Faculty Development Opportunities for Academic Year 2020-2021
offered by the ASCEND Center for Biomedical Research
and the RCMI Center for Health Disparities Research & Innovation

If you are not already a member of our Canvas community please contact Ms. Pinchback @ acquanette.pinchback@morgan.edu and ask to be added to the site!

Pilot Research Grants & Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) Grants
ASCEND and the new RCMI Center for Health Disparities Research & Innovation offer pilot research funding to investigators who have had no prior external research funding. Current proposal applications are due in January 2020 for summer 2020 funding. A new application cycle will start in fall of 2020.

- Researchers who previously applied for but were not awarded ASCEND pilot grants are eligible.
- Previous recipients of ASCEND pilot or CBPR grants are not eligible.
- Investigators who intend to apply to the new ASCEND-supported Pilot Research and CBPR grants in January of 2020 must have participated in the hands-on grant writing workshop in fall 2019 (please see below).
- RCMI will support a limited number of opportunities for experienced investigators who are switching their research focus towards health disparities. These experienced investigators with a record of previous external federal funding may (but are not required to) participate in the grant writing workshop.
- Recipients of previous and new pilot grant funding are expected to apply to and generate external funding subsequent to implementing their pilot projects.

Note: Participation in grant writing training is required for all ASCEND pilot applicants and most RCMI pilot applicants; please see “Grant Writing Workshops” below for upcoming training opportunities. If you are unsure if previous training you have had qualifies you as an applicant please contact christine.hohmann@morgan.edu.

Application information will be posted on the ASCEND and RCMI websites.
- http://www.morgan.edu/research_and_economic_development/ascend/faculty_development_opportunities.html
- https://www.morgan.edu/research_and_economic_development/rcmi/faculty_development_opportunities/pilot_research_and_cbpr_grants.html

Summer Collaborative Mini Sabbaticals
This program will provide opportunities for faculty to develop new technical skills and jump start new collaborations with investigators at Johns Hopkins University (JHU) and the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and other proximal research-intensive institutions.

- The collaborative mini sabbaticals must be in daily commuting distance between MSU and the applicant’s home.
- Awards consist of a supply budget for use at the host institution and partial summer salary.
- Letters of intent for this program will need to be submitted to Ms. Netta Pinchback at acquanette.pinchback@morgan.edu, by February 2, 2020. Applicants may suggest a lab they want to visit in their letter or indicate the specific area of research if they would like assistance in finding a host lab. Applications will be due by March 30, 2020.

For more information on these opportunities, contact Acquanette Pinchback at Acquanette.pinchback@morgan.edu or visit https://www.morgan.edu/research_and_economic_development/ascend/faculty_development_opportunities.html
https://www.morgan.edu/research_and_economic_development/rcmi/faculty_development_opportunities/pilot_research_and_cbpr_grants.html
Grant Writing Workshops and Seminars
In collaboration with JHU and UMB we will offer a variety of workshops and seminars for faculty at different stages in their research careers. Please see the ASCEND Research Support Information Hub (Canvas site) for details!

1) For the novice grant-writer, we will offer an 8-month comprehensive training approach that will guide them in the development of an NIH grant proposal, from the conception of a research idea, to the completion of a full draft proposal. This workshop will start with an in-person kick-off event on a Saturday in early March 2020, specific date TBD. After the kick-off, the workshop will be online, with weekly synchronized meetings. The first leg of the workshop will end in May 2020 (with online check-ins over the summer). For the fall of 2020, this workshop will run concurrent with the intermediate/advanced grant writing workshop (see below). This workshop will also be open for post-docs based on availability. Please email Ms. Pinchback any time after January 2020 to express your interest in participating.

2) Community-based participatory research (CBPR) projects: ASCEND will be funding one or two small health-related community-based participatory research (CBPR) projects of up to $20,000 each through a competitive review process. CBPR projects must be led collaboratively by a Morgan State University faculty member in partnership with a community investigator. A required joint letter of intent is due February 14, 2020, 11:59 PM. In order to increase faculty and community grant writing capacity and produce the best results possible, there are required CBPR Principles and Grant Writing Training Workshops, March 6 & 7, 2020; email jummai.apata@morgan.edu to register. If you are interested but need assistance finding a faculty or community member match, contact jummai.apata@morgan.edu. Proposals will not be due until January 2021. The award project period will be July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

3) For investigators who are ready to write their first internal pilot research proposal or, who are ready to prepare their first externally submitted NIH SCORE or R21 proposal, we are offering a 3-month intermediate/advanced grant writing workshop in fall 2020. This workshop will start with an in-person kick-off event in early fall 2020. After the kick-off, the workshop will be online, with weekly synchronized meetings through mid-November, and will culminate in early December with a peer-reviewed mock NIH study section session. Attendance at all workshop sessions is mandatory for all who intend to submit internal pilot proposals in spring of 2021. Participants in this workshop will work closely with each other and the instructor team to generate their proposals over the course of the 3-month workshop. The goal is to have a proposal that is ready to submit by January 2021. Participants in this workshop will also be provided with a mentor to guide them through the scientific aspects of writing their proposals. Please email Ms. Pinchback any time after January 6, 2020 to express your interest in participating.

