

# Supporting Cancer Education Projects Through the NCI R25 Grants Program

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# Disclosures:

- *I am not Jeannette Korczak; I am not a NCI Program Director*
- *I am Bret Hassel from the UM Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center*
- *Any 'expertise' I have in the area of R25 funding comes from serving as PI or co-I on five R25 grants:*
  - NCI R25E undergrad summer internship in cancer research*
  - NCI R25 YES (submitted)*
  - NIGMS Bridges to the Doctorate (MS->PhD)\**
  - NIGMS Science Education Partnership Award (high school STEM)*
  - NIGMS PREP (post-baccalaureate)\**
- *Any input from audience R25 grantees is welcome!*

*\* minority- focused*

# What is an R25 Grant?

- **A “Resource Grant” to support Education Projects**
  - Promote appreciation for / interest in biomedical research
  - Provide additional education in specific areas
  - Develop ways to disseminate scientific discovery into public health and community applications
- **Not for Research Projects, e.g., R01, R21, P01**
- **Not for Training Projects, e.g., T32**

# What Types of Education Projects Does an R25 Grant Support?

- R25 grants support education projects offering the following types of activities
  - Courses for skills development \*
  - Research experience programs \*
  - Curriculum or methods development projects \*
  - Mentoring
  - Outreach

\*Supported by NCI/CCT R25 grants  
(Center for Cancer Training)

# NCI CCT's Three Current R25 FOAs

- **Courses for Skills Development (PAR-18-477)**
  - Intent is to increase core skills and/or enhance motivation toward a cancer-focused career
- **Research Experiences (PAR-18-478)**
  - Can take place in field or laboratory setting to stimulate interest in cancer research career
- **Curriculum or Methods Development (PAR-18-476)**
  - New curricula, instructional approaches, or computer-based tools to advance cancer research education

# Courses for Skills Development: **PAR-18-477**

- Course must be ***cancer-focused***
- Activities can be completed within 15 weeks over a period of not more than 12 months
- Content should be at or above the graduate level
- Can use in-person, online, or a combination of both
- Course must be offered during each year of grant support
- Participants: researchers, healthcare providers, graduate and health professional students, and lay health advisers

# Research Experiences: **PAR-18-478**

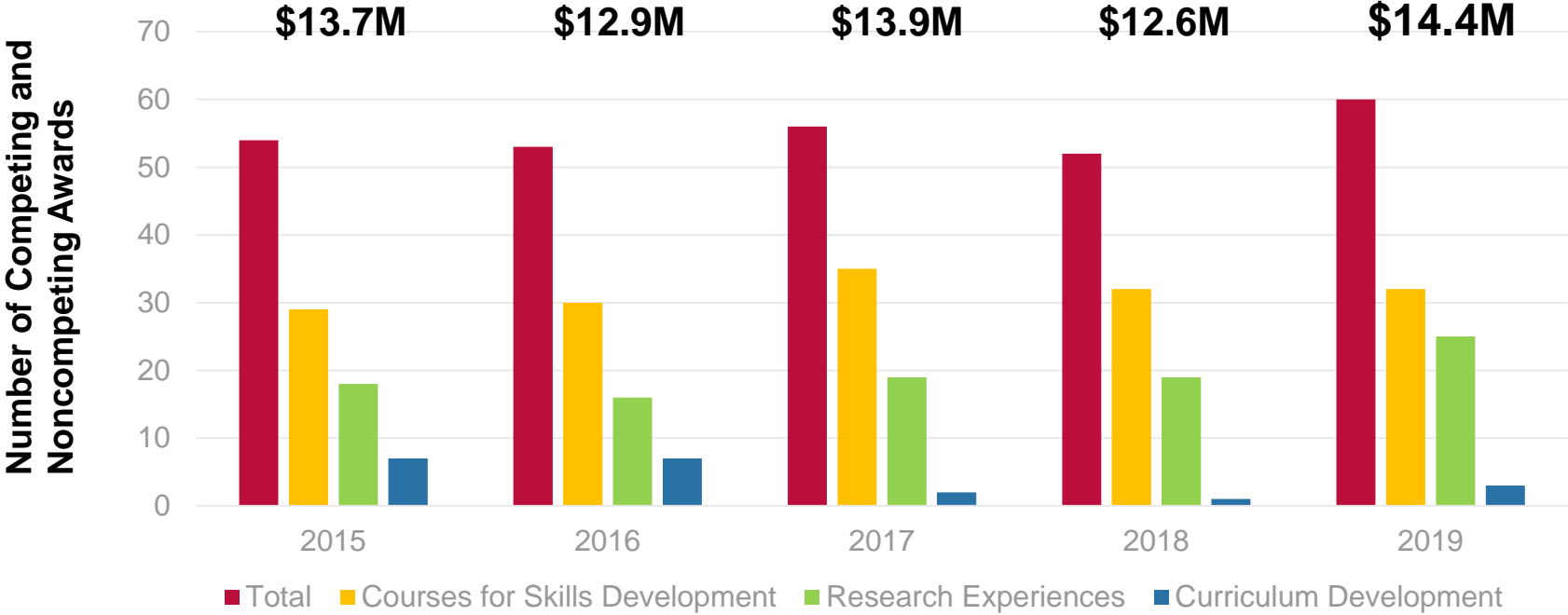
- Supports one full-time, 10 to 15-week research experience for most participants
  - Research experience may continue part-time afterward as long as ***total time does not exceed 15 weeks w/in 12 months***
  - Up to 20% may serve as peer-mentors and complete ***a second research experience***
- Original, peer-reviewed projects led by faculty mentors, alongside postdocs, graduate students, and technicians
- Participants can be undergraduate and graduate, medical, and other health professional students

