Today's Webinar - Participants

PRAT Program Leadership

- Desirée Salazar, Ph.D., PRAT Director
- Edgardo Falcon, Ph.D., PRAT Co-Director

PRAT Fellows and Alumni

- Philip Adams, Ph.D., NICHD
- Sofia Beas, Ph.D., NIMH
- Sofiya Hupalo, Ph.D., NINDS
- Tommy Vo, Ph.D., NCI

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NIGMS Training & Capacity Building ✔
@NIGMSTraining

@NIGMS account for research training, careers & research capacity building news. Privacy policy bit.ly/2jnhHvZ & disclaimers bit.ly/2kGSdGM.

📍 Bethesda, MD   🔗 nigms.nih.gov/training/Pages...   📅 Joined October 2017

Use #NIGMSPRAT

Today's Webinar - Format

- PRAT program

- PRAT application process & review

- Hearing from PRAT fellows!

- Your questions

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PRAT Program

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NIGMS PRAT Program

- Competitive <u>three-year</u> postdoctoral fellowship program that provides high quality research training in the basic biomedical sciences in NIH [intramural research laboratories](#), and prepares fellows for leadership positions in biomedical careers

- Provides stipend, health insurance, and travel/training allowance

- Access to extensive NIH resources – facilities, expertise, collaborations, and [office of intramural training and education](#)

- Structured postdoctoral program with defined training components

https://www.nigms.nih.gov/Training/Pages/PRAT.aspx

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PRAT Curriculum Principles

Leadership

Communication

Networking

Mentorship

Biomedical Ecosystem Knowledge

Diversity

Service

Sample of PRAT Training Activities

- Seminar series (twice per month)

  - UT Southwestern, University of Arizona, Children's National Health System, MBL, CSU Long Beach, UC Davis, NIAID

- Professional skills development & communications training

  - Three Minute Talks

  - DISC Workshop – Understanding your Behavioral Style

  - NIH Funding Panel

- Annual Symposium – "Diversity, Equity and Scientific Excellence"

  - Keynote speakers: Namandjé Bumpus (Hopkins); Gina Poe (UCLA)

Sample of PRAT Training Activities

- Established & Early Career Scientific Leaders

Julie Funk
University of Arizona

Arturo Zavala
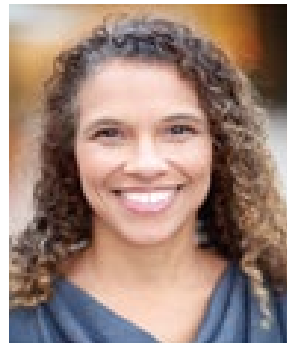California State University,
Long Beach

Michael D.L. Johnson
University of Arizona
2020 NIGMS Director's Early
Career Investigator Lecturer

