Funding Your Graduate Education

Tiffany Katz, PhD

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Tiffany A. Katz

• B.S. - Penn State (2000-2004)
  – Animal Biosciences/Microbiology
  – McNair scholar – Allergic Asthma

• Ph.D. - Rutgers University (2005-2011)
  – Endocrinology and Animal Biosciences
  – SREB scholar

• Postdoc - University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute
  The Women’s Cancer Research Center (2011-Present)
  – Breast cancer research with a focus in epigenetics
  – The University of Pittsburgh Postdoctoral Association
    • Chair of Advocacy
Funding Opportunities

• Grants
  – Cover tuition, stipend, health care
  – NIH, NSF, DOD, Foundations
  – Institutional training awards/Nationally competitive awards

• Travel awards
  – Almost all conferences
  – Specific for women, or minorities, or first time attendees
  – Some include training opportunities

• Poster competitions
  – Small sum of money
Finding Opportunities

• Institutional organizations can help
  – University databases
  – University funding counselors

• Web searching on your own
  – Grants.gov
  – www.cos.com
  – Foundationcenter.org
  – SREB.org
  – Sign up for alerts when funding opportunities are announced
  – Every conference you attend search the website for travel awards
Learn the Application Process

• Seminars at your university and at meetings
• Graduate classes on grant writing
• Tutorials, workshops, and books
• Read already funded grants
• Use your mentors
Personal History

• NIH pipeline award
  – Institutional

• Applied for 6 grants & 2 were awarded
  – Accepted the SREB award, but later found out my F31 was funded
  – Gave up the SREB award and began the NIH award
    • Still remain an SREB scholar – always part of the SREB family

• Travel Awards
  – Endocrine trainee award (included a full day of professional development training)
  – Gordon conference first time attendee award
  – AGEP travel award
Conclusions

• Figure out what you qualify for

• Learn how to apply
  – Instructions, seminars, tutorials, books
  – Read already funded awards

• Use your mentors
  – Review everything you write and go over it together
  – Writing groups or classes