# Curriculum or Methods Development: PAR-18-476

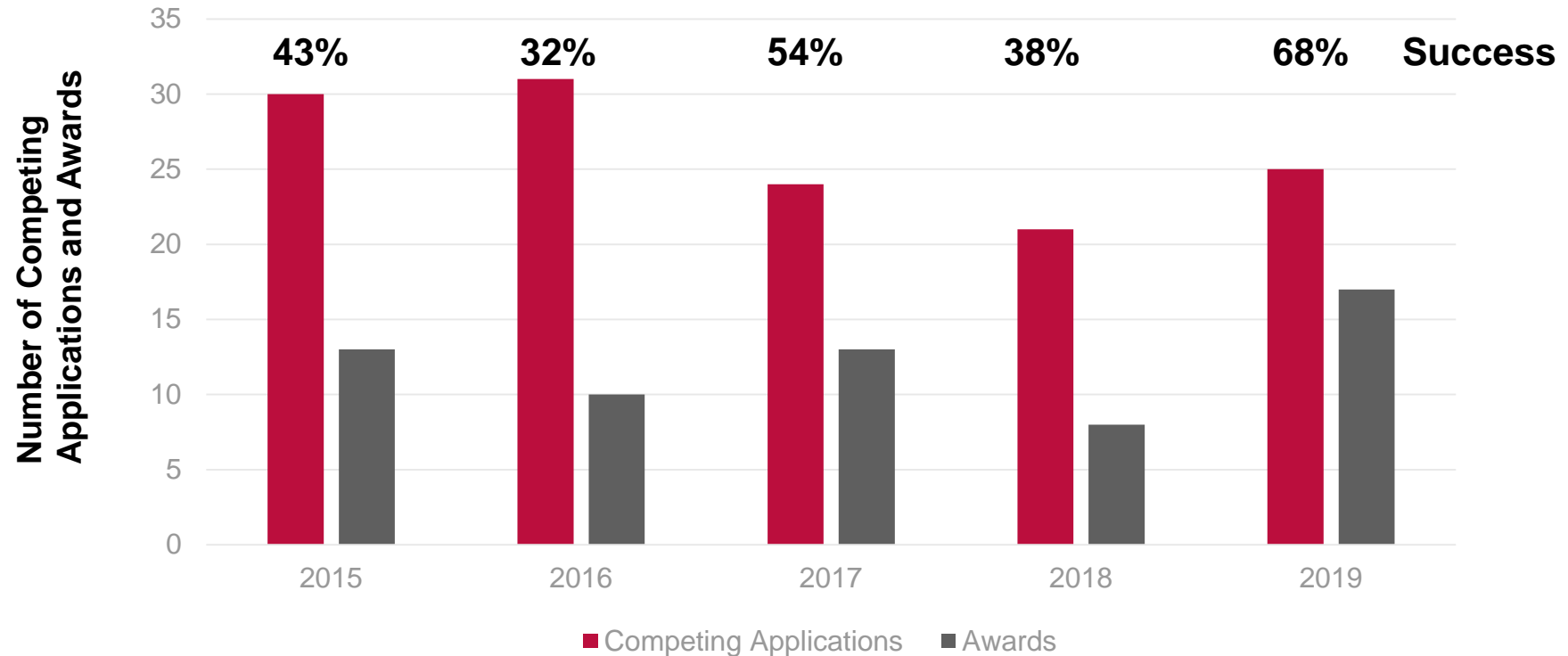
- For curricula/methods that take more than 1 year to develop
- May provide foundation for new courses or be integrated into an existing curriculum
- *Curricula or methods developed should be readily adaptable by others: Dissemination Plan is required*
- Participants: NOT APPLICABLE
- After development, it *may* be possible to apply for a Courses for Skills Development R25 award



