

# Conducting Your Research during COVID Times

How to pivot, maintain focus, and keep your research going

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9/14/2020

## K-Club

Sponsored by:



Department of Pediatrics



**Children's**<sup>™</sup>  
Healthcare of Atlanta



CFAR



Georgia CTSA  
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Department of Medicine

# Hot tips to enhance your K-Club experience

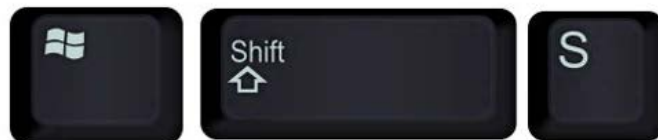
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**Hot Tip #1:** Use speaker view (instead of Gallery View) to highlight the person speaking at any given time



**Hot Tip #2:** Use screen region clip shortcuts to when taking notes



**Hot Tip #3:** Use the chat feature to pose questions to our esteemed panelists at any time during today's K-Club

# K-Club

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- For anyone looking to build their research career
- Started by The Emory Dept of Pediatrics 11 years ago this fall
- Now proudly co-sponsored by Emory Depts of Pediatrics and Medicine, Georgia CTSA and Center for AIDS Research
- Bookmark our website for videos and slides from previous sessions -

<https://www.pedsresearch.org/research/resources/career-development/k-club#tab=tab03>

2020 so far...

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# 2020 Fall K-Club Schedule – *full schedule*

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- Sept 14 (today) – Conducting your research during COVID times
- Oct 19 – Types of NIH (and other) Awards
- Nov 9 – Competitive Grantsmanship Strategies
- Dec 14 – NIH Review Process

*Oct, Nov, Dec K-Clubs will be based off a series titled **Transitioning to Research Independence: Funding and Grantsmanship for Newly Independent Investigators\***. Each month we will highlight one topic presenting key concepts inviting panelists to provide their unique perspectives.*

*\*originally hosted by the National Research Mentoring Network and presented by Jaime S. Rubin, PhD*

# Survey Drawing

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# Announcement:

## 2020 NIH Virtual Seminar on Program Funding

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- Tuesday, October 27, 2020 – Friday October 30, 2020  
(*afternoons*)
- Three tracks
  - Track A: NIH Grants Process
  - Track B: NIH Policies and Programs
  - Track C: Let's Talk About It
- Why Attend?
  - Learn Directly from HHS & NIH Staff!
  - Gather Resources to Use & Share!
  - Engage & Network with Your Peers!
  - Attend for free!

<https://nihvirtualseminar2020.vfairs.com/en/>

# Who Should Attend

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- Those who are new to working with the NIH grants process
- Early stage investigators, graduate students, and administrators
- Select agenda items of potential interest to K-Clubber's
  - Navigating NIH Programs to Advance Your Career
  - Grant Writing for Success
  - Rigor & Reproducibility: Back to Basics
  - Writing and Effective “K” Application
  - NIH Peer Review: "Live" Mock Study Section
  - Finding the Right Mentor
  - All About Costs: A Post-Award Primer
  - After Your First Award: Next Steps in Your Journey with NIH

<https://nihvirtualeminar2020.vfairs.com/en/agenda-page>

<https://nihvirtualeminar2020.vfairs.com/en/registration>



# Today's Panelists

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- **Larry Boise, PhD**, Professor, Emory Hematology
- **Ann Chahroudi, MD, PhD**, Associate Professor, Emory Pediatrics, ID
- **Kristy Rostad, MD**, Assistant Professor, Emory Pediatrics, ID
- **Rabin Tirouvanziam, PhD**, Associate Professor, Emory Pediatrics, PACS
- **Meredith Capasse**, Manager, Children's IRB
- **Maria Davila**, Assoc Dir, Emory IRB
- **Holly Sommers**, Emory OSP Director, Assist VP Research

*Discussion facilitated by*

*Stacy Heilman, PhD, Assistant Professor, Emory Pediatrics*

# Work from home strategies

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(Or perhaps more accurately phrased as “Coping while living at work...)

- What was your own personnel greatest challenge with this?
- How did/do you maintain focus and productivity with so many things competing for your attention?
- What are your best tips for managing this balancing act?



# Keeping your research team engaged

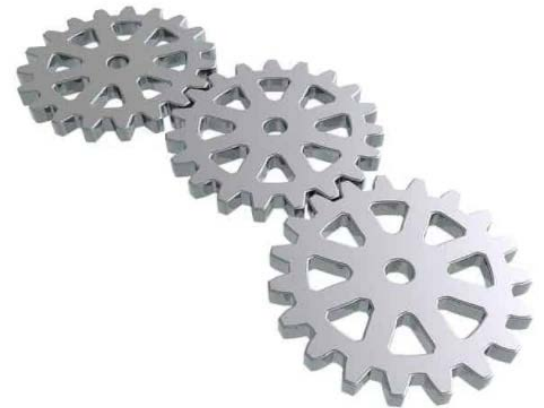
- Unique approaches to staying connected
  - Communication strategies including verbal, written, and otherwise
  - Team building activities
  - Any apps you have found particularly valuable?
- Addressing team member concerns and fears
- Promoting behaviors to mitigate risk
  - Shift work and proper social distancing
  - Enhanced PPE
  - Handwashing, sanitizing work stations, etc
- Key PI responsibilities and key research team member responsibilities during these times



# Adjusting your research mechanics

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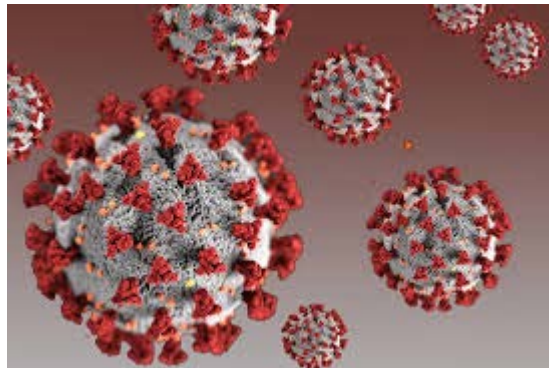
- Doing more with less (coping with the hiring freeze, spending restrictions, maximum density requirements)
- Using time for activities that can be accomplished remotely
  - Writing manuscripts
  - Career development activities (many meetings and courses are now virtual so no travel and less time required!)
- Changing in-person research activities to virtual
  - Virtual recruitment and study visits
  - E-consent
  - What else?



# Pivoting your research focus

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- Have you successfully re-framed your research aims to appeal to current COVID-specific funding or publishing priorities?
- Have you formed any new collaborations and/or research aims to address COVID-related questions? How different are they from your pre-COVID research?
- What advice do you have for positioning non-COVID research to stand out as a continued priority to fund and publish?



# Predicting the future

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- How do you prepare for the unknown?
- Is there anything you did pre-COVID that allowed you to be better prepared?
- What practices might be permanently changed either because of continuing circumstances or perhaps it's a practice improvement?
- How might NIH and other sponsors and compliance bodies respond and adjust for the foreseeable future?
- Should funded researchers be actively communicating with PO's and GMO's? If so, what should they be saying?

