$1.35 Million to Improve Patient Care in Breast Cancer

Director of Graduate Studies for the M.S. in Health and Strategic Communication, Dr. Lisa Sparks, has been renewed for the ASCO-Conquer Cancer Foundation Quality of Care Grant Award funded by the Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

Dr. Sparks is part of a multidisciplinary and prestigious team of researchers from Columbia University and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. The team also includes Amy Bonoff, White House Champion of Change.

“Multidisciplinary research is sometimes difficult to navigate because we frequently employ varied theoretical and methodological perspectives and different language in our research” states Dr. Sparks.

“But by working together, we can truly offer important and often crucial approaches to achieving our mutual goals of deeper understanding and better health outcomes for patients and family members.”

The three year grant is the largest grant distributed by the Conquer Cancer Foundation. The project is titled, “An Intervention Trial of Text Messaging to Improve Patient Adherence to Adjuvant Hormonal Therapy in Breast Cancer: Randomized Trial,” the total award amount is $1.35 million.

Since data shows that as many as 40-60% of women do not finish their five year therapy, the goal of the project is to improve adherence to prescribed therapies through the patient received text messages via cell phone versus traditional follow up care.

Congratulations Dr. Sparks!

Woodrow Wilson International Fellowships: DUE OCT. 1

The Wilson Center invites scholars, practitioners, journalists and public intellectuals to take part in its flagship International Fellowship Program. The Center awards approximately 15-20 residential fellowships each year and accepts policy-relevant, non-advocacy proposals that address key challenges confronting the United States and the world. To learn more visit the Wilson Center online.

2014-2015 National Humanities Center Fellowships: DUE OCT. 1

The National Humanities Center offers 40 residential fellowship positions for advanced study in the Humanities for the period of Sept. 2013 - May 2014. The Center accepts individuals from the natural and social sciences, the arts, the professions, and public life who are engaged in humanistic projects. To download the application follow the link below to the National Humanities Center website.

ACLS NOW Accepting Fellowship Applications

The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellows Research Program is inviting applicants in the humanities and social sciences with a major research goal of creating a scholarly work. For application specifics follow the link below to the ACLS website.

GRANT RESOURCES AND TIPS

- If you missed the How to Write a Grant webinar offered spring semester it’s now available on the CRASsH website.
- If you are writing an interdisciplinary grant proposal successful grant writers recommend having people from all disciplines review the proposal before submission.
- Of the 42,000 serving on reviewing committees for the The National Science Foundation (NSF) 9,400 were first time reviewers. The NSF encourages new faculty to join review panels. To learn more about gaining experience as a funding reviewer visit the NSF website.
- NSF program officers have a lot of authority and some discretion. Make sure, if you are provided with revisions, that you carefully address each point in your resubmission.
Three Common Pitfalls Made in Grant Proposals

Robert Porter from the University of Tennessee, during his presentation at the 2013 National Organization of Research Development Professionals (NORDP) conference held last May drew on his vast experience working with faculty developing grant proposals to share three pitfalls faculty are susceptible to when writing grants.

1. Choosing a grant that is a poor fit
Porter advises developing your funding search skills, studying program goals, eligibility and objectives carefully. Remember your providing the funder a service. Also, after first discussing with your Office of Sponsored Research don’t be afraid to make contact with the program officer before starting your proposal. Some program officers, will review drafts up to six weeks prior to the deadline.

2. Poor organization
Structure the proposal; it’s important to follow the format provided by the sponsor, states Porter. If none is provided create clear sections starting with a problem statement or significance of research followed by the project proposal including specific objectives, then research design, applicant qualifications, evaluation plan and finally budget proposal. Any additional items should be included in the appendix.

3. Weak argument
It’s imperative you prove the importance of your project. State your purpose and case upfront. Think opinion editorial not academic journal and make sure you site experts in the field.

For more tips from Robert Porter visit the NORDP website.

BURN Students Assist with Research on WWII Jewish Italians

Dr. Klein, a member of the War, Memory and Society CRASSH group which seeks to expand the study of warfare beyond its military, diplomatic, and political dimensions by examining the social and cultural aspects, has been collaborating with two Wilkinson students over the summer through the BURN program.

Students, Dillon Knight and Abbigial Kim, have been assisting with the research of Italian Jews in WWII and have been assigned with the responsibilities of translating primary historical documents from Italian to English, transcribing Italian video testimonies and collecting data from internet genealogy databases to construct a record of Jewish Italians who fled Italy before and during WWII.

Wilkinson College is launching a BURN research assistant program to assist both individuals and CRASSH groups with research productivity. Applications for BURN assistance are being accepted for the fall semester. Email stroop@chapman.edu for more information.