Center for Excellence in Research workshops provide training and forums for dialogue on research topics spanning all academic disciplines, covering proposal development, book preparation, funding strategies and academic scholarship. Workshops are led by members of the Office of Research, University Advancement and other USC faculty.
Recruitment of Top Quality Doctoral Students: The Backbone of Thriving STEM Research Programs
Best practices for increasing pool of PhD applicants & optimizing conversion rates with the goals of supporting active research programs in STEM fields & increasing research volume.
Target Audience: Chairs of PhD programs & admissions committees, STEM Faculty
January 22, 2016 12 - 2 PM 1 UPC DRB 232
Contributors from WiSE: Leana Golubchik, Judith Hirsch, Jill McNitt-Gray, Hanna Reisler, Malancha Gupta, Jill McNitt-Gray, Mallory Redel

Preparing & Submitting NSF Proposals
Learn the proposal & panel review process. Best strategies for getting funded will be discussed.
Target Audience: All levels of faculty, postdocs, PhD students & research staff
January 28, 2016 12 - 2 PM 1 UPC VPD 203
Phil Taylor, Executive Director, Research Advancement & Federal Relations, Dornsife College

Developing Funded Research Programs
Learn the proposal process, including identifying funding resources, building relationships with funding agencies, & targeting research capabilities.
Target Audience: New/junior faculty & postdocs
February 3, 2016 12 - 2 PM 1 HSC NML West Conference Room
Randolph Hall, Vice President of Research, USC

Writing Winning Proposals
This three-session workshop is hands-on & requires you to bring a proposal to work on.
Each session covers different topics: understanding the announcement, best language to use, what to include and/or omit, writing strategies to get funded & peer-review.
Target Audience: Faculty who are currently writing or resubmitting a proposal
February 4, February 18, March 3 4 - 6 PM 1 HSC NML East Conference Room
Bonnie Lund, Professional Grant Writer & Owner of The Writing Company

Institutional Review Board (IRB) 101
Information session about levels of review for a study application, how to submit via iStar, who needs human subjects training, do's & don'ts on applications & tips for submission.
Target Audience: All levels of faculty & postdocs
February 11, 2016 12 - 2 PM 1 UPC VPD 203
Kristin Craun, Director, University Park IRB, USC

Research Computing at USC: Resources for Analyzing Large Datasets
Learn about the High Performance Computing (HPC) computer, software & facilitation resources available. Explore use cases with others new to HPC & learn how to get started.
Target Audience: New/junior faculty, postdocs & others interested in moving data analysis beyond their offices, especially those from non-STEM disciplines
February 17, 2016 12 - 2 PM 1 UPC VPD 203
Erin Shaw, Advanced Cyber Infrastructure Research & Education Facilitator, HPCC
FEBRUARY & MARCH EVENTS

**Securing Corporate Funding for Your Research**
Learn how to engage with industry & obtain funding. Discussion on the commercialization process & how the USC Stevens Center will help with finding a partner, negotiate a license, & assists with developing & marketing the product.

*Target Audience:* All levels of faculty, postdocs & grad students
February 24, 2016 | 12 - 2 PM | UPC VPD 203
Lawrence Lau, Assoc Director, Corporate Collaborations, USC Stevens Center for Innovation

**Art-Based Research: The Practice of Critical & Creative Inquiry Within the University**
Symposium designed to clarify the often confusing concepts & methodologies related to art-based & design-based research, & begin to build stronger university-wide community for students & faculty.

*Target Audience:* All levels of faculty & postdocs
February 26, 2016 | 1 - 4 PM | UPC SCI 206
Speakers: Holly Willis, Chair, Media + Arts Practice Division, School of Cinematic Arts
Scott Fisher, Research Dean, School of Cinematic Arts

**Developing NIH Grant Applications**
The objective is to educate investigators in the complete process of conceptualizing an NIH grant proposal & getting the application funded.

*Target Audience:* All levels of faculty & postdocs
March 2, 2016 | 12 - 2 PM | UPC VPD 203
Steve Moldin, Executive Director, Washington DC Office of Research Advancement

**Identifying Potential Research Participants Through a Federated Clinical Data Warehouse**
How to use online tools to browse de-identified clinical data from USC, CHLA, UCLA & Cedars Sinai for eligible participants. Learn how to request related data from research networks that includes the UC systems & San Mateo Health System, AltaMed, VA & others.