- Annual Scientific Symposium

Namandjé Bumpus
Johns Hopkins University

Gina Poe
UCLA

Recent PRAT Alumni – Career Outcomes

38%

31%

21%

10%

- Academia (n=29)
- Government (n=24)
- Industry (n=16)
- Other (n=8)
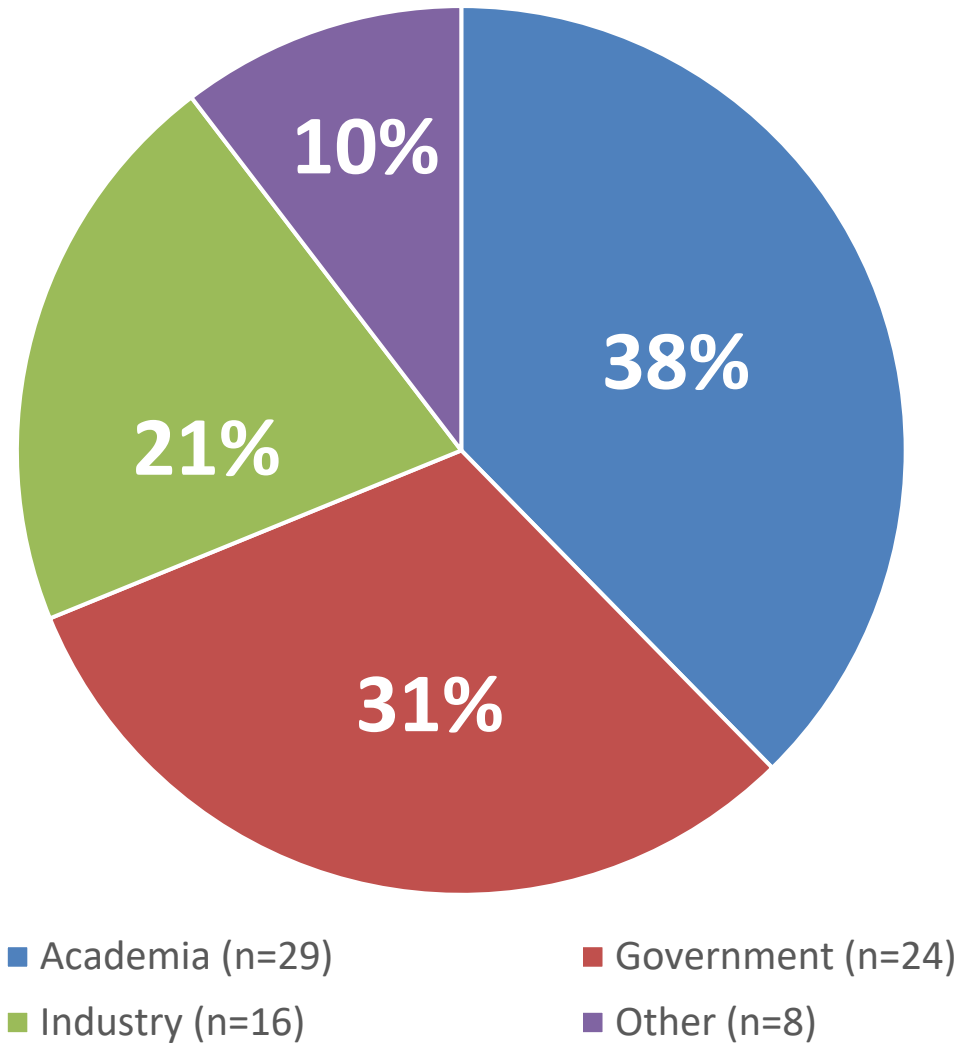
Sample of Post-PRAT Institutions

Yale

USU
Uniformed Services University

W
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY 1897

NIH

FDA

Genentech

Pfizer

AAAS
ADVANCING SCIENCE, SERVING SOCIETY

Cooley

N=77 PRAT alumni (2005 – 2020)

https://www.nigms.nih.gov/training/PRAT/Pages/prat-alumni.aspx

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PRAT Application Process & Review

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NIGMS PRAT Program - Eligibility

- **Citizenship** - US citizens and permanent residents

- **Scientific focus** – All research areas supported by NIGMS

- **Career stage**
  - Current NIH postdocs must have started **no earlier than June 1, 2020**
  - Graduate students who intend to begin postdoc experience at NIH by fall 2022

We are especially interested in ensuring the applicant pool reflects the diversity of the biomedical Ph.D. talent pool.

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NIGMS Research Areas

- Biological chemistry

- Biophysics

- Bioinformatics

- Cell & molecular biology

- Computational biosciences

- Developmental biology

- Genetics

- Immunology

- Neuroscience

- Pharmacology

- Physiology

- Technology development

Currently 23 PRAT Fellows at 11 ICs

- NHGRI (n=3)
- NIAMS (n=3)
- NICHD (n=3)
- NIDA (n=3)
- NCI (n=2)
- NIAID (n=2)
- NIDDK (n=2)
- NINDS (n=2)
- CC (n=1)
- NCCIH (n=1)
- NIEHS (n=1)

