# Not Another Lecture on NIH Grants:

## Alternative Funding Opportunities for Research

Jessica Venable
Grant and Research Analyst
Office of the Vice President for Research
Virginia Commonwealth University
www.research.vcu.edu
jcvenable@vcu.edu

October 9, 2013

#### **Workshop Objectives**

- Review the services and resources of OVPR.
- Review alternative funding options for biomedical research.
- Discuss and demonstrate funding search tools.
- Discuss search strategies.
- · Find out how to get assistance around campus.

#### **OVPR Research Development Services**

- Assistance in locating funding.
- Assistance in identifying campus resources.
- Assistance in building collaborations.
- Proposal development assistance and editing.
  - Interdisciplinary and collaborative opportunities
  - New and early-stage faculty
- Provision of boilerplate language and research statistics.
- Proposal submission assistance.

#### **Alternative Funding Overview**

- 1. Internal VCU funding.
- 2. External funding.
  - Federal
  - Private: Foundations, Corporations, Professional Societies, other universities, etc.

http://www.research.vcu.edu/vpr/resources/index.htm

#### **Prepare for Your Search**

- Write a lay-language prospectus.
  - Keywords, target population, methodologies, areas of innovation, collaborating disciplines, outcomes and impact.
- Determine type of funding needed.
- · List priorities.
- Consider timing and deadlines.

#### INTERNAL VCU FUNDING

#### Internal VCU Funding (selected)

Opportunity	Details
Quest Innovation Fund	Innovative pilot initiatives at VCU that help advance the "Quest for Distinction." Up to \$50,000.
Presidential Research Quest Fund*	Supports new, emerging, or continuing research by all VCU faculty. Up to \$50,000, requires 40% match from unit.
Alzheimer's & Related Diseases Research Award Fund	Provides seed money to researchers in Virginia to stimulate innovative research. Up to \$40,000.
American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grants	Funds junior faculty to conduct one year of basic, pre- clinical, clinical and cancer-control research studies. Up to \$30,000.
CCTR Endowment Fund	Supports pilot and feasibility clinical and translational research. Up to \$50,000.
KL2 Program	Provides salary support and start-up funds for faculty-level clinical and translational scientists.
Community Engagement Grants*	Support projects that will enhance and increase university engagement with the Richmond community. Up to \$20,000.

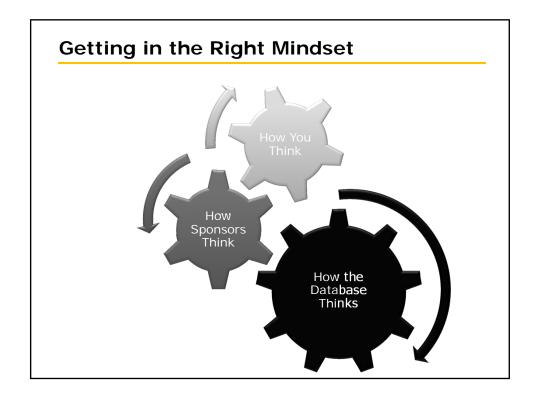
### **EXTERNAL FUNDING**



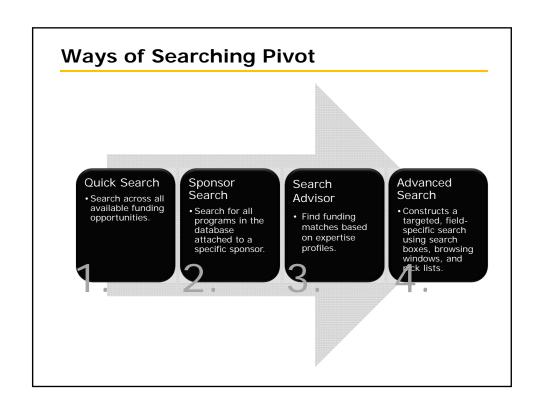
#### **COS Pivot**

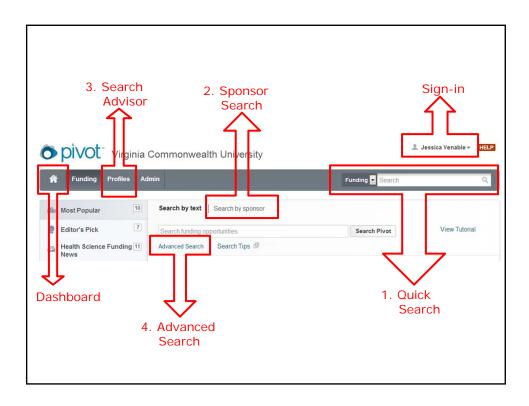
- 26,000+ funding opportunities worth \$33 billion
- 3 million+ expert profiles from around the world
- Updated daily by COS editors.
- Includes **solicited** grants, fellowships, and other awards.
  - Federal and private opportunities.
- Sign up for weekly alerts.
- For maximum capabilities, set up a Pivot account.

