Research Tips

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UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN IS OFFERING FUNCTIONAL MRI (fMRI) TRAINING

This course in fMRI will be free to applicant winners through a small NIH grant: https://fmri-training-course.psych.lsa.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/announcement_2016.pdf (cut + paste the url into your browser address window)

When: August 8-19, 2016

(Note: Course is not until August but needs to be applied for now.)

Sponsor: The University of Michigan, Functional MRI

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MEDICAL COLLEGES (AAMC) BASIC BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH VIDEO CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

AAMC and the Group on Research Advancement and Development (GRAND) have selected the winners of a video contest highlighting basic biomedical research underway at member institutions nationwide. From over two dozen entries received, the awards for the best videos go to Emory University School of Medicine, the University of Minnesota Medical School, and the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. These videos are featured in the Research Means Hope tumblr which highlights research advances and the critical need for continued investment in medical research through the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

http://medresearch.tumblr.com/
http://medresearch.tumblr.com/GRANDwinner

INFORMATICS WORKSHOP SERIES

Want to learn more about informatics but don’t know where to start? The Health Sciences Library's Informatics Workshop Series http://hslibrary.ucdenver.edu/research/IWS is a great place for beginners to get hands on experience with informatics topics from experts on our campus. Informatics experts from across campus conduct a one hour, hands-on session in our teaching labs where users learn how to use useful bioinformatics tools and databases. Topics include searching popular biomedical databases, how to use useful data analysis tools, and best practices for managing research data.

Do you have a favorite database or tool that you want to present? Contact tobin.magle@ucdenver.edu to schedule a session.

DR. Ts CORNER

NIH BIOSKETCH COMPLIANCE

There have been important changes to the NIH Biosketch. Please make the appropriate changes in your biosketch NOW!

On November 5, NIH began sending email notifications to applicants indicating reviewers found one or more biosketches that did not comply with the current biosketch format (NOT-OD-15-032). Hundreds of letters have already gone out. If you’ve received one of these notifications, don’t panic. These letters are currently just warnings and require no action on your part. However, they do demonstrate NIH’s commitment to enforcing compliance with NIH biosketch policy. Eventually, these warning letters will be replaced with notifications that applications have been removed from consideration.

What does it mean to have a compliant biosketch?

- eRA systems ensure some biosketch rules are met by flagging errors upon submission. Applications that violate these rules will not even move forward to NIH for consideration.
  - A biosketch is attached for each and every Sr/Key person listed in the application
  - Each biosketch is less than or equal to 5 pages
  - Each biosketch attachment is in PDF format
  - But, there are additional rules you must follow to be compliant that are not systematically caught by eRA systems.
  - Include each section (A - Personal Statement; B - Positions and Honors; C - Contributions to Science; D - Research Support or Scholastic Performance)
  - Include no more than 5 contributions to science with no more than 4 citations per contribution
  - Ensure that if you include the optional link to a full list of your published work in a site like My Bibliography that the URL is public, accessible without providing any login or personal information, and doesn’t link to websites that may violate page limit rules

Note: NIH will restrict this link to federal (.gov) sites beginning with applications to due dates on/after May 25, 2016 NOT-OD-16-004 http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-16-004.html

- Refrain from including information, such as preliminary data, that belongs elsewhere in the application
- Follow NIH guidance on font type, font size, paper size, and margins

NIH has provided instructions to NIH reviewers to flag any applications with biosketches that do not follow current guidelines.

RESEARCH CORNER

Since coming to CU-Denver, after 14 years of working in the Hollywood television industry and postings at two University of California schools, Dr. Craig Volk has focused his research to merge his teaching mission with his body of work in creative writing.

Craig served as one of the architects of our BFA in Film & Television. It was his intent that our program offer the only regional degree that truly provided extensive training in both those disciplines. These industries are perpetually evolving and subsequently require constant study. This holds particularly true for television, where scripted programs continue to vastly expand across diverse platforms. The very nature of television likewise continues to morph with recent studies noting that we now watch what is considered “television” across over two-dozen options.

Additionally, a key area of Craig’s ongoing research includes the exploration and implementation of all creative levels for our annual production of webisodes. Moreover, as a voting member of the Academy of Television Art and Sciences, he annually views and votes in numerous rounds of nominations for the Primetime and College Emmys. More recently, he co-created with the Starz Denver Film Festival their annual writing awards competitions. He selected five students each summer to work with him and other industry professionals to evaluate and judge over 175 script entries.

All the above efforts are part-and-parcel of Craig Volk’s goal of “Staying current,” as well as speculating on “What’s next?”

Complementing his teaching is his ongoing work as a writer. These have included numerous scripts for both stage and screen. The majority being set within historical frameworks that necessitate deep studies into the fields of history, literature, art, music, and other spheres depending on the subject. Presently, he is completing his first work of fiction, a novel-length exploration of World War I via an integrated collection of first-person narratives.

Craig received English/Theatre BS and MA degrees from the University of South Dakota and his MFA in Playwriting/Screenwriting from the Yale School of Drama. He has written more than 40 stage dramas and his scripts have been selected three times for the Eugene O’Neill National Playwrights Conference. His play “Mayakovsky Takes the Stage” won the 2007 PEN-USA award for best drama. Craig has had academic positions at the University of South Dakota, Green Mountain College, University of California-Davis, and UCLA. Currently, Craig teaches dramatic writing (screenwriting, episodic television writing, and playwriting) in the Department of Theater, Film, and Video Production at UCDenver.

SPOTLIGHT ON: DUAL USE RESEARCH OF CONCERN

There are certain types of research which, despite being conducted for legitimate purposes, can be utilized for benevolent or harmful purposes. Such research is called "dual use research." Dual use research of concern (DURC) is a subset of dual use research and defined as "life sciences research that, based on current understanding, can be reasonably anticipated to provide knowledge, information, products, or technologies that could be directly misapplied to pose a significant threat with broad potential consequences to public health and safety, agricultural crops, and other plants, animals, the environment, material, or nationals security."

On September 24, 2014 the Federal government issued its final version of the US Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC). The policy outlines requirements of non-governmental institutions for oversight of DURC. The 2014 policy is a follow-on to and complements the 2012 US Government Policy for Oversight of Life Sciences Dual Use Research of Concern which outlines the Federal government’s role in oversight of DURC. The 2014 policy requires institutions to have a plan for oversight of DURC in place by September 24, 2015.

The Office of Environmental Health and Safety and Office of Regulatory Compliance posted in early September the UCD oversight policy for DURC, as well as a presentation on how UCD is implementing the required oversight. There is a list at http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/research/AboutUs/regcomp/exportcontrol/Documents/UCD_Institutional%20Oversight%20DURC_Sept%2024%202015.pdf (cut + paste url into your browser address window) of fourteen infectious agents and one toxin which fall under the DURC regulations, detailed in the UCD policy.

Please be aware that the possession and use in research of ANY quantity of botulinum toxin is subject to a preliminary review by the Institutional Review Entity at UCD. There are no "exempt" quantities as there are in the Select Agent Program. This applies to clinical research also.

More information about DURC can be found at the following links:
- UCD implementation of DURC http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/research/AboutUs/regcomp/exportcontrol/Documents/UCD_Institutional%20Oversight%20DURC_Sept%2024%202015.pdf
- NIH video about DURC, see Dual Use Research: A Dialogue

For specific campus information please contact Marcia Finucane, Institutional Biosafety Officer, Office of Environmental Health and Safety, marcia.finucane@ucdenver.edu) and Christine Ahearn, Export Control Officer, Office of Regulatory Compliance (christine.ahearn@ucdenver.edu).