

What do you need to be competitive?

1. Large trainee pool
2. Strong mentors
3. Professional development programming
4. Differentiators
1. Potential Trainee Pool

- **Size**
  - You need enough potential eligible trainees to ensure a competitive application process

- **Composition (diversity)**
  - Balance capacity with need

- **Gather this information as part of Go/No-Go**
2. Strong Mentors

- Mentoring experience
- Research funding
- Track record of collaboration and interdisciplinary/convergent research
3. Professional Development Programming

- Inventory current offerings
- Start adding and formalizing during proposal development
- Make a plan for PD in the grant period
- Emphasize “soft skills”
4. Differentiators/Unique Resources

- Field sites
- Instrumentation
- Community/Industry partnerships
- Existing certificate or degree programs
NSF National Research Traineeships: Logistics

- 14-16 awards/year
- 5-year project period, not renewable
- Up to $3,000,000
- Limited submission
- Two deadlines: February 25 and September 6
NRT Key Elements

• Interdisciplinary/Convergent Research & Training
• Inclusive Workforce Development
• Institutional Transformation
NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) (T32) Logistics

- 5-year project period, renewable
- Both pre- and post-doc
- No total budget limit, BUT...
  - ...pays only 60% of stipends up to $16k and other costs are capped
- No submission limit
- Each IC has own deadlines (up to 3/year): Jan 25, May 25, Sept 25
- Each IC has own FOA
NIH T32 Key Elements

- **T32s should:**
  - Provide a strong foundation in research design, methods & analytic techniques to enhance the trainees’ ability to conceptualize & pursue a research project with increasing independence
  - Enhance the trainees’ understanding of the health-related sciences & the relationship of their training to health and disease.

- **Importance placed on:** track record of mentor funding, training experience, student publications, student placement in workforce or academia
Training Grant Directors

Vanessa Ezenwa, Ecology NRT (IDEAS)
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QUESTIONS?

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