Disclaimer & Conflicts of Interest

Disclaimer:
The contents of this presentation do not represent the views of the Department of Veterans Affairs or the United States Government.

Conflicts of Interest:
None
Agenda

- Postdoctoral Training/Mentoring
- Case Study
- Grant Writing
Polling Questions

Who is in the audience?

- PhD research fellows
- Nurse Scientist/Investigators
- DNPs
- Predoctoral Nurses
- Clinical Fellows/Quality Scholars
- Nurses
- Other
Polling Questions

What do you hope to gain from the webinar?

- Secure a postdoctoral position
- Start/revise a training program
- Advance my research career
- Secure grant funding
- Other
A Conceptual Framework

Tinto V. Leaving College: Rethinking the Causes and Cures of Student Attrition. 2nd ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1993.

The Current Research Environment

Scientists need to:

• Establish effective interdisciplinary teams
• Build expertise in implementation research
• Translate value-added research into practice
• Engage stakeholders
• Improve the healthcare system
VA Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

• Two years protected time to build program of Veteran-focused research
  ▫ Funded project
  ▫ Research methodology
  ▫ Dissemination
  ▫ Grant writing

• Translate findings to meet Veterans’ needs

• Build broad networks of mentors and collaborators
Interdisciplinary Research Programs

- Mode of research by teams/individuals
- Integrates:
  - Information
  - Data
  - Techniques
  - Tools
  - Perspectives
  - Concepts and/or Theories
- More than one discipline
- To advance understanding or solve problems beyond the scope of one discipline

Successful Fellow Independent Investigator

- **Education**
  - Career Goals Development
  - Formal Learning Plans

- **Research**
  - Cross Discipline Mentorship
  - Works in Progress

- **Experience**
  - Professional Development
  - Academic Partnership
Works in Progress Meetings

• Fellows:
  ▫ Nursing
  ▫ Health Services Research
  ▫ Data Scientist/Delivery System Fellowship
  ▫ Palliative Care and Aging Research
  ▫ Cardiovascular Outcomes Research

• Faculty:
  ▫ Core Faculty (MDs, Nurses, HSR, Methodologists)
  ▫ Colorado School of Public Health Faculty (Economist, Information Technology & Implementation Scientist)
Benefits of Interdisciplinary Fellowship Model

• Satisfied fellows
• Expanded world view
• Peer-to-peer mentoring
• Cross-institution collaboration
  ▫ Attracts top students to VA Fellowship Programs
  ▫ Develops shared educational activities
Mentoring

- Catalyst for success
- Career planning
- Professional and personal development
- Enhances career satisfaction
- Improves productivity
- Increases self-assessed confidence
- Builds networks

Ario Sambunjak, MD, Sharon E. Straus, MD, MSc, PRPCC, Ana Marušic’, MD, PhD. Mentoring in Academic Medicine A Systematic Review, JAMA, September 6, 2006—Vol 296, No. 9.
Advanced HSR Fellowship for Nursing

• Learning Plan (Education)
  ▫ Broadly explore existing Veteran-based sleep disturbance research and interventions
  ▫ Improve presentation & writing skills
  ▫ Build research skills to include secondary analysis of a large dataset and qualitative methods
Advanced HSR Fellowship for Nursing

• Fellowship Goals (Research)
  ▫ Learn different research methods while exploring sleep disturbances in U.S. Veterans
    • Big Data – Sleep disturbances and timing of suicide (Rocky Mountain Mental Illness Research, Education Clinical Center)
    • Phenomenology – Nocturnal hypervigilance/PTSD (Denver-Seattle COIN Qualitative Core)
Advanced HSR Fellowship for Nursing

• Fellowship Goals (Experience)
  ▫ Academic Partnership
    • University of Colorado College of Nursing
  ▫ Professional Development
    • MIRECC
    • Veteran insomnia group therapy
    • Improving CPAP adherence in Veterans with Obstructive Sleep Apnea (Sleep Lab)
Nurse Case Study

Used a Social Network Analysis approach to document the professional research growth of the first nurse to complete the interdisciplinary postdoctoral fellowship

Methods:

1. Survey of fellows to determine professional relationship growth over course of two-year fellowship

2. Investigated published research (co-authors)

3. Interviewed nurse to determine strength of relationships
Postdoctoral Fellow Network

Other Affiliations

Pre-Fellowship

Fellowship Year One

Fellowship Year Two

Network Key

△ = RN

= PhD (not RN)

○ = MD

University of Colorado
Postdoctoral Fellowship Gains

- Form strong relationships with interdisciplinary mentors and partners
- Customize a pathway for professional growth with concrete goals
- Increase exposure to different research methodologies and interventions
- Present and publish dissertation and research findings
Polling Questions

Where do you work?

