

NIH- HIT: (Haifa Investigator Training) program: Advanced Proseminar Writing Compelling Research Grant Proposals

Prof. Charles D. Kaplan

Program

Workshop: 3 meetings (via Zoom, 2h each): January, March & April

Individual meetings with submitting researchers: (May – September)

Editing and submission support: TBD (HU Research Authority)

Registration: http://HaifaCATRC.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cPeESDHuDuy8xJc

Aim

This proseminar has the aim of training faculty members in writing compelling proposals that will stand up to the competition and be funded. The focus will be on the health and social sciences. Participants will be introduced to and be expected to write a research grant proposal that will be able to be submitted at the end of the proseminar. The templates for these proposals will be drawn from the main stewards of science in the United States; the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Specific objectives

The participants will review the main policies and procedures of these two research agencies. They will be guided through the mechanisms that are available for research funding including both research and career development awards that include both research and mentoring components. Participants will be introduced to and work on writing a research proposal that addresses the main review criteria of significance, investigators, innovation, approach, and environment. In the proseminar each participant will develop a strong research plan that includes specific aims or objectives; statement of the uniqueness of the research; description of preliminary studies relevant to the specific aims; hypothesis testing; measurement; quantitative and/or qualitative data analysis; common weaknesses in grant proposals; the grant review process and reading summary statements and options available if proposal is not funded (e.g. revise and resubmit). The politics tied to this research grant process will also be discussed with an emphasis on the importance of seeking advice from the funding agency's Program Officers.

Processes and procedures

The proseminar will include lectures by the trainer and group discussions of the lecture material and proposal drafts by the participants during the seminar period. Also, individual consulting will be available with the trainer throughout the proseminar. This work will take place during the Spring semester. The Summer will be devoted to the individual writing of a competitive research proposal in close collaboration with the trainer. At the end of the summer session, participants will present their final drafts of proposals in a closing proseminar session for group discussion. Teamwork and collaboration will be emphasized throughout the proseminar with their respective overarching importance for all phases of the process of writing compelling research proposals that will get funded.

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Biosketch Personal Statement

Charles D. Kaplan, PhD

November 30, 2021

My NIH-NIGMS doctoral traineeship in sociology and brain research at UCLA the 1960s, I have worked as a medical sociologist of a special type – those whose research involves the investigation of general medical scientific problems in multidisciplinary teams of socio-behavioral and biomedical researchers.

My early investigations employed advanced statistical analysis approaches to understand cerebral lateralization and interhemispheric transfer deficit theory in my EEG studies of creativity, pain, alexithymia and language representation in the brain. In these studies, I worked to establish scientific methodologies that were transdisciplinary bridging the gap between the “two cultures” of biomedicine and psychosocial sciences that would be called today “mixed methods” with a focus on mental health and addiction.

I have worked as a professor in Germany in sociology and in the Netherlands in social psychiatry obtaining major research funding from national and European Commission funding sources. Recently retired as the Associate Dean of Research and Director of the Data Management Core, Hamovitch Center for Science in the Human Services, School of Social Work, University of Southern California, I have mentored faculty members on the development of U.S. federal research grants and supervised a team of biostatisticians as well as leading the effort in the university for developing qualitative data analysis while continuing my health and social science research.

