



*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. MICHAEL LEMAHIEU**

**Associate Professor,  
English, CAAH**



**DR. JOHN LOPES**

**Associate Provost and  
Dean of the Graduate  
School**



**DR. HARRISON  
PINCKNEY IV**

**Assistant Professor,  
Parks, Recreation &  
Tourism Management,  
CBSHS**





## 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), he **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@clermson.edu**

### **JANE JACOBI**

Team Leader

**Phone: 864-656-1296**  
**jacobij@clermson.edu**

### **KELLY MCSWAIN**

Program Manager I

**Phone: 864-656-0260**  
**kmcswai@clermson.edu**

### **MARIAH K. MEACHUM**

Research Development Specialist

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