

*Mondays from 12:00-1:00 p.m.
September 8 through November 24, 2025 (subject to change)
Northwestern University – Online via Zoom*

SERIES CO-DIRECTORS:

Rick McGee, PhD:

Professor of Medical Education, Associate Dean for Professional Development

Farzaneh Sorond, MD, PhD:

Professor of Neurology, Vice Dean of Faculty Affairs

OTHER PARTICIPATING PRESENTERS:

Catherine Barrera:	Assistant Vice President, Sponsored Research
Virginia Hartley:	Director of Compliance, Accounting Services for Research and Sponsored Programs
Carrie Holbo:	Assistant Director, Proposal Submission, Sponsored Research
Felice Patterson:	Director of Post-Award Financial Reporting, Accounting Services for Research and Sponsored Programs
Kim Rowan, MBA, CIP:	Senior Education and Communication Analyst, Education Team, Institutional Review Board (IRB) Office
Daniel Schneider:	Director of Research Analytics, Northwestern Medicine Enterprise Data Warehouse (NMEDW)
Zoe Vanella:	Manager of Research Administration, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Nicole Witowich, PhD:	Assistant Professor of Medical Social Sciences, Executive Director of NUCATS Institute

DESCRIPTION:

This annual seminar series takes place weekly from September 8 through November 24. It is offered in an effort to provide support for all early career faculty members and postdoctoral fellows at Northwestern who have protected time for investigation to focus on developing the key skills young scientists require in order to progress beyond just doing good research.

SERIES SCHEDULE:

Date	Seminar Title	Objectives	Presenters
9/8/25	Introduction to the Series and Constructing Your Individual Career Advancement Plan	•Develop a strategy for a successful career in research •Define the elements and value of an Individual Career Advancement Plan and learn how to use it to guide your professional development with guidance from mentors and senior faculty	Rick McGee, PhD and Farzaneh Sorond, MD, PhD
9/15/25	NIH Funding Opportunities	•Understand the abbreviations and acronyms of NIH jargon •Access important information from the NIH website regarding currently funded grants and funding opportunities •Utilize strategies for obtaining guidance from NIH Program and Review Officers in a grant submission and review process	Rick McGee, PhD and Farzaneh Sorond, MD, PhD
9/22/25	Important Resources of NUCATS	•Access the research related resources available at Northwestern University for junior faculty and postdoctoral fellows	Nicole Witowich, PhD
9/29/25	Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW) at Northwestern Medicine	•Describe how the EDW supports research at Northwestern University •Utilize the process for accessing EDW	Daniel Schneider
10/6/25	Working with the Northwestern offices of Sponsored Research (SR) and Accounting Services for Research and Sponsored Programs (ASRSP)	•Recognize how to best work with Sponsored Research •Discuss the SR requirements for a successful grant submission •Understand the purpose of Accounting Services for Research and Sponsored Programs and the practices that support effective financial administration	Carrie Holbo, Catherine Barrera, Zoe Vanella, Virginia Hartley, and Felice Patterson

10/13/25	The NIH Grant Review Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Utilize an understanding of the NIH grant review process to help guide grant writing strategies •Incorporate review considerations in writing in response to specific requests for applications (RFAs) 	Rick McGee, PhD and Farzaneh Sorond, MD, PhD
10/20/25	Strategies for Writing Effective NIH (and other) Proposals: Part 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Understand the critical flow of logic and writing styles of effective NIH grants •Begin to incorporate the patterns and strategies of grant writing video tools when writing NIH K or R proposals •Write in a way that reviewers expect •Become skilled in getting useful feedback 	Rick McGee, PhD and Farzaneh Sorond, MD, PhD
10/27/25	Strategies for Writing Effective NIH Proposals: Part 2 – K Proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Writing non-research sections of proposals •Crafting an effective Biosketch •Understanding the role of each part of K applications and what must be accomplished in them 	Rick McGee, PhD and Farzaneh Sorond, MD, PhD
11/3/25	Preparing a Resubmission to an NIH Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The complicated art and science of reading Summary Statements •Deciding on whether to resubmit, submit a new proposal, or think carefully about research direction •Crafting the Introduction to a resubmission – as important as Specific Aims in an initial submission •Other topics – e.g. changing study sections, communicating with the Program Official, etc. •The dreaded Not Discussed – Not necessarily as bad as it sounds •Q & A – anything you are wondering about... 	Rick McGee, PhD and Farzaneh Sorond, MD, PhD
11/10/25	The K to R and R00 to R01 Transition – Planning and Execution DURING, Not After	<p>The transition from funding on a K award to obtaining R awards is not simple. This includes all types of K awards, including K99/R00. It takes a lot of planning and effort DURING the award period, not waiting until after it ends. This new addition to the Navigating series will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Timing of applying for R (and other) grants during the K award period •Sole focus on the K award research topic vs. adding new ones •Types and number of collaborations to establish during the K •Considerations of applying as PI, Co-I and Multi-PI on one or several grants •Q&A for both general and specific questions 	Rick McGee, PhD and Farzaneh Sorond, MD, PhD
11/17/25	Working with the IRB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Introduction to resources of working with the IRB at Northwestern 	Kim Rowan, MBA, CIP
11/24/25	For Clinician Scientists: Deciding on and Designing a Strategy to Achieve the Level of Research That Fits Your Career – Consultant, Collaborator, Co-Investigator, or PI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Articulate your desired mix of research and clinical care and devise a plan to accomplish it at Northwestern •Consciously consider various roles in research from PI to Co-I to effective collaborator 	Rick McGee, PhD and Farzaneh Sorond, MD, PhD