You have a great idea, and you think that you’re the best person to achieve a specific goal. Now you just need to convince others to get excited about this vision as well.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 am</td>
<td>Dean’s Welcome: David R. Williams, Dean for Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 - 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Debra Haring, Assistant Dean, School of Arts and Sciences</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cindy Gary, Assistant Dean, Hajim School of Engineering &amp; Applied Sciences</td>
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<td>Ellen Speer, Assistant VP for Foundation Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 – 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Faculty panel and Q&amp;A</td>
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</tbody>
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What to Expect Today

- Overview of multiple sponsors’ opportunities for young investigators
- Resources available to support proposals for funding
- Tips and best practices for specific proposals
- Networking with winners
- Your questions answered
Advice for Young Investigators – Getting started

1) **Plan Ahead:** devise a strategy for grant seeking, a trajectory for few years ahead, based on due diligence with agencies and funding mechanisms. Eligibility of Early Career opportunities ends soon enough - take advantage to be reviewed in smaller pools of applicants!

2) **Start Small:** You may want to start with smaller grants first to develop preliminary data and establish record of achievement.

3) **Start Early:** Productive grant writers start writing early. Even if you don't have all the data yet, starting early identifies gaps and additional experiments, expertise, collaborators, or partners needed for the proposal.

4) **Don't Procrastinate:** Some people dread grant writing – it can be challenging, frustrating, stressful and/or boring - start with difficult task instead of putting it off.

5) **Know your audience:** Reviewers, sponsors, programs; research what they have funded before, average budget size, ensure your project is a good fit.

6) **Read successful proposals:** Ask colleagues to share a successful grant with you for the program to which you are applying.

7) **Read the solicitation:** *Believe and follow* the instructions! Adhere to all Guidelines.
Grant application – It Takes a Village

1) **Find a Mentor:** mentors often “chaperone” their mentees towards grants and awards. Become a Co-PI on a senior investigators’ grant. Ask for advice and help.

2) **Engage Others:** share your ideas and text with colleagues and mentors; build in time for external or internal review of the proposal. If a private foundation award, contact Foundation Relations for their expertise.

3) **Find help:** administrative staff can help with the administrative sections of applications; let them know your plans early enough so they can help.
   - Formatting Bios, soliciting and collecting letters of collaboration, Current and Pending support, interpreting the RFP/FAO Guidelines.
   - Developing budgets and budget justifications
   - IR Gathering institutional data
   - Evaluators – evaluative plan/logic model
   - Upload to Grants.gov and FastLane, other systems

4) **Inform others:** get your submission on ORPA’s dockets; communicate if unable to comply with the five-business day policy. Inform your chair/dean (letters of support) and/or signoff.
Tips for Grant Writing

1) **Need and Significance**: address how this project contributes to the field, benefits society, aligns with the priorities of the sponsor.

2) **Communicate your value**: Explain what your project is, its innovation, the gap it fulfills, and how this project fits your expertise, fits mission of funder.

3) **Concise**: clearly, logically communicate your project/research idea - the only way to win a grant.

4) **Succinct and Clear**: Most RFPs have firm page limits - keeping within those limits is paramount to winning the grant (i.e., being reviewed). Simple, direct language conveys your meaning without losing reviewers in a haze of jargon or tangled sentences.

5) **Organization**: federal sponsors may have expected organizing conventions, i.e., NIH: Specific Aims and Research Strategy, NSF: Intellectual Merit and Broader impacts. Organize your writing as outlined in the solicitation. Take notice of review criterion.

6) **Action**: Whenever possible, write with an active voice. The passive voice bores and can sometimes confuse readers, sometimes deemed pretentious.

7) **Metrics for Success**: SMART—specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely.

8) **Dream Big**: but write feasible proposals - overly ambitious projects are a common fatal flaw in early-career applications.
Editorial Tips

1) **Writing:** Write every day, not at last minute. No one writes/edits well under time pressure.

2) **Font:** Use only approved point font type and size (reviewers like larger fonts).

3) **Figures:** Do not use figures or tables as filler – everything included should contribute substantively to explain your project.