4) In collaboration with the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), we will offer short (one day or less) research skills workshops targeted towards grant writers who are more experienced but would like to hone their skills in a particular area (e.g., identification of and understanding of specific funding sources and mechanisms). MSU participants will take these workshops together with junior faculty from UMB on the UMB campus. These workshops are also excellent networking opportunities.

For more information on these opportunities, contact Acquanette Pinchback at Acquanette.pinchback@morgan.edu or visit https://www.morgan.edu/research_and_economic_development/ascend/faculty_development_opportunities.html
https://www.morgan.edu/research_and_economic_development/rcmi/faculty_development_opportunities/pilot_research_and_cbpr_grants.html
5) Post-review mentorship and support for applicants who did not receive pilot funding will be available starting spring 2020. If you previously submitted an ASCEND pilot and were not funded, you are eligible for this assistance. Please contact Ms. Pinchback if you are interested.

**Science Writing Accountability Groups (SWAGs)**

SWAGs are designed as peer accountability groups to help participants structure their writing time and support each other in the effort to write research manuscripts and/or grants, etc. A SWAG will consist of four to ten individuals (potentially from different disciplinary backgrounds) who will identify 1- to 2-hour time slots during the week when they are available to meet for ten consecutive weeks. **Faculty may self-initiate these SWAGS** or join a SWAG proposed by the ASCEND or RCMI programs. The programs will make a preceptor available to start each of the groups (explain the process, ground rules, etc.) and collect pre- and post-surveys. Prompts for SWAGS will be posted periodically on the ASCEND website.

*If you are interested in starting a SWAG please contact Ms. Pinchback and let us know if you already have a group or if you are seeking to join a group. Please also see Canvas announcements for groups that are forming.*

**Training in Scientific Teaching**

We will continue to offer an annual week-long Summer Training Institute in Scientific Teaching based on the training model introduced to us by Dr. Michelle Withers and the Mobile Summer Institutes (MoSI) since 2016. (Please see [https://www.summerinstitutes.org/](https://www.summerinstitutes.org/) for further information). This is a nationally and internationally validated training approach for student-centered teaching. The next workshop is planned for the week of May 18th through 22nd 2020.

**Training in Mentorship**

We will continue to offer annual training workshops in mentorship in accordance with the National Research Mentoring Network ([https://nrmn.net/nrmn-faculty-research](https://nrmn.net/nrmn-faculty-research)). The next mentoring workshop is planned for mid-August of 2020. Registration information will be posted in May 2020.

**Innovation and Technology Transfer Workshops**

These workshops will be offered in collaboration with the MSU Division of Research and Economic Development. Topics and dates will be announced on the ASCEND and RCMI websites. Individuals who would like to suggest topics may contact Ms. Pinchback acquanette.pinchback@morgan.edu.

**Seminars, Colloquia and Other Events**

**Weekly Interdisciplinary Seminar Series – Location Dixon Room 125, Thursdays from 4 to 5 PM**

These seminars will focus on research talks in the areas of biomedical, bio-behavioral and public health with a specific focus on global and urban health disparities. The seminars are for an interdisciplinary audience of students and faculty and geared to encourage interdisciplinary conversations.

Additionally, this year we will feature a series of Health Disparities Faculty Round Table events in conjunction with visits from prominent external speakers.

- *Stay tuned for weekly announcements of upcoming seminars and contact Ms. Pinchback if you are interested in meeting with a particular speaker individually or as part of the lunch-time Round Table.*

For more information on these opportunities, contact Acquanette Pinchback at Acquanette.pinchback@morgan.edu or visit [https://www.morgan.edu/research_and_economic_development/ascend/faculty_development_opportunities.html](https://www.morgan.edu/research_and_economic_development/ascend/faculty_development_opportunities.html) [https://www.morgan.edu/research_and_economic_development/rcmi/faculty_development_opportunities/pilot_research_and_cbpr_grants.html](https://www.morgan.edu/research_and_economic_development/rcmi/faculty_development_opportunities/pilot_research_and_cbpr_grants.html)
Occasional Colloquia Series
This series will allow MSU faculty and invited speakers to share research, pedagogy or technical information in line with the mission of NIH. Individuals with prior, current or future support from ASCEND and RCMI are particularly encouraged to give presentations.

We intend to use these colloquia to develop communities of practice around areas of relevant faculty interests.

- Stay tuned for announcements!

For more information on these opportunities, contact Acquanette Pinchback at Acquanette.pinchback@morgan.edu or visit https://www.morgan.edu/research_and_economic_development/ascend/faculty_development_opportunities.html
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