- COIN
- Another VA Center
- Patient Care Services
- Other VA Department
- VA and Academic Affiliate
- Other
Grants

• Lessons Learned (2004-2012)
  ▫ NRI
  ▫ Post-doc
  ▫ CDA

• Lessons Learned (since 2012)
  ▫ Research Nurse Scientist – unaffiliated center
Lessons Learned from 2004-2012

• Resources & priorities change
• Mentoring is #1
• Consider mentor’s self-interest
• Your research interests
• Use current RFP
• Expect complications
Lessons Learned 2004-2012

• Too many aims
• Ask first – software & hardware purchases
• Use VHA frameworks
• Early focus on budget
• Allow enough time – submission cycles
• Don’t submit before ready
Lessons Learned Since 2012

- Be flexible
- **Know** VHA resources
- Suggest nursing-relevant variables
  - Non-VHA funding
- Things change
  - RFPs
  - Vendor process
  - IT processes
Tips for Proposal Development

- Start early
- Resource assessment
  - Local/self assessment & system sites
- 1st draft with required headings
- Read RFPs/content requirements
- Writing schedule
Tips for Proposal Development

• Make argument
  ▫ Gap in knowledge
  ▫ Statement of need
  ▫ Objectives
  ▫ Hypothesis or research question
  ▫ Aims – few
  ▫ Expected outcome

Robertson JD, Russell SW, Morrison DC (2018) *The Grant Application Writer’s Workbook –NIH version*
Hyperlinks

• [VHA Privacy Program](VHA Directive 1605)
• [Privacy and Release of Information](VHA Handbook 1605.1)
• [Minimum Necessary Standard for Protected Health Information](VHA Handbook 1605.02)
• [Privacy Compliance Assurance Program and Privacy Compliance Monitoring](VHA Handbook 1605.03)
• [Information Security Program](VA Directive 6500)
Hyperlinks

- http://vaww.research.va.gov/resources/ORD_Admin/ (VHA Office of Research and Development Intranet)
- https://www.hsrdr.research.va.gov/ (Health Services Research and Development)
- https://www.hsrdr.research.va.gov/about/portfolio.cfm (HSR&D Research Portfolios and Contacts)
- https://www.queri.research.va.gov/ QUERI (Quality Enhancement Research Initiative)
- https://www.chic.research.va.gov/ CHIC (Center for Health information and Communication)
- https://www.hsrdr.research.va.gov/funding/default.cfm (HSR&D Funding Website)
- https://www.hsrdr.research.va.gov/funding/nri.cfm (Nursing Research Initiative Funding Information)
Hyperlinks

RFAs by Service:

- [http://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/rfa.cfm#blrd](http://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/rfa.cfm#blrd) (Biomedical Laboratory Research & Development - BLR&D)
- [http://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/rfa.cfm#csrd](http://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/rfa.cfm#csrd) (Clinical Science Research and Development - CSR&D)
- [http://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/rfa.cfm#csp](http://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/rfa.cfm#csp) (Cooperative Studies Program – CSP)
- [http://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/rfa.cfm#hsrd](http://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/rfa.cfm#hsrd) (Health Services Research and Development – HSR&D)
- [http://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/rfa.cfm#rrd](http://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/rfa.cfm#rrd) (Rehabilitation Research and Development – RR&D)
Hyperlinks

- Centers Listings [https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/](https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/)
- Centers of Innovation (COIN) There are 19. [https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/centers/default.cfm](https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/centers/default.cfm)
- CREATEs Home (HSR&D Collaborative Research to Enhance and Advance Transformation and Excellence (CREATE) Initiative) [https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/centers/create/default.cfm](https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/centers/create/default.cfm)
- Resource Centers (HSR&D Resource Centers and Centralized Service Program)
  - [https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/centers/resource_centers.cfm](https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/centers/resource_centers.cfm)
  - Elizabeth Dole Center of Excellence for Veteran and Caregiver Research
- List of HSR&D Studies and QUERI Projects sorted by DRAs [https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/research/dra.cfm](https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/research/dra.cfm)
Hyperlinks

- National Institutes of Health  [http://www.nih.gov/v2q](http://www.nih.gov/v2q)
-  [https://www.ninr.nih.gov/](https://www.ninr.nih.gov/)
- VHA Research Toolkits - Google “VHA toolkit research” (this has many links under sub-headings)
- University toolkits for funding opportunities (including professional and non-profit foundations)  [http://guides.lib.uw.edu/c.php?g=99148&p=642060#s-lg-box-9756387](http://guides.lib.uw.edu/c.php?g=99148&p=642060#s-lg-box-9756387) (this has many funding opportunity databases with biomedical and multidisciplinary focus),  [https://hub.ucsf.edu](https://hub.ucsf.edu),  [https://libguides.llu.edu/c.php?g=429413&p=2929341](https://libguides.llu.edu/c.php?g=429413&p=2929341)
- ScanGrants has wide range of funding sources in healthcare  [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2706432/](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2706432/)
- Nursing Research Grant  [www.informationvine.com/Answers](http://www.informationvine.com/Answers)
Contact Information

• Cathy Battaglia, PhD, RN
  Catherine.Battaglia@va.gov

• Michaela McCarthy, PhD, RN
  Michaela.McCarthy@va.gov

• Mary Ellen Dellefield, PhD, RN
  Mary.Dellefield@va.gov
Questions