Hands-on Postdoctoral Fellowship-Writing Workshop

Presented by Beth Schachter, PhD
(Still Point Coaching & Consulting):

**Workshop Goals and Format:** Participants will have the opportunity to start and develop drafts of their applications for submission during the next fellowship cycle. By the end of the workshop, participants should have complete, well-reviewed drafts, early feedback from program officers, and ongoing assistance from mentors or colleagues. To achieve this goal, the workshops will combine on-site speaker presentations, live webinars, an updatable website with online discussions, and analysis of participants’ work-in-progress.

We start with a half-day, on-site workshop, followed by two live webinar sessions (one hour each) as researchers make progress on their applications. Providing two-week breaks between sessions enables participants to apply what they have learned from each previous session, interact with peers and mentors, prepare for the next session, and raise questions for the presenters to answer.

**Which fellowships?** We will use the NIH F32 (the postdoctoral fellowship called the Kirstein National Research Service Award) and NIH K99 (Pathway to Independence Award) as our main models. We will also discuss, and have a webpage list of, foundation fellowships, including many that are open to non-US citizens/Green Cardholders.

**Beforehand:** Applicants for NIH awards should watch the NIH Center for Scientific Review (CSR) Webinar: Meet the Experts in NIH Peer Review for Fellowship Grant Applicants (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29GCb1f59LM). This webinar gives essential information for targeting the proposal to the best-fit funding source and (if appropriate) the best-fit review panel. It also explains the criteria on which proposals are reviewed so that you can write a proposal that specifically addresses the review criteria.

**The on-site September morning session:** Open to all OSUCM and NCH postdoctoral fellows. Beth will cover key components for planning and writing fellowship proposals. At the end of the session, we will hear from one or two recent fellowship awardees. They will offer additional insight into assembling a strong mentoring team and developing a training/mentoring plan that complements the research plan.

This is a hands-on session during which participants will get to start (or continue) organizing both the scientific and the training/mentoring parts of the fellowship proposals. Therefore, attendees should bring writing tools (tablet, laptop or pen/paper).

**Follow-up live webinars and an interactive website (hosted by Still Point Coaching & Consulting):** Up to 16 participants who are engaged in writing proposals for the next deadline. Two 1-hour live, interactive webinars, ~2 and 4 weeks after the on-site event, for critiquing participants’ training and mentoring plans (session 1) and research plans (session 2). Participants can submit questions/comments beforehand or during the webinar. They will partner to discuss their drafts, and can also get feedback from Beth on draft Aims page and outline of training/mentoring plan, either via the password-protected website or via Skype or email.