# NCI CCT/CTB's R25 Portfolio: 2015 – 2019



# The NCI CTB's R25 Applications, Awards, and Success Rates, 2015 – 2019



# 17 Competing R25 Awards Issued in FY 2019

- **5 Courses for Skills Development awards (PAR-18-477)**
  - **“Workshop on Methods in Supportive Oncology Research,” William Pirl, MD & Jennifer Temel, MD, Dana-Farber**
  - **“Training Cancer Care Providers RE Treating Adult Survivors of Sexual Violence,” Julie Schnur, PhD, Mount Sinai**
  - ***“Big Data Training for Cancer Research” – pending NoA***
  - ***“Geriatric Oncology: Cognition and Communication” – pending NoA***
  - ***“Advancing the Role of Pharmacy in Tobacco Cessation” – pending NoA***

# 17 Competing R25 Awards Issued in FY 2019 (cont.)

- **9 Research Experiences awards (PAR-18-478)**
  - **“Summer Research Experiences in Cancer Science and Oncology,”** Richard Hershberger, PhD, Roswell Park
  - **“CaNCURE: Cancer Nanomedicine Co-ops for Undergraduate Research Experiences,”** Srinivas Sridhar, PhD, Northeastern Univ
  - **“MD Anderson Science Park Summer Program in Cancer Research SPCR,”** David Johnson, PhD & Kevin McBride, PhD, Univ TX MDACC
  - **“Scholars in Oncology Associated Research (SOAR),”** Olufunmilayo Olopade, MBBS, University of Chicago
  - **“Summer Undergrad Research Fellowship in Molec Biol & Genomics of Human Cancer,”** Jeffrey Chuang, PhD, Jackson Laboratory

# 17 Competing R25 Awards Issued in FY 2019 (cont.)

- **9 Research Experiences awards (PAR-18-478) (cont.)**
  - **“MSK Computational Biology Summer Program,” Michael Berger, PhD & Ushma Neill, PhD, MSKCC**
  - **“Summer Oncology Research Fellowship for Medical Students,” Anat Erdreich-Epstein, MD, PhD & Wijbe Kast, PhD, Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles**
  - **“Cancer Prevention and Control (CAPAC) Research Training Program,” Ana Ortiz, PhD, MPH & Guillermo Tortolero-Luna, MD, PhD, Univ Puerto Rico Med Sci**
  - **“Cancer Research Experiences for Undergraduates (CREU),” Mary Reyland, PhD, University of Colorado, Denver**

# 17 Competing R25 Awards Issued in FY 2019 (cont.)

- **3 Curriculum or Methods Development awards (PAR-18-476)**
  - **“Sexual and Gender Minority Cancer Curricular Advances for Research and Education (SGM Cancer CARE),” Shine Chang, PhD & Nelson Sanchez, MD, Univ of TX MDACC**
  - **“Competency-based Training to Advance Clinical Proficiencies and Reduce Disparities in Tobacco Dependence Treatment,” Christine Sheffer, PhD, Roswell Park**
  - **“Building a Statistics Education Program for Preclinical Cancer Researchers,” Sujata Patil, PhD & Jaya Satagopan, PhD, MSKCC**

