Funding Opportunities in Statistics

Sujit K. Ghosh

Professor, Department of Statistics, NC State University

(Co-Chair of ASA-CFR & former NSF Program Director)

NISS Academic Affairs Meet-up Webinar

October 31, 2019

ASA Committee on Funded Research (ASA-CFR)

- Facilitate communication and interaction between the statistical community and funding organizations

- Collect information on the state of funding for statistics and to provide reports to the ASA Board as needed

- Recommend statistical scientists for service on national science advisory committees of federal research agency

- *Check out the ASA-CFR maintained resources*:
  https://www.amstat.org/ASA/Your-Career/External-Funding-Sources.aspx

ASA CFR Resources (contd.)

- To receive announcements about funding opportunities, join the *ASA community Funding Opportunities*

- Attend the ***ASA-CFR Webinars*** (see slides and recoding):

  ✓ March 1, 2019: *Building Undergraduate Programs in Statistics and Data Science*, Mark Daniel Ward, Purdue University

  ✓ April 26, 2019: *Behavioral & Social Sciences Research in Health*, Elizabeth Ginexi, National Institutes of Health

  ✓ June 14, 2019: *Preparing an NSF CAREER proposal*, Ana-Maria Staicu, North Carolina State University

- More webinars forthcoming….

ASA CFR Resources (contd.)

- *Not only NSF/NIH, but many other federal and non-federal funding sources are available*

- **Non-Profit Organizations**:

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Ford Foundation, Gates Foundation, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), Simons Foundation and many more…

- **For-Profit Companies**:

Amazon, Facebook Research group, Genentech Postdoctoral Program, Google Research, Microsoft Research, Novartis Presidential Postdoctoral Program and many others…

Tips on Writing Funding Proposal

- *Read the program solicitation carefully and follow ALL instructions*

- The *idea is the crux of the proposal*: all else flows from there including education and outreach activities

- Proposals will not be funded if they are lacking in intellectual merit

- Present your research objectives in the context of your contributions over the next 2-4 years

- *Majority of the proposals fail because the contribution to field is often deemed incremental*

- Failure to cite seminal work in the area often leads to poor rating

Tips: As a Former NSF PD

- *Read <u>again and again</u> the program solicitation carefully and follow ALL instructions*

- The Summary page is the most important: Typically NSF PDs determine appropriate panel for your proposal based upon the summary

- It really doesn't matter how good your idea is if the reviewers can't understand it

- The first sentence of page should begin with "*The research objective of this proposal is*…"

- And…Get internal feedback from colleagues before submitting; beg, bribe, do whatever it takes…

Tips: As a Former NSF PD (contd.)

- The very statement of your research objective should lead you directly to your proposed methodology

- If it doesn't, you don't have a clear statement of research objective

- *A proposal is not a technical paper; nor it's a murder mystery, where you find what's it about on p.15*!!

- Write it in a way that is consistent with the goals of the agency from which you are seeking funding

- Start your proposal preparation early (at least 3 months in advance)

- Volunteer to be a reviewer: It's the best way to get to know the review process

GOOD LUCK!

A Few Useful links

Upcoming Deadlines at NSF-DMS:

https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_list.jsp?org=DMS&ord=date

All About Grants Podcasts (NIH):

https://grants.nih.gov/news/virtual-learning/podcasts.htm

Funding Opportunities: *Better Statistical Participation is Needed Across Collaborative Science*:

https://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2015/12/01/funding-opportunities/