

Funding Your Graduate Education

Tiffany Katz, PhD

7/9/2014

Tiffany A. Katz

- B.S. - Penn State (2000-2004)
 - Animal Biosciences/Microbiology
 - McNair scholar – Allergic Asthma
- Ph.D. - Rutgers University (2005-2011)
 - Endocrinology and Animal Biosciences
 - SREB scholar
- Postdoc - University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute
The Women's Cancer Research Center (2011-Present)
 - Breast cancer research with a focus in epigenetics
 - The University of Pittsburgh Postdoctoral Association
 - Chair of Advocacy

Funding Opportunities

- Grants
 - Cover tuition, stipend, health care
 - NIH, NSF, DOD, Foundations
 - Institutional training awards/Nationally competitive awards
- Travel awards
 - Almost all conferences
 - Specific for women, or minorities, or first time attendees
 - Some include training opportunities
- Poster competitions
 - Small sum of money

Finding Opportunities

- Institutional organizations can help
 - University databases
 - University funding counselors
- Web searching on your own
 - Grants.gov
 - www.cos.com
 - Foundationcenter.org
 - **SREB.org**
 - Sign up for alerts when funding opportunities are announced
 - Every conference you attend search the website for travel awards

Learn the Application Process

- Seminars at your university and at meetings
- Graduate classes on grant writing
- Tutorials, workshops, and books
- Read already funded grants
- Use your mentors

Personal History

- NIH pipeline award
 - Institutional
- Applied for 6 grants & 2 were awarded
 - Accepted the SREB award, but later found out my F31 was funded
 - Gave up the SREB award and began the NIH award
 - Still remain an SREB scholar – always part of the SREB family
- Travel Awards
 - Endocrine trainee award (included a full day of professional development training)
 - Gordon conference first time attendee award
 - AGEP travel award

Conclusions

- Figure out what you qualify for
- Learn how to apply
 - Instructions, seminars, tutorials, books
 - Read already funded awards
- Use your mentors
 - Review everything you write and go over it together
 - Writing groups or classes