# Update on New NCI CCT/CTB Initiative: NCI Awardee Skills Development Consortium (NASDC)

- **Rationale: NCI supports ~ 1,500 early career stage PIs through “K”, R00, R21, and first R01-equivalent awards**
  - **These PIs are at a critical career juncture: must compete for additional grants and teach, mentor, manage a lab**
  - **Requires skills not acquired during grad school or postdoc**
- **NASDC will support short courses to help these PIs establish and maintain independent cancer research careers**
  - **Professional skills courses**
  - **Research/clinical skills courses**

# NASDC Funding

- **2 companion Cooperative Agreement RFAs:**
  - **UE5 (RFA-CA-19-010) to support up to five R25-like awards for Short Courses**
  - **U24 (RFA/CA-19-011) to support one Coordinating Center to perform centralized logistics and evaluation functions**
  - **NCI oversight**
- **One receipt date: April 1, 2019**
- **Total project period: 3 years**
- **Total funds set aside: \$2.5 M per year**
- **Earliest possible award date: December 2019 (FY 2020 funds)**



# Tips for Preparing R25 Applications: NCI CCT Programmatic Considerations

- **Carefully** read FOAs and **email Program Director (PD)** with questions
- Draft the Specific Aims and **discuss them with PD**
- Projects must be cancer-focused – any area of cancer education is acceptable
- Participation in NCI CCT R25 programs must be open to all racial, ethnic, and gender groups
  - Cannot **target** underrepresented groups but must assure adequate participation of these groups- see CRCHD, NIGMS for UR-focused mechanisms.

# Tips for Preparing R25 Applications: Peer Review Considerations

- Is the program significant? Address an unmet need?
- Adequate participant pool?
- Necessary expertise and experience among investigators?
- Innovative, state-of-the-science program?
- Focused program – in terms of content and participants?
- Feasible, not overambitious program?/ capacity building?
- Strong ***institutional commitment*** to the program?
- **Compliant with NIH Appendix Policy?**

**Thank You for Your Interest!**

**For further information, contact  
me at [korczakj@mail.nih.gov](mailto:korczakj@mail.nih.gov)**



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# Courses for Skills Development R25 Budget

| <b>PAR-18-477</b>            | <b>Allowable Costs</b>  |
|------------------------------|---|
| Award Budget                 | Up to \$300,000 Direct Costs/Year   |
| Award Project Period         | Up to 5 Years   |
| Personnel<br>(Salary/Fringe) | Up to \$150,000 Direct Costs/Year, Including Consultants<br>Up to 3 Calendar Months for Total PI Effort               |
| Costs Per Participant        | Course-Related Expenses: Up to \$500<br>Housing and Per Diem: Up to \$1,000<br>One Round-Trip to/from R25 Course Site |
| Other Costs                  | Travel, Equipment, Supplies, Consultants, etc.  |
| Renewable                    | Yes   |

# Research Experiences R25 Budget

| PAR-18-478                | Allowable Costs   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Award Budget              | Up to \$300,000 Direct Costs/Year   |
| Award Project Period      | Up to 5 Years   |
| Personnel (Salary/Fringe) | Based on Number of Participants (N): Up to $(\$3,500 \times N)$ Direct Costs/Year, Including Consultants  |
| Costs Per Participant     | Subsistence: Up to \$15/Hour or \$9,000 for 15 Weeks, FT<br>Research Education-Related Expenses*: Up to \$1,000<br>Housing Allowance: Up to \$1,000<br>One Round-Trip to/from R25 Course Site |
| Other Costs               | Travel, Equipment, Supplies, Consultants, etc.  |
| Renewable                 | Yes   |

**\*Must be during the period of participation, which can be up to 12 months. Thus, travel to present research at professional meetings within the 12-month period is allowable (or within 24 months for the “two-timers”).**

# Curriculum or Methods Development R25 Budget

| <b>PAR-18-476</b>         | <b>Allowable Costs</b>                         |
|---------------------------|--|
| Award Budget              | Up to \$150,000 Direct Costs/Year              |
| Award Project Period      | Up to 2 Years                                  |
| Personnel (Salary/Fringe) | As Appropriate                                 |
| Costs Per Participant     | Not Applicable                                 |
| Other Costs               | Travel, Equipment, Supplies, Consultants, etc. |
| Renewable                 | No   |