

Secrets to Building a Stellar Research Program

Building a research program is not an easy task. It takes a lot of concentrated effort on behalf of the investigator, and is best facilitated by a group of committed senior mentors who can provide career guidance along the way. Most notably, the transition from working on other people's grants to managing your own independent research ideas can be unnerving—to say the least. Many new investigators struggle with factors such as the logistics of writing grant applications, selecting the most appropriate funding source and mechanism, assembling an investigative team, and concisely articulating their research trajectory.

With today's funding climate, securing funding can be difficult. Thus, the importance of developing a solid, innovative research program is heightened. In this insightful Webinar, Dr. Brawner identifies challenges junior investigators (including postdoctoral fellows) face as they make the transition to build independently funded programs of research. She offers suggestions toward collaborating with previous mentors while also maintaining

independence. Further, she provides step-by-step guidance that will help new investigators develop the confidence and skills to build their programs of research and establish a network of senior scientists.

Key Webinar Take-Aways:

- ✓ Discussion of techniques to articulate and market your research interests
- ✓ Review of funding sources and mechanisms, as well as the best fit for different levels of experience
- ✓ Strategies to assemble a stellar investigative team
- ✓ Overview of grant writing logistics, including key components of successful applications
- ✓ Strategies to position yourself for federal funding through smaller pilot grants and publishing in writing teams

Who Should Attend:

This conference is for junior investigators, including postdoctoral fellows, who are looking to build programs and research. More senior investigators who are transitioning into a different area/field of study may also benefit from the materials.

Presented by:



Dr. Bridgette M. Brawner is a tenure-track, Assistant Professor in the Center for Health Equity Research and the Center for Global Women's Health at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. Through a health equity lens, Dr. Brawner's program of research focuses on multi-level, multi-method, biobehavioral approaches to sexual health promotion in disenfranchised populations. A dynamic and influential speaker, she has presented locally, nationally and internationally on a range of topics from the development of healthy relationships among adolescents, to surviving in academic environments. In the development of her own program of research, Dr. Brawner has served as Principal Investigator on several grants, and is currently funded with a \$932,000 HIV/STI prevention grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She also has more than 10 years of experience in motivational speaking, mentorship and advising, and goal setting to achieve results. Through her warm and witty style, audiences walk away feeling motivated and energized to apply what they have learned.