



3rd Global Congress of Sickle Cell Disease

Grant Training and Collaboration Workshop

Designing a Competitive NIH Grant Proposal

Dr. Betty S. Pace is Professor, Pediatrics and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Division Chief Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University. Dr. Pace has dedicated her career to serving people with sickle cell disease (SCD) by rendering clinical care, conducting laboratory research, and training the next generation of young scientists,



to ensure new treatments and cures are discovered. Dr. Pace received her MD degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin followed by a Pediatric Hematology/Oncology fellowship at the University of Colorado, Health Sciences Center. After faculty appointments at the University of South Alabama and University of Texas at Dallas, Dr. Pace joined the faculty at Augusta University as a Professor of Pediatrics and active member of the Sickle Cell Center. She maintains a highly successful NIH-funded research laboratory to developing new drug therapies for SCD and direct training programs for junior faculty with a desire to conduct SCD research. Dr. Pace is fully engaged as the Director of the Pediatric Comprehensive Sickle Cell Program. She participates in national and international efforts to support SCD as Scientific Chair of the 2017, Foundation for Sickle Cell Disease Research Symposium and member of the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute-Sickle Cell Advisory Committee. She

is also involved in global SCD efforts with collaborators at the University of Nigeria.

Lawrence M. Scheier, Ph.D. is President of LARS Research Institute, a 501(c)(3) non-profit company engaged in program development, evaluation, and behavioral science technology transfer. LARS specializes in



developing web-based e-learning and Smartphone mobile health technology to improve disease management and health promotion. Our program development services include self-management of chronic diseases, adolescent drug and violence prevention, positive health and resilience with the military, and professional training for community-health workers and medical practitioners confronting racial disparities in healthcare. Our evaluation work entails large-scale community-based programs including media campaigns, school-based interventions, and work in healthcare settings. LARS engages in dissemination activities including publishing scholarly articles in peer review journals, conference proceedings, and a quarterly eNEWS bulletin available at www.larsri.org. Our professional staff has expertise in computer programming,

multivariate statistical analysis, e-learning virtual game design, research design, survey methodology, and interactive multimedia technology and HTML web protocols.



This full day **Grant Training Workshop** focuses on four aspects of grant writing and collaboration:

- Developing scientifically meritorious grant applications
- The nature of fruitful scholarly collaboration
- Creative grant writing skills, science + innovation
- Source of funding for Sickle Cell Disease Research (reaching beyond traditional funders)

The **Grant Training Workshop** is recommended for individuals in the early stages of their careers and new to the grant writing process. Mid-career investigators may find useful the perspectives we apply from a “critical evaluation” standpoint, identifying how to improve grants, polish the writing style, and learn ways to forthrightly state the scientific premise backed by a firm knowledge of theory and research design. We use NIH grants as a framework but also direct our attention to international grants focused on collaboration, public health epidemiology, clinical trials for testing new gene transfusion therapies and alternative ‘medical’ approaches to SCD, including behavioral interventions targeting allied health care professionals, providers as well as patients. The workshop includes hands-on activities to stimulate collaboration and creative insight into the social dialogue that fuels scientific endeavor.

Key *strategies* and points of discussion include:

- Formulating aims
- Research hypotheses
- Subject recruitment and retention strategies
- Elaborating study protocols
- Tying together statistical analyses with a logic plan
- Explicitly stating goals and objectives
- Career development and academic success
- Research opportunities in SCD research

A workbook handout will be provided with access to web-based materials supporting the workshop.