*Target Audience:* All levels of faculty, postdocs & trainees
March 9, 2016 | 12 - 2 PM | HSC NML East Conference Room
Daniella Meeker, Director, Clinical Research Informatics, SC CTSI

**Obtaining Funding from Foundations & the USC Process**
Focuses on the steps needed to develop a relationship with a foundation that can lead to funding your proposal. Learn about the USC process & resources.

*Target Audience:* All levels of faculty, postdocs & research administrators
March 10, 2016 | 12 - 2 PM | UPC VPD 203
Hossein Pourmand, Senior Executive Director, Corporate & Foundation Relations

RSVP (required): usccer@usc.edu
Information on sessions at: https://research.usc.edu/for-investigators/training/
Academic Book Proposal Workshop with Richard W. Morrison
Workshop on how to prepare a book proposal for submission to academic publishers.
**Target Audience:** All levels of faculty, postdocs & grad students  
**March 23, 2016 | 11 - 1 PM | UPC THH 309K**  
Organizer: Erin Graff Zivin, Professor, Spanish & Comparative Literature, Dornsife College  
Guest Speaker: Richard W. Morrison, Editorial Director, Fordham University Press  

Optimizing NIH R01 Grant Funding Success
Focused on 1) optimizing your chances of funding; 2) developing successful grant writing templates for grant writing & 3) increasing the chances your proposal will receive positive reviews & scores.
**Target Audience:** All levels of faculty & postdocs  
**March 30, 2016 | 12 - 2 PM | UPC ANN 201**  
Lynn Carol Miller, Professor, Annenberg School of Communication  

Designing Effective & Rigorous Research in Correctional Facilities: Experiences at a Women’s Facility
Panel discussion will address the primary issue of access to correctional facilities as well as regulatory criteria, hurdles & variations in social behavioral & medical research.
**Target Audience:** All levels of faculty, postdocs & grad students  
**March 31, 2016 | 11 - 12:45 PM | UPC MRF Hamovitch Center**  
Organizer: Ann Katz, Professor, School of Social Work  

Developing & Submitting a Successful Science/Engineering Grant
Objectives are to educate investigators on identifying appropriate agencies, getting to know the program officers, developing the proposal & application structure, submitting for review & working with agency officials to get the proposal funded.
**Target Audience:** New/junior faculty & postdocs  
**April 6, 2016 | 12 - 2 PM | UPC VPD 203**  
James Murday, Associate Director, Washington DC Office of Research Advancement  

Revising Strategies for Proposal Success
Opportunity to revise final draft in an intensive workshop setting, by applying top-down revising strategy, review draft against RFP & argument development, assess key points, language usage, edit draft style & tone: clarity, conciseness & point of view.
**Target Audience:** All levels of faculty who are in the final stages of a proposal  
**April 7, 2016 | 12 - 3:30 PM | UPC VPD 203**  
Bonnie Lund, Professional Grant Writer & Owner of The Writing Company  

SBIR/STTR Programs: Funding to Commercialize Innovative Technologies
Learn benefits & limitations, funding & steps to prepare for the writing & submission processes.
**Target Audience:** All levels of faculty, postdocs & grad students  
**April 27, 2016 | 12 - 2 PM | UPC VPD 203**  
Presenters: Molly Schmid, Adjunct Professor, Lloyd Greif Center, Marshall School of Business  
Michael Arciero, Interim Director, Licensing, USC Stevens Center for Innovation
The Center for Excellence in Research (CER) is a faculty-initiated activity at USC designed to increase the impact and prominence of scholarly research throughout the university. Under the auspices of the Vice President of Research and the University Research Committee, the CER promotes advancement, leadership and excellence in the pursuit of all areas of research, university-wide. The primary activities of the CER are a series of faculty-led research events and training workshops organized by the Office of Research.

Grant Proposal Mentoring: The Center for Excellence in Research offers a peer-to-peer proposal review service for faculty applying to external funding sources. Further information on this program is available at the CER website (http://research.usc.edu/about/vp/cer/).

In addition to grant proposal mentoring, the Office of Research offers administrative support for preparing large interdisciplinary/multi-school proposals.

Additional courses on grants submission, management and administration are offered by the Office of Compliance and the Department of Contracts and Grants (see: http://research.usc.edu/for-investigators/training/).

Catalogs and course descriptions are available at the CER website. Inquiries can be directed to the Office of Research: 213-740-6709 or usccer@usc.edu
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