4) **Legibility:** Everything should be legible – no tiny font on figures or tables (10 pts. smallest).

5) **Formatting:** Use italics and bold judiciously for most important points; use white space; organize for ease of reviewing with appropriate headings, indentation, paragraphs.

6) **First-person:** Avoid overuse of personalized language.

7) **Proofread:** Polish, proofread, eliminate typos. Use proper grammar, ask non-specialist to review for language flow.

8) **Convey your excitement and passion!**
NSF CAREER Award

ID# NSF 17-537

Deadline(s): 07/17/19 BIO, CISE, EHR; 07/18/2018 ENG; 07/19/2018 GEO, MPS, SBE

Budget: Min. $400K in total costs, except for BIO, ENG and Polar min. $500K for 5 years

Eligibility:

- A PI may submit only one CAREER proposal per annual competition.
- PI may not participate in more than three CAREER competitions.
- Must hold a doctoral degree in a field supported by NSF by deadline for submission of CAREER proposals;
- Be engaged in research in an area of science, engineering, or education supported by NSF;
- Be employed in a tenure-track (or tenure-track-equivalent) position as an assistant professor (or equivalent title) as of October 1 after the proposal submission;
- Be untenured as of October 1 following the proposal submission; and
- Have not previously received a CAREER award. (Prior or concurrent federal support for other types of awards for non-duplicative research does not preclude eligibility.)

Required: Must include 2-page letter from chair; estimated new awards 450 p/year.
NSF Review Criterion

All NSF projects should be of the highest quality and have the potential to advance, if not transform, the frontiers of knowledge.

- **Intellectual Merit**: criterion encompasses the potential to advance knowledge; and
- **Broader Impacts**: criterion encompasses the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.

The following elements are considered in the review for both criteria:

1. What is the potential for the proposed activity to:
   a. Advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields (Intellectual Merit); and
   b. Benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes (Broader Impacts)

2. To what extent do the proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?

3. Is the plan for the proposed activities well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?

4. How well qualified is the individual, team, or organization for the proposed activities?

5. Are there adequate resources available to the PI (either at the home organization or through collaborations) to carry out the proposed activities?
NSF CAREER Tips and Resources

- There are a wealth of resources on the CAREER program.

- Every year AS&E receives between 2-8 CAREER awards - lots of people to tap for advice; sample proposals.

- Not advised to apply your first year as assistant professor.

- Some evidence that PIs already with an NSF grant are more successful in CAREER.


- **Take the educational/broader impacts sections seriously.** We have compiled a compendium of Broader Impacts information available on the Intranet and AS&E research website at: [http://www.rochester.edu/college/research/assets/pdf/Good-Stuff-Proposal.pdf](http://www.rochester.edu/college/research/assets/pdf/Good-Stuff-Proposal.pdf)

- CAREER bootcamp for Hajim Faculty Thursdays in June, CSB 1:00-2:30
NIH Director’s New Innovator Award (DP2)

ID: RFA-RM-19-006

Deadline(s): August 26, 2019

Budget: up to $1.5 M in direct costs disbursed in first year of 5-year project period

Eligibility:
- Must have Early Stage Investigator (ESI) status
- Single PI only
- No preliminary data required
- Minimum of 25% research effort
- Exceptionally creative early career investigators proposing innovative, high-impact projects.

Characteristics:
- Designed specifically to support unusually creative PIs with highly innovative research ideas at early stage of their career - may lack the preliminary data required for an R01 grant application.
- No detailed, annual budget is requested in the application
- Applications submitted as “new” applications regardless of any previous submission to the program
- NIH intends to commit approximately $80 million for approximately 33 awards in fiscal year 2019.
- UR may submit more than one - each application must be scientifically distinct
- New Innovator Video: https://commonfund.nih.gov/newinnovator
Maximizing Investigators' Research Award - MIRA (R35)

ID# PAR-17-190


Deadline(s): October 3, 2019

Budget: up to $250K direct costs p/year up to 5 years

Eligibility:

- **R35** Outstanding Investigator Award
- Investigator is required to devote >51% of time available for research to this award.
- Single PI only
- May submit an R01 and MIRA in parallel, but should both be accepted, must relinquish one.

