

“Grantwriting for Underrepresented Minorities Seminar: Help, Opportunity, Experience” Program (GUMSHOE)



The National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded National Research Mentoring Network (NRMN) was created to address the unmet need for greater diversity in the biomedical and biobehavioral research workforce. GUMSHOE is one of four professional development-training programs committed to increasing the number of scholars from diverse backgrounds who are successful in becoming independent investigators and securing NIH grants. GUMSHOE workshops will be hosted by the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and Washington State University. GUMSHOE workshops will be offered twice between October 2015 and April 2016.

GUMSHOE will link mentors from various disciplines who have highly successful track records in obtaining federal funding and grantwriting coaches with early career faculty mentees from traditionally underserved and/or underrepresented minorities who wish to prepare an application to NIH to conduct biomedical research. GUMSHOE uses a model based on innovative best practices, and convenes cohorts of junior faculty working with specific underserved and underrepresented populations.

Program Directors: Spero M. Manson, PhD, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and Dedra Buchwald, MD, Washington State University

NRMN GUMSHOE Overview

NRMN GUMSHOE is a 6-month program offered up to two times per year. Each cycle focuses on one of the following diverse populations: American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders, Latinos/Hispanics, African Americans/Blacks, and other disadvantaged populations as time and resources permit.

GUMSHOE includes the following components:

- Preparatory work including completion of an online writing/medical writing class, exercises on how to write specific aims, drafting and revising a specific aims page, viewing videos on the review process for National Institutes of Health proposals, and other homework
- A 3-day intensive grant writing workshop consisting of highly interactive didactic sessions, group discussions, and critiques of the participants' work assignments
- A “flipped classroom” approach in which tasks and lectures are completed outside of the classroom prior to and after the in-person 3-day workshop.
- A mock NIH-style review of participants' proposals
- Assignment to a senior GUMSHOE mentor
- Meetings with professional coaches online and by phone for 6 months after the 3-day workshop
- A review of each participant's proposal by an NIH program officer prior to submission
- A final review of each participant's proposal by a GUMSHOE mentor prior to submission

NRMN GUMSHOE 3-day Workshop Curriculum

Orientation to Scientific Review

- The current state of NIH
- Overview of the NIH extramural mechanisms of funding (R and K series)
- Reading and interpreting Requests for Proposals (RFAs) and Program Announcements (PAs)

Anatomy of a Grant: Common Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them

- Characteristics, content, and function of the various components of the proposal: the Specific Aims and the Research Strategy and its subsections (Significance, Innovation, Approach, Timeline)
- How to write for reviewers

Specific Aims and Hypotheses:

Writing a Concise and Captivating First Page

- How, when, and where do I start?

“Peer Review Revealed” videos and discussion

- What actually happens in the Peer Review Committee
- What happens after the Peer Review Committee

Parsing Summary Statements: The Inevitable Resubmission

- The review sheet
- How to interpret negative reviews
- What should I do if my score just misses the funding cut-off? If it is triaged?
- Should I talk to my program officer about the review? What sort of questions should I ask?



Mock Review Panel

- Participants will receive the Specific Aims of these grants to read before the workshop.
- A panel of experienced faculty will serve as reviewers



Important, But Often Neglected, Application Components

- Biographical Sketch
- Resources and Environment
- Background and Significance
- Innovation and Impact
- Key Elements of Methods
- Rationale for Decisions
- Limitations
- Timeline

Personal Strategies of Successful Investigators

- Working hard and working smart
- Time management: Minimizing distractions
- Cognitive restructuring: Seeing opportunities instead of threats
- Developing “a thick skin”: Seeking and consuming criticism

Tools to Support Producing an Application

- Reference manager software options
- Conducting targeted literature searches
- Tables, figures and charts: Software options
- Central Desktop, SharePoint, and Dropbox: Efficiency in collaboration

Next Steps: Submission

- Crafting and committing to an Action Plan
- Strategies for mentored critique: The homestretch
- Developing internal advocates: Contacting NIH program officers



Applicant Eligibility, Process, Timeline, and Logistics

Motivated post-doctoral/post-residency trainees and junior faculty with a demonstrated interest in and experience with one of our target underrepresented racial and ethnic minority populations are invited to apply to participate in NRMN GUMSHOE. None to minimal grant writing experience is required. NRMN GUMSHOE will cover up to \$1,000 in costs for travel and accommodations for each participant to participate in the 3-day in-person workshop; there is no tuition or cost for the actual GUMSHOE program.

The first NRMN GUMSHOE grant writing seminar will be convened from **October 21 to 23, 2015** at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, Colorado and will focus on **American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Other Pacific Islanders**. Subsequent workshops will focus on other target populations and will be held in other locations around the U.S.

To apply for the October NRMN GUMSHOE workshop, please submit the following materials. All application materials must be received no by **5 PM Pacific Standard Time on Monday, September 7, 2015**.

Complete the application found at <https://redcap.ahc.umn.edu/surveys/?s=5JV44fJgiK>. In addition to the application questions, you will be required to upload the following materials:

- A letter of support from the applicant's institutional mentor or representative that describes the institutional commitment to the applicant, local resources provided, and guarantees that the time needed for the applicant to complete the GUMSHOE program will be protected
- An unpublished example of the applicant's scientific writing
- Two letters of recommendation from academic professionals
- A current curriculum vitae

NRMN GUMSHOE Program Directors and mentors will review applications and schedule telephone interviews with applicants as needed between September 7, 2015 and September 13, 2015. Applicants will be notified of acceptance by email, along with details on travel and recommended accommodations, no later than September 14, 2015.

How do I get additional information?

For additional information about this program, please contact Spero M. Manson, PhD at spero.manson@ucdenver.edu

Application Deadline: 5:00 PM PST, Monday September 7, 2015

Program Start Date: October 21, 2015



Please feel free to share this invitation with other qualified faculty for whom this opportunity might be of interest.

Apply Now!