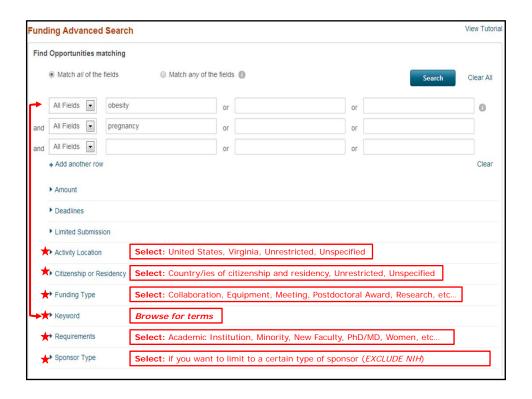
#### pivot.cos.com

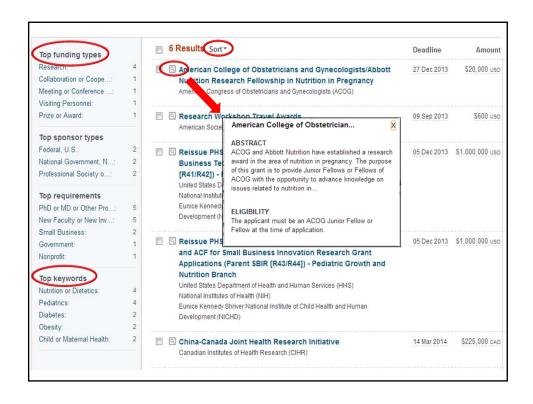


# It's not an ATM.

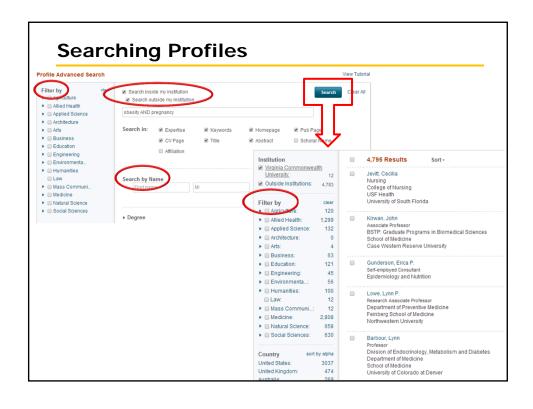


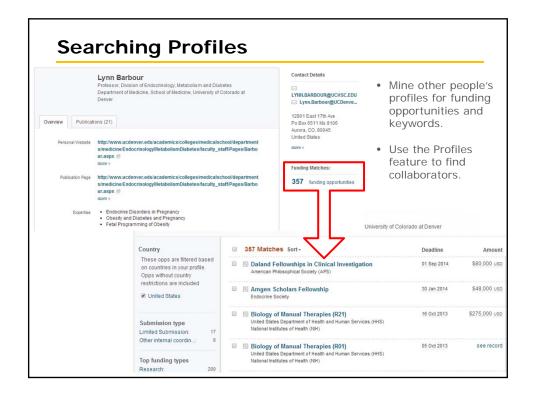












#### **Tips for Using Pivot**

- Consider also using "old" keywords.
- Look for keyword patterns.
- Pay attention to notes within individual records.
- Look for an opportunity you know and replicate its description.
- Look up your mentors' and colleagues' funding matches.
- Use notifications features (alerts come once a week).
- Use the Support Guides as needed.

#### **Tips for NOT Using Pivot**

- The database DOES NOT contain "everything."
- OR, the database does contain "everything," and we are not searching correctly.
- When looking for a particular opportunity, go to the source.
- There is no substitute for word-of-mouth.

# OTHER GRANTSEARCH TOOLS

Federal and Private

#### **Grants.gov**

- Find and apply for more than \$400 Billion in Federal grants.
- Basic search, browse, and advanced search options.
- · Sign up for daily email alerts.
- I use grants.gov when:
  - I am looking for a particular funding opportunity that I know the name/number of.
  - 2. An agency only posts its opportunities on grants.gov.
  - 3. A field has a limited number of opportunities.

http://grants.gov/

#### **VCU Libraries**

- Research Guides: Grants and Funding for the Health Sciences
  - Funding Search Tools
  - Grant writing books
  - Federal and private funding sources

http://guides.library.vcu.edu/health-sciences-grants

#### Other Organizations' Search Tools

- MSU Libraries: Grants and Related Resources
  - By academic level, by population group, or by subject.
  - Lists of funding opportunities, databases, and print resources.