Characteristics:

- National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)
- Increase the **stability** of funding for NIGMS-investigators, which enhances ability to take on ambitious scientific projects and approach problems more creatively;
- Intended to support for the NIGMS-related research in an investigator's laboratory, **with flexibility** to explore new avenues of inquiry that arise during the course of their research
- Improved success rates and more graduated, rather than all-or-none, funding decisions of R35 renewals; Less time/administrative burden writing/managing grants; Cost/time efficiency is a motivation for MIRA
- Does not accept clinical trials

Arts, Sciences and Engineering
NIH – Tips and Resources


**Early Stage Investigator***: A PD/PI who has completed a terminal research degree or end of post-graduate clinical training, *whichever date is later*, within the past 10 years and who has not previously competed *successfully* as PD/PI for a substantial NIH independent research award.

*ESI applications with meritorious scores are prioritized for funding.

**New Investigator***: An investigator who has not previously received substantial, independent funding from NIH.

*NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) fund New Investigators according to the ICs' programmatic and strategic interests.

**Verify your eRA Commons status!**

**K-Kiosk**: Mentored Research awards
NIH Mission and Review Criterion

**Mission:** to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and apply that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability.

All applications submitted to the NIH in support of biomedical and behavioral research are evaluated for scientific and technical merit through the NIH peer review system.

Scored Review Criteria (on quality of):

1. Candidate
2. Career Development Plan/Career Goals and Objectives
3. Research Plan
4. Mentor(s), Co-Mentor(s), Consultant(s), Collaborator(s)
5. Environment & Institutional Commitment to the Candidate
   a) Protections for Human Subjects
   b) Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Children
   c) Vertebrate Animals
   d) Biohazards
   e) Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research
   f) Resource Sharing Plans
   g) Budget and Period of Support
ID# FOA-AFRL-AFOSR-2019-0003

**Deadlines:** Inquiries due April 26, 2019, Full proposals due June 3, 2019 by 11:59PM
[https://www.wpafb.af.mil/Welcome/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/842100/afosr-funding-opportunities-special-programs/#anchor2](https://www.wpafb.af.mil/Welcome/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/842100/afosr-funding-opportunities-special-programs/#anchor2)

**Budget:** ~$150K p/year for a total of ~ $450K

**Eligibility:**
- Received a Ph.D. or equivalent degree by April 1, 2012 or later
- U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident by 10/01 2019
- Employed on a full-time basis and holds a permanent position
- Be presently in a tenure-track position and has served as a tenure-track faculty by 10/1/19

**Other Caveats:** Most awards will start on or after January 1.
*Exceptional proposals may be considered individually for higher funding levels and/or a longer duration. Submitted via grant.gov

Last year AFOSR expected to make ~37 awards
AFOSR Mission and Divisions

**Mission:** The overriding purpose of **AFOSR** is to advance the state of the art in areas related to the technical problems the Air Force encounters in developing and maintaining a superior U.S. Air Force; lowering cost and improving the performance, maintainability, and supportability of Air Force weapon systems; and creating and preventing technological surprise.

The **objective** of the **YIP program** is to foster creative basic research in science and engineering; enhance early career development of outstanding young investigators; and increase opportunities for the young investigator to recognize the Air Force mission and related challenges in science and engineering.

Major priority topic areas:
1. Engineering and Complex Systems (RTA1)
2. Information and Networks (RTA2)
3. Physical Sciences (RTB1)
4. Chemistry and Biological Sciences (RTB2)
5. Other Innovative Research Concepts
AFOSR Review Criterion

Principal Evaluation Criterion:
1. The technical merits of the proposed research and development;
2. Potential relationship of the proposed research and development to Department of Defense missions.
3. The likelihood of the proposed effort to develop new research capabilities and broaden the research base in support of U.S. national defense;
4. The applicant, PI, team leader(s), and key personnel qualifications, capabilities, related experience, facilities, or techniques, or a combination of these factors, that are integral to achieving U.S. Air Force objectives.

