

Pre-Application Webinar

Early Investigator Advancement Program (EIAP)

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Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities

Important Housekeeping Notes

- To preserve bandwidth, participants are requested to turn the video off and stay muted during the presentation.
- Please type your questions/comments into the chat box throughout the presentation, to be addressed during the Q&A.
- Slides and the recorded webinar will be posted to the EIAP website (<https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/crchd/diversity-training/eiap>) followed by a notice via email to all registrants.
- For closed-caption, please adjust your settings.

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Agenda



- Welcome and Housekeeping
- About NCI's CRCHD and the Equity and Inclusion Program
- About the EIAP
- EIAP Components
- EIAP Eligibility
- EIAP Application Requirements
- Current Status of Some EIAP Scholars
- Next Steps and Q and A

NCI Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (CRCHD)



NIH Clinical Center



NCI at Shady Grove Campus



CRCHD's Mission

- **Advance cancer disparities research** across the entire cancer continuum.
- **Advise** on strategic planning and policies related to cancer disparities research and diversity training.
- Lead NCI's efforts in **increasing workforce diversity**.

HOW NCI IS ADDRESSING CANCER DISPARITIES



Basic, clinical, and epidemiologic research into factors that may influence cancer risk



Clinical trials that test cancer care delivery in diverse populations



Programs that address cancer care delivery in diverse communities



Training to increase diversity in the cancer and cancer disparities research workforce



- Enhance the diversity of the cancer research workforce
- Build a more inclusive and equitable NCI community
- Address cancer disparities
- Advance health equity

NCI Equity and Inclusion Program and associated Working Groups are overseen and supported by the NCI Equity Council, led by:

- Dr. Monica Bertagnolli, NCI Director
- Dr. Paulette Gray, Director, NCI's Division of Extramural Activities

Trans-NCI Participation

❖ **Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparity (CRCHD)**

LeeAnn Bailey, MBBS, PhD, MS

Behrouz Davani, PhD

Jay Revilleza, PhD, MS

JoBeth McCarthy, MPH, CPH

❖ **Center for Cancer Training**

Nastaran Zahir, PhD

❖ **Center for Cancer Research (CCR)**

Shauna Clark, PhD

Glenn Merlino, PhD

❖ **Division of Cancer Biology (DCB)**

Shannon Hughes, PhD

❖ **Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences(DCCPS)**

Richard Moser, PhD

❖ **Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics (DCEG)**

Jackie Lavigne, PhD, MPH



About the Early Investigator Advancement Program

Early Investigator Advancement Program (EIAP)

Goal: To facilitate the transition of scientists from diverse backgrounds from junior to established investigators.

- Guide the preparation and submission of an R01 application
- Provide access to a mentoring and peer network
- Enhance professional skills
- Grow a community of emerging established investigators from diverse backgrounds



<https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/crchd/diversity-training/eiap>

EIAP Promotes Diversity in the Cancer Research Workforce



NCI particularly encourages applications from individuals from groups identified in NIH's Notice of Interest in Diversity ([NOT-OD-20-031](#)) as underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral, and social sciences.

Race/Ethnicity

- Blacks or African Americans
- Hispanics or Latino
- American Indians or Alaska Natives
- Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders

Disadvantaged Background

- Homeless
- Foster Care
- First generation w/ Bachelor's degree
- Federal Pell Grants
- Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program Recipients
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program
- Rural or low-income/access areas

