Finding Postdoctoral Funding Opportunities

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Workshop Description and Objectives

This information session is an introduction to searching for organizations and programs that provide salary and research funding to postdocs.

After attending this session, participants will be able to:
- Search for federal and private (corporate/foundation) funding on Pivot and Grants.gov
- Evaluate funding opportunities on the basis of personal goals and other factors
- Create a personal proposal development plan for promising opportunities
Welcome and Introductions

• Facilitator:
  Nancy Devino – nancy.devino@gatech.edu

• Participants: Name and Department/Program
What Organizations Fund Postdocs?

• Federal Agencies
  ➢ Intramural Funding (work in agency labs)
  ➢ Extramural Funding
    ❖ Budget line in faculty research grant
    ❖ Direct support for an individual
• Private Foundations
• Professional Societies
Funding Searches on Pivot

- Create an account when logged into GT network
  http://pivot.cos.com/funding_main

- Learn more using the “About COS Pivot” and/or “View Tutorial” links on main Pivot page
“Postdoc” returns 145 results:
Advanced Search Yields Tailored Results

http://pivot.cos.com/funding/search

- Title & abstract fields include “postdoc”
- Dollar amount: leave blank
- Deadlines: Look for deadlines at least 2 months out; include those with optional or undefined deadlines
- Citizenship: if not a U.S. citizen, select “Unrestricted” and “Unspecified”
- Funding Type: “Postdoctoral award”; “Research”; “Training/Scholarship/Fellowship”
- Can also “exclude” opportunities of your choice
Grants.gov: Starting Point for Federal $

Start with the SEARCH GRANTS tab:

http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html

Keyword = “Postdoctoral” → 73 results

- NIH = 23
- NSF = 12
- Department of the Army = 12
- FDA = 7
- Office of Science = 5
- 9 other agencies = 14 total (1-2 each)

BOTTOM LINE: Behavioral/Biomedical Research and Basic/Applied Science account for ~80% of all federal postdoctoral funding opportunities
Evaluating Funding Opportunities: Questions to Consider

• Does my area of research match the funder’s priorities?
• How many awards does the agency/organization make each year?
• What is the amount and duration of funding?
• How realistic is it that I could put together a competitive application?
  ➢ When is the application due?
  ➢ What does the application require?
  ➢ What other obligations do I have between now and the deadline?
Crafting a Proposal Development Plan for High Return-on-Investment (ROI) Opportunities

These steps can take 6-8 months

Not Funded: Return to Planning & Writing

Total Elapsed Time, Idea to Funding Decision: 10-14 Months

1 month → 1 month → 2-3 months → 2-3 months → 1 week → 4-6 months → $ Arrives

Idea Development
Funding Search
Proposal Planning
Proposal Writing
Proposal Submission
Proposal Review

Georgia Tech
National Science Foundation  Postdoctoral Funding: High Investment, High Return

Start at www.nsf.gov
Choose “FUNDING” then “For Postdoctoral Fellows” (Special Programs Group) → Postdoctoral Fellows page

- Astronomy & Astrophysics (11-559): 2nd Wed. in October
- Atmospheric/Geospace Sciences (14-509): 2nd Mon. in January
- Biology (15-501): 1st Tues. in November
- Earth Sciences (15-568): 2nd Tues. in January
- Law & Social Sciences (15-514): January 15
- Mathematical Sciences (14-582): 3rd Wed. in October
- Social/Behavioral/Econ. Sciences (14-495): Last Mon. in October
National Institutes of Health Postdoctoral Funding: High Investment, High Return

Start at [www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov)
Choose “Grants & Funding” then “Funding Opportunities” then “Research Training & Career Development”

Two Main Postdoctoral Funding Programs:
- [Kirschstein-NRSA Postdoctoral Fellowship (F32)](http://www.nih.gov) (F32): PA-14-149
- [Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00)](http://www.nih.gov) (K99/R00): PA-15-083

F = Fellowship
K = Career Development; R = Research
Many NIH Programs Have 3 Annual Due Dates

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<th>Cycle I</th>
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<td>April 8</td>
<td>August 8</td>
<td>December 8</td>
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<td>Work period:</td>
<td>early December to early April</td>
<td>early April to early August</td>
<td>early August to early December</td>
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<td>K99/R00</td>
<td>February 12</td>
<td>June 12</td>
<td>October 12</td>
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<td>Work period:</td>
<td>mid-October to mid-February</td>
<td>mid-February to mid-June</td>
<td>mid-June to mid-October</td>
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What Happens During “Work Period”?

• Workshops 2-3 weeks apart, focused on specific proposal components
• Assignments and peer review of component drafts during the intervening weeks
• Collaboration with Office of Sponsored Programs to set up any necessary proposal submission accounts
• Individual assistance with proposal narrative drafts and proposal assembly
Still Interested? Want to Learn More?

1. Review links to proposal guidelines and identify the best program for your discipline and career goals.

2. Register for the upcoming NIH Proposal Workshop Series (8:30-10:30 AM, Chem-MSE 3201A):
   - October 14: Navigating the NIH
   - November 4: Specific Aims and the NIH Review Process
   - November 18: Writing a Compelling Research Strategy
   - January 13: Polishing Your Proposal

3. See Postdoc Resources Page on postdocs.gatech.edu