Reviewed at the AFSOR by Program Managers.
AFOSR Tips and Resources

Previous winners lists – look at lists.
• 2018 (9/18) 31 awards for approximately $13.9 million in grants from 24 research institutions and businesses. 219 proposals submitted

• 2017 (11/17) - 45 awards for approximately $19.9 million in grants from 38 research institutions. 280 proposals submitted

• 2016 (10/16) – 58 awards for $20.8M. AFOSR had over 230 proposals in response to the AFOSR broad agency announcement solicitation.
DARPA Young Faculty Award (YFA)

**ID#** DARPA-RA-18-02 (posted 8/9/18)


**Last Deadline(s):**
- Executive Summary: September 10, 2018 (strongly encouraged);
- FAQ Submission November 8, 2018; Full proposal due November 13, 2018 (4:00PM)

**Budget:** Each award will include a 24-month base period (a maximum of $500,000) and a 12-month option period (a maximum of $500,000).

**Eligibility:** Participation is open to individuals who are US Citizens, U.S. Permanent Residents, and Foreign Nationals who meet the eligibility criteria listed below:

- Current Assistant or Associate Professors
- Current tenured faculty within 3 years of their tenure date; or an equivalent at a non-profit research institution within 12 years of the receipt of their Ph.D.
- All proposers must be employed at a U.S. Institution.
- Previous YFA Award recipients are not eligible for this or any future YFA program.
The objective of the DARPA Young Faculty Award (YFA) program is to identify and engage *rising stars* in junior faculty positions, emphasizing those without prior DARPA funding, and expose them to DoD needs and DARPA’s program development process.

**The YFA program provides:**
- Research funding
- DoD contacts
- Military visits/exercises
- PM Mentor

**The YFA program yields:**
- Insight into DoD problems
- Novel ideas
- Career development
- Future DARPA performers

The goal of the YFA program is to develop the next generation of academics who will focus a portion of their career on DoD and National Security issues.
DARPA Mission and Divisions

- **Mission:** Overarching mission of DARPA to make pivotal investments in *breakthrough* technologies for national security.

- The goal of the **YFA program** is to identify and develop the next generation of rising stars among young faculty who will become scientists and engineers who will focus a significant portion of their future careers on DoD and National Security issues.

- **DARPA Divisions:**
  I. DARPA’s Defense Sciences Office (DSO)
  II. Microsystems Technology Office (MTO)
  III. Biological Technologies Office (BTO)

Multiple special topics in the areas of physical sciences, engineering, materials, mathematics, biology, computing, informatics, social science, and manufacturing.
DARPA Review Criterion & Tips

Review:
- DARPA conducts a scientific/technical review of each conforming proposal.
- Proposals are not evaluated against each other since they are not submitted in accordance with a common work statement.
- Internally reviewed. If necessary, panels of experts in appropriate areas will be convened.
- Proposals are evaluated using the following criteria listed in descending order of importance:
  1. Overall Scientific and Technical Merit
  2. Potential Contribution and Relevance to the DARPA Mission
  3. Cost Realism

Tips:
- **YIP Proposers Day anticipated in early August 2019.**
- 1-page Executive summary with cover submission is through DARPA BAA system site - [https://baa.darpa.mil/](https://baa.darpa.mil/)
- (DARPA Extranet Account registration required)
- Technical Proposal Volume I separate
- Cost proposals Volume II are broken down by year, by task, and by month, and require much more detail than an NSF budget (i.e., need to start early in budget process)
- Required docs have prescribed cover pages and formats
DOE Early Career Research Program

- **FOA ID# DE-FOA-0002019, issued in early January**
  
  [http://science.energy.gov/early-career/](http://science.energy.gov/early-career/)

- **Deadlines**: February 6, 2019 - Pre-applications/pre-proposals (required)
  
  April 29, 2019 - Selected full applications

- **Budget**: 80% of awards $750K over 5 years; Cost sharing is not required.

