The **Early Career Success Teams** are intended to support the development and success of early career faculty who have the goal of becoming independently funded investigators. The teams will use an evidence-based collaborative learning approach, in which learning occurs when the leaders and members of the group work together to create knowledge. In a mentored, supportive, peer-based collaborative learning environment, group members will develop new skills and knowledge required to define a career pathway and academic trajectory, define short- and long-term research/career interests, identify mentors to support their research and career interests, and successfully pursue and secure a career development award or other funding.

**Meetings:** The general format will be a recurring group meeting structured around a single topic and will include a review of background materials provided in advance, structured instruction and discussion on the selected topic, and project-based peer discussion, which will yield the acquisition of new knowledge, development of new skills, and ultimately the development of a high-quality NIH career development award application.

**Members:** Early career faculty at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles who are pursuing a career development award, such as a Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award (K08), Mentored Patient-Oriented Career Development Award (K23), Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (K01), or a Mentored Research Career Development Award (KL2) through the SC CTSI.

**Potential Topics:**

1. Defining your career development pathway with milestones that align with NIH expectations of a principal investigator, and for academic promotion
2. How to get started with submitting a new NIH application: how to find and review NIH PAFs, RFAs, etc. (what to look for, how to find key information)
3. What is the difference between a review coordinator and a program officer, how and when to engage each, and how to find an advocate for your proposal at NIH
4. Understanding NIH review criteria and how an NIH review committee is evaluating your application
5. What is the format of a K- and R- application
6. Preparing your biosketch and other support documents
7. Preparing your budgets and budget justifications
8. Preparing your Human Subjects section
9. What should be included in the Resources and Environment section
10. Developing a Data Safety and Monitoring Board (for clinical trials)
11. Preparing letters of support (institutional, mentor, collaborator)
12. What is e-Commons and how to find what you are looking for (e.g., status, review committee assignment, review outcomes and scores)
13. Decipher pink sheets: the inevitable resubmission
14. Successful approaches to developing and submitting publications for peer-review
15. Leveraging USC and CHLA intramural funding, resources, cores, facilities
16. IRB 101 (preparing a successful IRB application)
17. Leveraging the SC CTSI infrastructure, program support, intramural funding
18. Masters programs at USC

~ *We achieve our best together.* ~