https://www.nigms.nih.gov/training/prat/pages/prat-fellows.aspx

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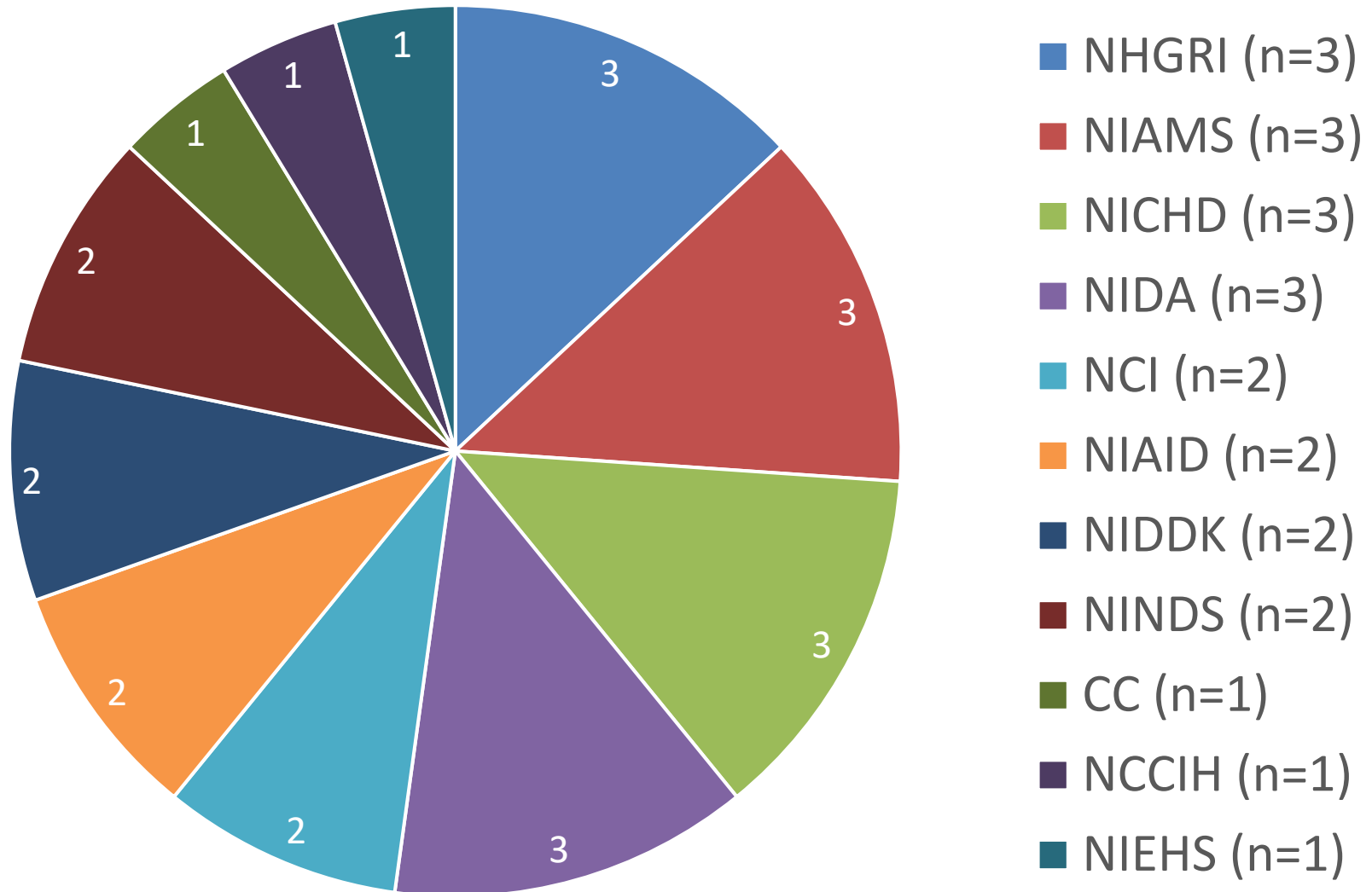
Identifying a Mentor

- The NIH Intramural Program has approximately 1200 investigators who can be [identified](#) by scientific focus area or by name

- OITE [webpage of postdoc positions](#) (career services tab)

- [Intramural Training Directors](#) can also be extremely helpful in understanding training opportunities and mentors in their institutes

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PRAT Application Process

- Competitive application process - Fi2 (i= intramural) mechanism with applications submitted via grants.gov

  - https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-19-286.html

- **Read everything <u>thoroughly</u>**

  - Specific guidance for each part of the application (e.g. length, content, due date)

- Begin or continue record of independent funding

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-19-286.html

NIH Application Guide

Application Form Instructions

Need help selecting the right instructions?

