

Research News

Newsletter of
The University of Kansas Medical Center
Department of Pediatrics



Research Tips: Overcoming Two Common Research Pitfalls

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Behavioral Sciences

As clinicians who place a great deal of importance on excellent and thorough clinical care, we often find research relegated to the back burner. So, when we do manage to get some research done, and we encounter a pitfall, it is often especially difficult to overcome. In an effort to be of assistance regarding this issue, the current column will address two common research pitfalls, how to gather the pilot data necessary for grant applications, and how to resubmit a grant.

Gathering pilot data. Because the grant world is so competitive, most grants are better received if they present pilot data. These data may demonstrate the number of patients in your clinic with the condition you want to treat, the effectiveness of a treatment with a small number of patients, or simply project feasibility (your ability to work with the team, enroll patients, collect the data, etc.). Whatever the type of pilot data, some is better than none at all. But, given all of the other demands on our time, and the university's desire to conduct no un-funded research, how does one go about actually getting pilot data?

The simplest method of gathering pilot data is to conduct a chart review. Choose a topic of interest and sit down to develop a data form. What data would you need to extract from your patients' charts in order to answer your question? Weight? Height? Lab values? Then, create the blank data form and use this to empirically review the charts. This will give you some idea as to whether your clinical hunches are actually supported by the data. And, this type of pilot information can be extremely valuable to a grant application. It may be necessary for you to review the charts of other physicians here at KUMC or even to try to partner up with other providers in the Kansas City area in order to gather the data. Be sure when you gather these data that you comply with all the new HIPAA guidelines (see *Research News*, Volume 3 for more information on HIPAA).

Another method of gathering pilot data is to apply for a small grant in order to test out your treatment on a small number of subjects, or to demonstrate project feasibility. There are many sources of small grants, some of which are internal (from KUMC) and some of which are external (Kaufman Foundation, NIH, Sunflower Foundation, etc.). To learn more about these sources, talk to any member of the Pediatric Research Committee or the Research Institute at KUMC, or see Volume 1 of *Research News* on "Research Tips: Searching for a Grant."

Grant resubmission. When you receive the information that your grant was not funded, it is often difficult to refrain from being resentful and hopeless. So, put it aside for a day or so, and then jump right back in. Call the granting agency, tell them you'd like to resubmit, and get the details on how to do so (deadlines, forms, etc.). Look at the reviewer comments, which we hope are detailed and specific. Choose the most easily addressable suggestions and start there. When making changes to your grant document, be sure to track the changes (either

typing them in bold or by using the track changes function) as your reviewers will want to see exactly what you've changed. Also, keep track of each reviewer suggestion, and how you addressed the suggestion in a typewritten document. If there are changes you can't make, be sure to address this. And, if you choose not to make any recommended changes, be sure you can defend this decision as well. Then, after you've finished your editing, and all the changes are marked, you'll need to write a cover letter to the granting agency stating that you wish to resubmit the grant. In your letter be sure to report that the reviewer feedback was extremely helpful and that you feel it has greatly improved your project. Then, go through each reviewer suggestion in detail and state exactly how you addressed the suggestion (this is where the typewritten document mentioned earlier comes in handy – you can just cut and paste). It is often helpful to do this in list or table format.

Happy Grant Writing!

Current Pediatric Grants

- Ahluwalia, J. (PI), & Kaur, H. (Co-PI) 08/01 - 06/05
"Helping African-American Light Smokers Quit"
NIH/ NCI - Total direct costs: \$1,604,016
- Casey, J. (PI), Delrosario, G. (Co-PI) 02/21/02-12/31/05
"Endocrinology Metabology"
Genet-Internal
- Cocjin, J. (PI) 7/1/03-6/30/04
"The use of Amitriptyline in Children"
KU Pediatric Foundation - Total direct costs: \$10,000
- Greiner, A. & Kaur, H. (Co-PI) 06/03 - 05/04
"Assessing Obesity In Rural Kansas Primary Care Practices"
Sunflower Foundation - Total direct costs: \$137,958
- Huang TTK & Kaur, H. (Co-PI) 7/1/03 - 6/30/05
"Monitoring University Students Tackling Diabetes and Obesity (MUST DO)"
American Heart Association (Heartland Affiliate) - Total direct costs: \$100,000
- Hyman, P.E. (PI), Danda, C., Cocjin, J., Lavenbarg, T. 03/03 - 02/04
"Improving treatment for functional fecal retention"
KUMC Research Institute - Direct costs: \$25,000
- Johnson, C. (PI), Richman, D. 07/00 - 06/05
"Leadership education in neurodevelopmental disabilities."
Maternal and Child Health Bureau - Total costs: \$2,675,000
- Li, C & Kaur, H. (Co-PI) 1/1/04 - 12/31/05
"Influences of Fetal Environment & Growth in Childhood on the Onset of Overweight in Adolescence"
American Heart Association (Heartland Affiliate) – Total direct costs: \$143,000

