Beyond GEMSSTAR

Thoughts on opportunities and hazards

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National Institutes of Health, DHHS
Three paths to think about

• Career Development – acquiring more research skills

• Research – all I need is more data...

• Organizing – There’s a field to build. I can’t do it alone
Riders, qualifiers, and contingency clauses

• You are not alone.

• Three paths do not necessarily mean three independent paths

• Persistence is a major virtue.
Career Development Options
Research Career Development Awards contd.

K08 — Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award
An award for junior clinicians with little-to-moderate research training who wish to become independent clinician-scientists. $100k plus fringe (75% effort) $25k a year research development
For physicians or other health-professionally trained-researchers

Research Career Development Awards contd.

K23 – Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award $100k salary 25k/50k research development expenses

When a physician and patient are in the same room at the same time and at least one is alive.

Beeson K76 award

- Annual RFA
- $160k to 200k costs per year
- Annual meeting
- Primarily for physicians
- Competitive, attractive
Downsides of Career Development Awards

**Money:** $100k is not enough. (The Beeson is better. For patient-oriented research you can combine a loan repayment award with a K.)

**Effort:** A minimum of 75% (9 person-months). I wish!

**Overhead:** 8%. Your Institution has to subsidize you. And we know how warm-hearted they are about that!
Research Grants

Preliminary thoughts

Working on someone else’s award

Flying solo

Working as part of a team
R01 and R21

R01: You write your own budget. Five years of funding, Early Stage investigators have a 10 point advantage in the funding line.

R01: We cut your budget 18%. A lot of preliminary work needs to be done. Timing has to be right.
R01 and R21

R21: Less preparation needed – though preliminary work is still an advantage. We don’t cut your budget.

R21: It is a special purpose award. There is no ESI advantage. Limited budget and time (2 years, $275k)
Organizing
Going beyond your own research

Sometimes we need to build a field in order to move the ball

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