Application Instructions		Description	SF424 (R&R) - Version F
G	General Instructions	Comprehensive guidance for research, training, fellowship, career development, multi-project, and small business applications	HTML / PDF
Filtered Application Instructions			
R	Research Instructions	Guidance for research only	PDF
K	Career Development Instructions	Guidance for career development only	PDF
T	Training Instructions	Guidance for training only	PDF
F	Fellowship Instructions	Guidance for fellowship only	PDF
M	Multi-Project Instructions	Guidance for multi-project only	PDF
B	SBIR/STTR Instructions	Guidance for small business only	PDF

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide.html

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NIGMS PRAT Program – FOA

Department of Health and Human Services

Part 1. Overview Information

Participating Organization(s)	National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Components of Participating Organizations	National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)
Funding Opportunity Title	Postdoctoral Research Associate Training (PRAT) Program (Fi2)
Activity Code	FI2 Intramural Postdoctoral Research Associate
Announcement Type	Reissue of PAR-16-130
Related Notices	• **June 17, 2020** - Notice of Informational Webinar on the Intramural NIGMS Postdoctoral Research Associate Training (PRAT) Program and Fi2 Application Process. See Notice NOT-GM-20-037.
	• **March 10, 2020** - Reminder: FORMS-F Grant Application Forms & Instructions Must be Used for Due Dates On or After May 25, 2020- New Grant Application Instructions Now Available. See Notice NOT-OD-20-077.
	• January 22, 2020 - Additional Guidance on the NIH Policy on the Use of a Single Institutional Review Board for Multi-Site Research. See Notice NOT-OD-20-058.
	• **November 05, 2019** - Notice of Change to the Eligibility of Foreign Components in PAR-19-286. See Notice NOT-GM-20-003.
	• **August 23, 2019** - Clarifying Competing Application Instructions and Notice of Publication of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Regarding Proposed Human Fetal Tissue Research. See Notice NOT-OD-19-137.
	• **July 26, 2019** - Changes to NIH Requirements Regarding Proposed Human Fetal Tissue Research. See Notice NOT-OD-19-128.
	• **July 25, 2019** - Notice of Clarification of Eligibility for PAR-19-286. See Notice NOT-GM-19-052.
	• **July 22, 2019** - Requirement for ORCID iDs for Individuals Supported by Research Training, Fellowship, Research Education, and Career Development Awards Beginning in FY 2020. See Notice NOT-OD-19-109.
	• **May 28, 2019** - Notice of Informational Webinar on the Intramural NIGMS Postdoctoral Research Associate Training (PRAT) Program and Fi2 Application Process. See Notice NOT-GM-19-042.

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-19-286.html

FOA = Funding Opportunity Announcement

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Important Dates:

Due Date – October 4, 2021 (work with Institute Signing Official early)

Review timeframe- Feb/March 2022

Selection – May/June 2022

Starting Date – September 2022

Application Due Date(s)	October 2, 2019; October 2, 2020; October 4, 2021, by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization. All types of applications allowed for this funding opportunity announcement are due on these dates. Applicants are encouraged to apply early to allow adequate time to make any corrections to errors found in the application during the submission process by the due date.
AIDS Application Due Date(s)	Not Applicable
Scientific Merit Review	February - March 2020; February - March 2021; February - March 2022
Advisory Council Review	Not Applicable for Fellowships
Earliest Start Date	August 2020; August 2021 August 2022

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-19-286.html

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Interacting with Institute AOR

- Application needs to be submitted by Institute where proposed work will be conducted. Each Institute has one or more designated AORs.

- Make sure you contact your AOR **early in the process**
  - Many can be found here: https://www.nigms.nih.gov/training/PRAT/Pages/prat-faq.aspx#q7
  - Contact desiree.salazar@nih.gov or edgardo.falcon@nih.gov if you need help identifying who this is

- The AOR will submit the application on your behalf and has important information you need.

- The AOR needs to create an eRA Commons account for PI and Sponsor(s)

- You will need to schedule a time to upload your grant with your AOR. Respect the AOR's deadlines.

AOR= Authorized Organization Representative

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Application 101

- Terminology
  - The institute where you perform the work (e.g. NIMH) is the applicant
  - You, the postdoc, are the PI (no multi-PIs)
  - Your preceptor is the sponsor (you can have multiple)

- Ensure all requirements of the FOA are met – incomplete applications are returned without review

- Demonstrate integration of research and training components, and additional training potential

- **Contact AOR early in the process**

AOR= Authorized Organization Representative

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Leadership Statement (1 page)

- Past leadership and service activities in the scientific community, or to enhance public engagement or understanding of scientific research

- Commitment to diversity in the biomedical sciences, and your leadership, mentoring and outreach activities to enhance diversity – especially involving groups [underrepresented](#) in the biomedical research enterprise

