

National Radio Science Meeting Tutorial

Successful Proposal Writing for Sustainable, and Impactful Research — From Tenure Track to Endowed Chair

Tuesday January 5, 2021

10:00 – 12:00 MST

Abstract: Whether you are a graduate student or a post-doc seeking your first faculty appointment, a tenure-track assistant professor working to establish a research group, or a full professor looking to increase your impact, successful proposal writing is an essential skill. Unfortunately, proposal writing is often learned by immersion or, when taught, is treated in such a general manner that it lacks relevance. This tutorial panel will provide concrete examples of both funded and unfunded proposals to share the “do’s and don’ts” of proposal writing. The panel comprises researchers at various stages in their career, spanning a variety of disciplines, with experience in academia, government labs, and non-profits. They will provide concrete suggestions that are immediately useful for attendees. The discussion will present a systematic approach to proposal writing that can not only lead to a sustainable flow of funding, but will also help generate original ideas, refine research plans, establish vibrant collaborations, and make an impact. Our panelists will discuss: the funding landscape including NSF, DoD, industry, non-profit, and international organizations; how to pursue small, medium, and large research programs; how to contact program managers, how to construct white papers and survive a visit to DC; the key elements of a proposal and how to make your proposal irresistible (a “must fund” proposal); telling a compelling and complete story (leaving no major doubts); developing a cadence for proposal writing, execution, and paper writing; and more. An example of a complete, successful proposal will be presented.

Format: Each panelist will present for 20 minutes with 10 minutes for Q&A. At the end there will be 30 minutes of general discussion between the panel and the audience. The tutorial will be held virtually, by Zoom. All Tutorial attendees must be registered for the conference (www.nrsmboulder.org) in order to attend.

Panelists:

- Jonathan Chisum: Tenure-track Assistant Professor, University of Notre Dame
- Zoya Popovic: Chaired Professor, University of Colorado at Boulder
- Ana Ferreras: Senior Program Officer, National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine

Organizing committee: Jeff Mangum, Jonathan Chisum, Ana Ferreras, Mark Golkowski, David Jackson, Michael Newkirk