PROMOTING YOURSELF THROUGH SKILLFUL COMMUNICATION

a training series for postdocs and graduate students
fall 2012

“Scientific Writing”
November 8, 2012  3:00 – 5:00pm

Moderator:  John Sladek, Prof., Neurology

Presenter:  

Lee Niswander, Prof., Pediatrics Developmental Biology

http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschool/programs/molbio/faculty/niswanderl/Pages/NiswanderL.aspx

Biographical Sketch

Discussion and advice will include:

Manuscripts
- Tell a story, does not need to reflect the historical context of how the experiments were done
- Make it the best story possible, all data (don’t withhold data for the reviewer to ask for), strong solid story rather than divvying up into multiple little papers
- Reviewer critiques: read, put away, read again, then work hard on requested experiments and changes
- Persevere if you feel you can satisfactorily address the reviewer comments, then work hard to do so and resubmit (even if it might say “reject”)

Grant Proposals
- Not a “grant” until you get the money, “proposal” prior to award
- Dig around to find different sources of funding (NSF, NIH, internal, private foundation, patient-advocacy groups)
- Write and write...but remember that you will be the most experienced person in your lab for ~first 3yrs so don’t get stuck in your office writing proposals
- Set up a mentoring committee, enlist others to critique your ideas and proposal, give plenty of time for comments and corrections
- Persevere, tough times, will likely require revision or reformatting
- Carefully consider critiques, will likely need to miss one “cycle” of resubmission to make it as competitive as possible, therefore, you need to plan ~1.5 years before you might get the $
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors in the order listed on Form Page 2. Follow this format for each person. DO NOT EXCEED FOUR PAGES.

NAME
Lee Ann Niswander

POSITION TITLE
Professor, Pediatrics and Developmental Biology

University of Colorado Denver

HHMI Investigator

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login)
LEE_NISWANDER

EDUCATION/TRAINING (Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTITUTION AND LOCATION</th>
<th>DEGREE (if applicable)</th>
<th>MM/YY</th>
<th>FIELD OF STUDY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Colorado Boulder, CO</td>
<td>B.A.</td>
<td>05/80</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Univ of Colorado, Health Sciences Center, Denver</td>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>05/85</td>
<td>Biochemistry &amp; Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH</td>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>05/90</td>
<td>Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Univ. of California, San Francisco</td>
<td>Postdoc</td>
<td>1990-1993</td>
<td>Developmental Biology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A. Personal Statement

Our research uses mouse genetics and an understanding of developmental biology to discover genes required for neural tube closure and neural progenitor specification and differentiation. Our goal is to determine the mechanisms of action of these genes and to use this knowledge to uncover the developmental basis of common birth defects. We also use live imaging of neural formation to understand the cellular basis of normal and abnormal development. Our research also explores gene-environment interactions that alter the risk of neural tube defects. Our most recent focus has turned to the epigenetic regulation of development and we are actively pursuing the functional requirements of epigenetic factors (DNA methyltransferase, histone deacetylase, ATP-dependent chromatin remodeling complex) in neuronal and neural crest development.

B. Positions and Honors

1980-1984 Research Assistant, Univ. of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Denver, CO
1990-1993 Postdoctoral Fellow, Program in Developmental Biology, Univ. of California at San Francisco
1993-1998 Assistant Member, Molecular Biology Program, Sloan-Kettering Institute
Associate Member, Molecular Biology and Developmental Biology Program, Sloan-Kettering Institute
2003-2004 Member, Developmental Biology Program, Sloan-Kettering Institute
2004-present Professor, Pediatrics Dept, Section Head of Developmental Biology, Univ of Colorado Denver
1997 – 2014 Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator

Other Experience and Professional Activities

2000-2005 Member, NIH CDF5 & Developmental 2 Study Section; Chair 2004-2005
2001-2004 Director, Molecular Biology Program, Cornell Univ. Medical College Graduate School
2004 Co-organizer, Santa Cruz Conference on Developmental Biology
2006 NIH Developmental Biology, Genetics, and Teratology (DBGT) Branch Report to Council Advisory Panel
2006 – 2009 Damon Runyon Scientific Advisory Committee
2006 – 2011 Co-Director Embryology Course, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA
2007 – 2012 Assoc Director, Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences Program, UCD
2009 – 2014 Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) scientific review comm.
2010 – 2015 Editorial Committee for Annual Review of Cell and Developmental Biology
2010, 2011 Editorial panel reviewer for the 2010, 2011 NIH Director's New Innovator Award Program
2011 - 2015 Leader, Developmental Origins of Health & Disease Research Program, Children’s Hospital CO

C. Selected Peer-reviewed Publications (from a total of 83 peer-reviewed manuscripts):