- Planned activities during the fellowship to develop or enhance leadership skills

- **The leadership statement is a required component of the PRAT application. Applications without a leadership statement will not be reviewed.**

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PRAT Application – Tips for Successful Review

- ## Fellowship Applicant

  - ○ Tell your story

  - ○ Clearly articulate career goal

- ## Sponsors, Collaborators and Consultants

  - ○ Important to provide a detailed and tailored plan _for you_ (e.g., mentorship, career advancement)

  - ○ Robust training plan, mentoring and training record (as applicable)

  - ○ If multiple mentors, explain how they'll work together for your training

  - ○ Use current NIH [biosketch](#)

  - ○ _Collaborators should provide letters of support (different from reference letter)_

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PRAT Application – Tips for Successful Review

- **Research Training Plan**
  - Rationale
    - Significance – literature/preliminary data supporting feasibility
    - Central hypothesis (in addition to aim specific hypotheses)
  - Approach
    - Ambitious but not unrealistic
    - Aims should be related but not interdependent
    - Discuss expected outcomes, potential challenges, and alternative strategies
    - Statistical analysis (e.g., sample size, power analysis) and attention to relevant biological variables
  - Avoid jargon, and don't "oversell" proposal

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PRAT Application – Tips for Successful Review

- **Training Potential**

  - Clarify <u>training</u> benefit (e.g., new system, techniques, or skills)

  - Can include [OITE programs](), [FAES Courses](), conferences, etc.

  - Should include PRAT program activities

- **Institutional Environment and Commitment to Training**

  - Why this is the best environment to conduct the proposed research training

The entire application is reviewed — a rigorous research proposal is necessary but not sufficient

Criteria for Application Withdrawal

- For any application due date, multiple applications have the same primary sponsor.

- Missing biosketch for any key personnel (PI or sponsors) or leadership statement.

- Inappropriate or incomplete letters of reference.
  - Three letters of reference are **required**
  - Key personnel on the application (e.g. your sponsor and collaborators) cannot provide reference letters.

Reference Letters

- [Electronic submission](#) of a letter of reference is a separate process from application submission.

- Reference letters are submitted directly through the eRA Commons and do not use Grants.gov

- This process requires that the referee be provided:

  - The PI's (candidate's) eRA Commons user name,

  - The PI's first and last name as they appear on the PI's eRA Commons account, and

  - The number assigned to this Funding Opportunity Announcement (**PAR-19-286**).

- **Letters can be submitted well in advance of application being submitted—ask early.**

| **Letters are due 5 PM on due date.** **NO GRACE PERIOD**

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Common Mistakes – Big Picture

- Not giving yourself enough time to:
  - Identify a mentor in the [NIH Intramural Research Program](#)
  - Work on the proposal
  - Work with the [AOR](#) on logistics of submission

- Incomplete application – letters of reference, biosketch, or leadership statement

- Forgetting to send an update if a paper is accepted between submission and review of the application

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Hearing from PRAT Fellows

National Institute of
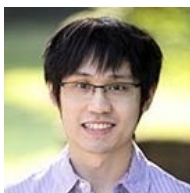General Medical Sciences

Philip Adams (NICHD) "Discovering RNA regulators in the Lyme disease pathogen"

Sofia Beas (NIMH) "A thalamo-striatal pathway mediating adaptive behaviors following homeostatic challenges"

Sofiya Hupalo (NINDS) "Prefrontal-hippocampal-thalamic circuit function in a SETD1A-deficient model of schizophrenia risk"

Tommy Vo (NCI) "Investigating the traffic-control mechanisms directing epigenetic gene regulation"

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NIGMS PRAT Program – 2022 Recruitment

- Timeline

  - October 4, 2021 – Application deadline

  - February/March 2022 – Peer review

  - May/June 2022 – Notification

  - September 2022 – PRAT start

- [PRAT home page](#)

- [PRAT Funding Opportunity Announcement](#)

- For more information – desiree.salazar@nih.gov and edgardo.falcon@nih.gov & follow us [@NIGMSTraining](#)

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Extramural NIH Training Opportunities for Postdocs

NIGMS Division of Training Workforce Development and Diversity

- F32

- IRACDA

- Research Supplements to Promote Diversity

NIH Extramural Research Training Website

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Questions?

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Thank you for listening & good luck with your application!