



Division of
RESEARCH

Clemson University
Handling Rejection: Turning
Reviewer Feedback into A
Successful Resubmission

Office of Research Development

NOVEMBER 11, 2020
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM



Program Agenda

- Panelist Introductions (10 minutes)
- Panel Questions (40 minutes)
- Audience Questions (10 minutes)



Moderator



DR. SHELIA COTTEN
Associate Vice President for Research Development

Panelists



DR. JULIA BRUMAGHIM
Professor, Chemistry,
College of Science



DR. KSENIJA GASIC
Professor, Plant &
Environmental Science,
CAFLS



**DR. HARRISON
PINCKNEY IV**
Assistant Professor,
Parks, Recreation &
Tourism Management,
CBSHS



DR. MICHAEL LEMAHIEU
Associate Professor,
English, CAAH



DR. JOHN LOPES
Associate Provost and
Dean of the Graduate
School



JULIA BRUMAGHIM

Professor, Chemistry, College of Science

Julia Brumaghim is a Professor of Chemistry, and she has had research funded by the **NSF** (since a CAREER award in 2006), the **NIH**, the **American Heart Association**, and **NASA EPSCoR**. In addition, she has been a proposal **reviewer and panelist** for the **NSF (Chemistry of Life Processes, CAREER award, Chemical Synthesis, and Major Research Instrumentation programs)**, **NIH (NCCAM and NIEHS)**, **American Heart Association**, **NASA**, and other organizations. She has experienced her share of proposal rejections (with more than ten in one year), had many proposal acceptances (four in a row once), and has occasionally been successful revising a proposal that was rejected and then was funded. From her experience on both sides of the process, she has learned a few things about **reading between the lines of proposal reviewer comments** and determining when a proposal is worth the effort of revising.



KSENIJA GASIC

Professor, Plant & Environmental Science, CAFLS

Ksenija Gasic is a Professor of Horticulture. Her research is focused mostly on application and is funded by the USDA (AFRI, SCRI, SCMBG). She has been a **proposal reviewer and panelist** for the **USDA (SCRI and AFRI programs), BARD (Plant program)** and others. She has had various successes with proposal submissions, from being funded the first time to successful resubmission and rejection. Experiencing both sides of the process taught her the **importance of planning well ahead of time and having a grant coordinator involved in reviewing the proposal.**



MICHAEL LEMAHIEU

Associate Professor, English, CAAH

Michael LeMahieu, Associate Professor of English, has served as a **reviewer** for the **Mellon Foundation / ACLS Dissertation Fellowships; Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation); Research Fellowship Committee (Arts) of Jesus College, Cambridge (UK);** and the **Research Awards Advisory Committee of the Leverhulme Trust (UK)**. He has successfully **resubmitted proposals** for fellowship from the **American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS)** and the **National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)**.



JOHN LOPES

Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

John Lopes, Professor of Biological Sciences and Dean of the Graduate School, has served as a panelist for the **National Science Foundation** (10 years), the **American Cancer Society** (5 years), and the **Leukemia Research Foundation** (6 years). He has also served as an ad hoc reviewer for **NIH, Austrian Science Fund, Barth Syndrome Foundation,** and the **Wellcome Trust**. His service to NSF included 5 years on the Biochemistry and Gene Expression Panel and 5 years on the Gene Expression I panel. He has **successfully submitted and re-submitted proposals for grants from NSF and ACS**. As a Department Head, John developed a “chalk-talk” process for proposal development.



HARRISON PINCKNEY IV

Assistant Professor, Parks, Recreation & Tourism Management,
CBSHS

Harrison Pinckney has received funding from both public and private agencies as a result of remaining committed to proposals following initial rejections. As an Assistant Professor he has already secured close to \$500,000 in external funding. Through his projects funded by the **Heinz Endowment** and **National Science Foundation**, he has learned the value of understanding the vision of the funding agency and remaining in close communication with program officers. **Rejections are primarily viewed by him as learning opportunities for fine tuning his theoretical framework and methodological approach to research.**



Panel Questions

- ❖ What factors should investigators weigh in determining that a proposal is worth revising?
- ❖ What are you looking for in reviewer comments?
- ❖ After ascertaining that a proposal is worth revising, what is the first thing investigators should do?
- ❖ How can investigators garner the most useful comments from program officers?
- ❖ What techniques should investigators adopt in revising proposal narratives?



ORD Team

SHELIA COTTEN

Associate Vice President for
Research Development

Phone: 864-656-1299
scotten@clemson.edu

JANE JACOBI

Team Leader

Phone: 864-656-1296
jacobij@clemson.edu

KELLY MCSWAIN

Program Manager I

Phone: 864-656-0260
kmcswai@clemson.edu

MARIAH K. MEACHUM

Research Development Specialist

College of Behavioral, Social, and Health Sciences
Phone: 864-656-9882
mmeachu@clemson.edu