Human Subjects Committee Deadlines

Deadline**	Meeting
January 5	January 13
January 16	January 27
February 2	February 10
February 16	February 24
March 1	March 9
March 15	March 23
April 5	April 13

all deadlines are at **noon**

** For your information, HSC has moved to G006 Sudler.*

For more information, go to http://www2.kumc.edu/researchcompliance/forms/HSC_MeetingDates_2004.pdf or call 913-588-1240

McGrath, A. (PI)

7/1/03 - 6/30/04

“Development of a Videotape Coding Scheme for Evaluation of Pediatric Residents in Cardiology”

KU Pediatric Foundation - Total direct costs: \$10,000

McGrath, A. (PI) 1/1/04 - 12/31/04

“Using TeleMedicine to Assess Pediatric Obesity Rates and Treatment Barriers Among Rural Children in the State of Kansas”

KUMC Telemed Department – Total direct costs: \$25,000

McGrath, A. (PI) 07/02 - 06/04

“Obesity among school age children in the state of Kansas”

Sunflower Foundation - Direct costs: \$137,383

Nelson, E. (PI) 09/03 - 08/04

"Development of an eHealth Provider-Patient Communication Measure"

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation - Total costs: \$95,538

Poston, C. (PI), **Kaur, H. (Co-PI)**

06/03 - 05/08

"An Analysis of Environmental Risk Factors for Obesity"

NIH/ NIDDK - Total direct costs: \$2,489,343

Sahgal, N. (PI) 04/02 - 03/07

“Fetal Regulation of Placental Biology”

NICHHD : K08 HD 42171

Voziyian, P. (PI), **Scheinman, J.**

08/02 - 07/04

“A new rx of hyperoxaluria”

NIH - STTR Grant - Direct Costs \$100,000

Winter Bridging Grants from the KUMC Research Institute

The KUMC Research Institute is pleased to submit this RFP for research to be conducted by faculty members of the University of Kansas Medical Center, (Kansas City, Wichita, and related VA's). The funds available for this research are awarded by the Research Institute and represent actual excess dollars gained by the Research Institute over expenses for the current fiscal year. One of the goals of the Research Institute is to provide those dollars back to the faculty for additional peer reviewed research.

Last summer our Board of Directors again chose to distribute additional funding to improve previous proposals. This RFP will award interim support to those who have submitted grants to national organizations that were approved on the basis of scientific merit, but received priority scores out of the funding range. This interim funding should assist in providing the data needed to enhance the success of application resubmitted to the external agency.

In FY 2004 we will provide three opportunities (Fall, **Winter**, Spring) for faculty to submit these "Bridging" proposals. This will correspond roughly to the three review cycles of NIH. We expect to fund about the same number of proposals, on an annual basis, but make the funding more timely for you.

In an effort to minimize the work for all those wish to submit, the process will involve only two steps. Initial information will be screened and those with the best priority/percentile scores will be invited to submit more detailed applications.

TIME LINE

1. A letter of intent and other items listed below must be sent to the Research Institute office (6011 Wescoe) by **Friday January 15, 2004**. This is the first step.
2. The Research Committee will select faculty from this first group with the lowest percentile scores who will be invited to send a short proposal and budget. The proposal will describe how the original application will be improved. This is the second step.
3. The deadline for submission of the **second step is Friday, February 6, 2004**.
4. The award will be made as soon as possible after that date.

(This information provided by Dr. Noffsinger at the KUMC Research Institute. Please contact him for more information).

October - December, 2003 Pediatric Publications

Belmont JM, Mattioli LF. Accuracy of analog telephonic stethoscopy for pediatric telecardiology. *Pediatrics* 2003;112(4):780-786.

Danda, C.E. Functional gastrointestinal disorders: Biopsychosocial perspectives on assessment and treatment.

Thompson, T., Caruso, M. & **Ellerbeck, K.** Sex matters in autism and other developmental disabilities. *Journal of Learning Disabilities* 2003;7(4):345-362.

Kaur H, Choi WS, Mayo MS, Harris KJ. Duration of Television Watching is Associated With Increased Body Mass Index. *Journal of Pediatrics* 2003;143:506-511.

Kaur H, Hyder ML, Poston WSC. Childhood Obesity- An Expanding Problem. *Treat Endocrinol.* 2003;2(6): 375-388.

Okah FA, Okuyemi KS, McCarter KS, Harris KJ, Catley D, **Kaur H, Ahluwalia JS.** Predicting Adoption of Home Smoking Restriction by Inner-city Black Smokers. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med.* 2003;157:1202-1205.

Rapoff, M.A. (2003). Pediatric measures of pain; the pain behavior observation method, pain coping questionnaire (PCQ), and pediatric pain questionnaire (PPQ). *Arthritis & Rheumatism (Arthritis Care & Research)* 2003;49(5S):S90-S95.

Weatherstone KB, Franck LS, Klein NJ. Are there opportunities to decrease nosocomial infection by choice of analgesic regimen? Evidence for immunity and pain interactions. *Arch Pediatr and Adolesc Med.* 2003;157:1108-1114.