- **Eligibility**:
  
  - Must be *untenured*
  
  - PI must be employed in academic position by deadline
  
  - no more than 10 years since terminal PhD degree
  
  - only one PI - no co-PIs allowed
  
  - max. # of submissions – three
  
  - *no citizenship requirement!*
  
  - May hold other early career grants, but scope of the project must be different and distinct

- **Other caveats**: No letters of recommendation; no letter from the chair. No letter of intent required. If letters are included, application **will not be reviewed**.
**Mission:** DOE Office of Science mission is to deliver the scientific discoveries and major scientific tools to transform understanding of nature and advance the energy, economic, and national security of the U.S.

The Early Career Research Program supports the development of individual research programs of outstanding scientists early in their careers and stimulates research careers in the disciplines supported by the DOE Office of Science.

**Basic Science Division in DOE:**

I. Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR) – 8 subtopics
II. Biological and Environmental Research (BER) – 2 subtopics
III. Basic Energy Sciences (BES) – 25 subtopics
IV. Fusion Energy Sciences (FES) – 7 subtopics
V. High Energy Physics (HEP) – 6 subtopics
VI. Nuclear Physics (NP) – 8 subtopics
DOE Review Criterion

Applications are subjected to scientific merit review (peer review) and will be evaluated against the following criteria:

1. Scientific and/or Technical Merit of the Project;
2. Appropriateness of the Proposed Method or Approach;
3. Competency of Applicant’s Personnel and Adequacy of Proposed Resources; and
4. Reasonableness and Appropriateness of the Proposed Budget.

- The following FOA-specific evaluation criteria will also be used during the scientific merit review (peer-review):
  1. Relevance to the mission of the specific program (e.g., ASCR, BER, BES, FES, HEP, or NP) to which the application is submitted.
  2. Potential for leadership within the scientific community.

http://science.energy.gov/grants/policy-and-guidance/merit-review-system/
DOE: Tips

- Topics don’t change much year to year. In the off season (NOW) reach into topic technical contacts found in FOA for technical fit.

- Register in DOE PAMS system early!

- Review DOE Early Career winners lists and FAQs via URL below (2010-2018 winners and abstracts are posted)

- Adam Sefkow, Assistant Professor Mechanical Engineering most recent winner (2017). Michael L. Neidig, Assistant Professor Department of Chemistry (2016); Aran Garcia-Bellido, Assistant Professor Department of Physics and Astronomy (2011).

- Highly competitive – In 2018, 84 early career awards were made.

- https://science.energy.gov/early-career/
Private Foundation Grants

- Private foundations may be another possible source of funding

- A number of foundation’s offer young investigator awards for early career researchers who are doing exceptional, nationally competitive work

- These opportunities have specific criteria regarding eligibility and in some cases, the UR is limited in the number of applicants per grant cycle

- Most require nomination and/or endorsement either by the SVP for Research/Provost, dean or departmental chair.

- In all cases, applications to foundations must go through dean’s signoff and ORPA.
Submission Process

• For Private Foundation Limited Submissions, announcements (with instructions for internal applications) are sent via the Provost’s email to appropriate department chairs for dissemination to eligible faculty.

• The research deans then evaluate internal applications to select those that are best aligned with the foundation’s interests.

• For non-limited opportunities, like Beckman and Sloan, announcements are made to chairs/PIs via Foundation Relations and/or the dean’s office – you can find information on open submission opportunities at: http://www.rochester.edu/orpa/funding/limitedsub.html
Foundation Relations Office

• Based in UR Advancement Office, the Foundation Relations Office works exclusively on top foundation prospects, including prestigious young investigator awards like Packard and Sloan

• We are experts in foundation funding and can provide critical feedback regarding what makes for a competitive application

• If you’re interested in foundation funding – first, read through the foundation’s RFP carefully and review past grantees to get a clear idea of what that particular foundation is looking for

• If you believe your work is competitive, please contact the FR Office to discuss (Emily (Kellas) Goodenough, 276-3955, ekellas@ur.rochester.edu)
Sloan Research Fellowship