#### http://staff.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/index.htm

- National Academies of Science
  - Fellowships Office (FO) administers predoctoral, postdoctoral, and senior fellowship awards on behalf of government and private/foundation sponsors.

http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/Fellowships/index.htm

## ALTERNATIVE FEDERAL AGENCIES

#### **Agencies of Interest**

- Department of Defense
  - Interested in innovative, synergistic, and translational biomedical research in various fields.
  - Use COS Pivot or grants.gov
- Department of Justice

#### http://www.nij.gov/nij/funding/current.htm

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

http://www.ahrq.gov/fund/

#### **Agencies of Interest**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

#### http://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/

Department of Agriculture

#### http://www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/funding.cfm

Smithsonian Institution

#### http://www.si.edu/ofg//

- Department of State
  - Use COS Pivot or grants.gov

#### FOUNDATION FUNDING



#### The Foundation Center: The free side

- Gathers and analyzes data and provides training on private giving worldwide.
  - Webinars, self-paced tutorials, on-line courses.
  - Search general information about private funders, including tax records.
- Access news and RFPs by discipline through *Philanthropy News Digest*.
- Also hosts www.grantspace.org.

#### http://foundationcenter.org/

#### The Foundation Center: The paid side

- Foundation Directory Online
  - Descriptions of more than 1.1 million grants and funding trends.
  - Search by interest area, keyword, activity funded, geographic location, etc.
  - Includes difficult-to-find information.
  - But, also requires finesse to search.
- If you see a trend towards private funding in Pivot, then we can search FDO.
- Try the **free search** version.

http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/sample/professional/

#### **IN SUMMARY**

#### **Search Strategies**

- Review the literature.
  - Emerging areas of study, opportunities for collaboration
  - Emerging sources of funding (check acknowledgements)
- Search for a funding opportunity that you know, then work backwards.
- Look for keyword patterns, ideas.
- **Start broad, then narrow** (especially for graduate funding).
- Explore alternative disciplines, think about where the money is.
- Think about characteristics of you.

#### Office of Research Website

- Descriptions of all training and workshop offerings.
- Access to funding opportunities databases.
- Enhanced proposal preparation tools.
  - Award databases, collaboration tools
  - · Sample funded proposals
  - Grant writing guides
- Internal funding opportunities listing.
- Research policies and procedures.

http://www.research.vcu.edu/vpr/resources/index.htm

#### **Individual Grant Search Appointments**

- MCV Campus Hunton Student Center, Rm. 209
  - · First Tuesday of the month
  - 9:00 am 2:00 pm
- Monroe Park Campus 809 S. Cathedral Pl., Rm. 103
  - Third Monday of the month
  - 9:00 am 2:00 pm
- By Appointment Biotech One or S. Cathedral Pl.
- Can also arrange workshops for larger groups.

Contact Jessica Venable: jcvenable@vcu.edu

#### **Other Grant Search Assistance**

 Pamela Dillon, Center for Clinical & Translational Research

pmdillon@vcu.edu, 827-1519

 Mike Barcus, Center for Rehabilitation Science & Engineering

jbarcus@vcu.edu, 828-9547

- RaShel Charles, Institute for Women's Health rcharles@mcvh-vcu.edu, 827-2241
- Brigette Pfister, College of Humanities and Sciences bspfister@vcu.edu, 827-1359

CHS Proposal Development Blog: http://wp.vcu.edu/bspfister/

**QUESTIONS?** 

#### **My Favorite Things**

- HHS Grants Forecast
  - a database of **planned** grant opportunities proposed HHS agencies

#### http://www.acf.hhs.gov/hhsgrantsforecast/

- GrantSpace
  - Provides in-depth information and resources for applying to private foundations, including sample funded proposals

http://grantspace.org/

## Using COS Pivot to Find Funding Opportunities

#### **Account Setup**

Last updated: 1/28/2013

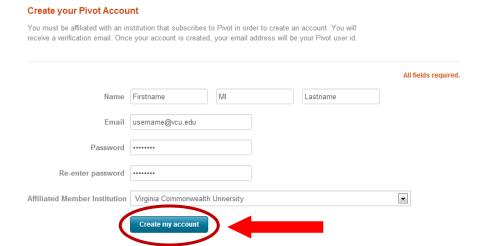


- Go to https://pivot.cos.com/login
- Click on "Register for a Pivot Account"



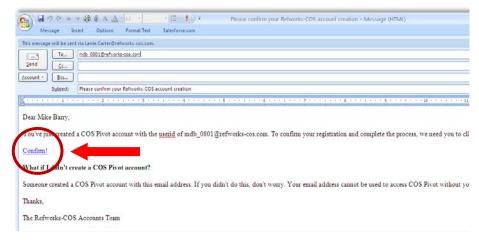
2

- Choose your account login information.
- Your email address will be your Pivot user id. Be sure to use a VCU email address.
- Verify that your "Affiliated Member Institution" is VCU.
- · Click "Create my account."



3

- A confirmation email will be sent to you.
- Note: Your email address must match the specified email domain listed for VCU.
- Click the "Confirm!" link to get full Pivot access.





If, for some reason, you don't receive the confirmation email and it is not in your Spam folder, contact Jessica Venable at <a href="mailto:jcvenable@vcu.edu">jcvenable@vcu.edu</a> for a fix.