- **Open Submission**
- **Deadline:** September 16, 2019
- **Funding:** $75K - over 2 years
- **Eligibility:** Must hold a tenure track (or equivalent) position as of Sept. 16, 2019; Tenure-track faculty positions at applicant’s institution must include a yearly teaching requirement; must hold a Ph.D. (or equivalent) in *chemistry, computational or evolutionary molecular biology, computer science, economics, mathematics, neuroscience, ocean sciences, physics, or a related field.*
- **URL:** [https://sloan.org/fellowships](https://sloan.org/fellowships)
- **Competitive:** Most recent awardees: Ellen Matson (2019); Nancy Chen (2019); Mike Neidig (2016)
- **Good stuff:** Fellows are selected on the basis of their independent research accomplishments, creativity, and potential to become leaders in the scientific community through their contributions to their field. 126 awarded each year. The most awarded in Chemistry (24 awardees each year) and Physics (24 awardees each year).
Packard Fellowship - Science & Engineering

- **Limited Submission**: Provost invited to nominate two early-career professors each year. Only top 50 U.S. schools invited.
- **Internal deadline**: 10/5/2019 (internal announcement sent 9/27/19), final deadline mid-April
- **Funding**: $875K over 5 years
- **Eligibility**: Candidates must be faculty members, eligible to serve as PIs engaged in research in the natural and physical sciences or engineering and must be within the first three years of their faculty careers. Disciplines include physics, chemistry, mathematics, biology, astronomy, computer science, earth science, ocean science, and all branches of engineering-no social science.
- **Highly Competitive**: Most recent UR awardees: Vasilii Petrenko (EES) in 2013 and Daven Presgraves (BIO) in 2009. 18 grants awarded each year.
- **Good stuff**: emphasizes support for innovative individual research that involves the Fellows, their students, and junior colleagues, rather than extensions or components of large-scale, ongoing research programs. Funds directed to fields less generously supported by federal funding.
Other Foundational Opportunities

Research Corp. for Science Advancement - Cottrell Scholars (Ellen Matson 2019)
http://rescorp.org/cottrell-scholars

Glenn Foundation - AFAR Grants for Junior Faculty
https://www.afar.org/research/funding/afar-research-grants/

Beckman Foundation Young Investigators Program
http://www.beckman-foundation.org/programs/beckman-young-investigators-program-information

Pew Biomedical Scholars (Ed Brown (BME) 2007 and Laura Calvi (URMC) 2005)
https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/projects/pew-biomedical-scholars/program-details

Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Awards Program (Dan Weix 2014, Todd Krauss 2005, Ben Miller 2001)
https://www.dreyfus.org/camille-dreyfus-teacher-scholar/

Kingenstein-Simons Fellowship Awards in Neuroscience
http://www.klingfund.org/

Brain and Behavior NARSAD Young Investigator (David Dodell-Feder 2018)
https://www.bbrfoundation.org/grants-prizes/narsad-young-investigator-grants

Arts, Sciences and Engineering
Finding Funding

- Also on AS&E Intranet: http://www.rochester.edu/college/research/events.html
- Intranet Good Stuff for PIs: https://www.rochester.edu/asei/index.php?logout=true
- UR Fellowships & Awards: https://www.rochester.edu/college/fellowships/
- GENIUS/SMARTS/SPIN: https://spin.infoedglobal.com/Home/GridResults
- Foundation Directory: https://fconline.foundationcenter.org/search/member-index
- FedBizOpps: https://www.fbo.gov/

- Good websites for Young Investigators
  - https://cfr.ucsd.edu/young-investigators/funding-opportunities.html
  - http://www.spo.berkeley.edu/fund/newfaculty.html
  - http://www.csun.edu/research-graduate-studies/funding-opportunities-young-investigatorjunior-faculty

- Websites of the specific Agencies and Foundations
  - Dimensions: https://app.dimensions.ai/discover/publication
  - Most federal agencies have e-alert systems-register for these!
Panelists

1) **Gloria Culver**, Professor of Biology, Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences

2) **Ehsan Hoque**, Asaro-Biggar ('92) Family Assistant Professor of Computer Science

3) **Ellen Matson**, Wilmot Assistant Professor of Chemistry

4) **Vasilii Petrenko**, Associate Professor of Earth & Environmental Sciences

5) **Adam Sefkow**, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Sr. Scientist at LLE

6) **Nick Vamivakas**, Associate Professor of Optics, Physics and Materials Science