Disability

- Physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities

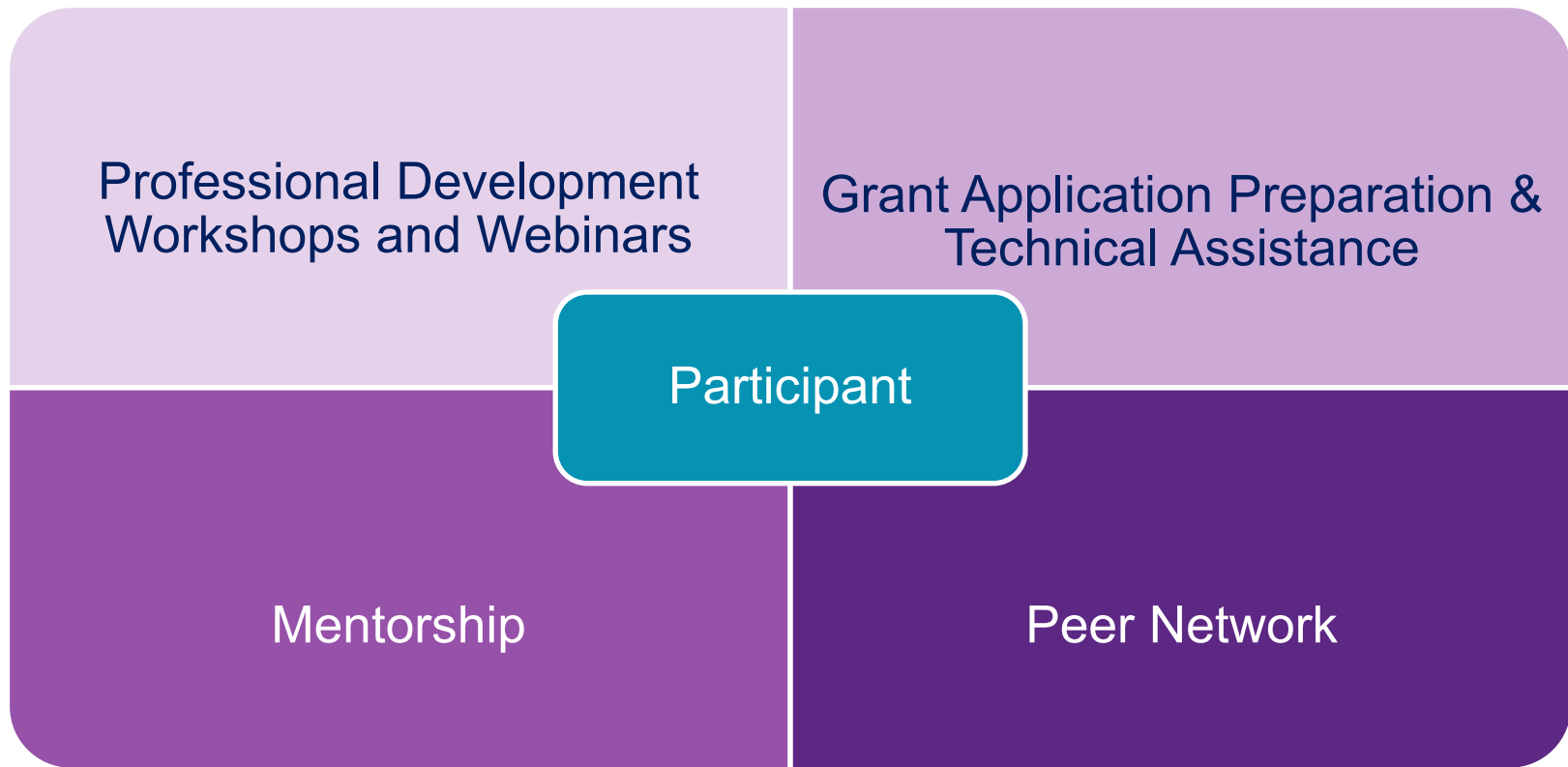
Gender

- Women from any of these backgrounds face particular challenges at the graduate level and beyond in scientific fields.



Early Investigator Advancement Program Components

EIAP Program Components



The EIAP Experience

Scholar Activities

- Grant Writing Seminar (February) and Workbook
- Grant Writing Workshop (March – July)
- Mentored Mock Review (MMR)
- Mentoring
- Peer networking
- Webinar series (open to public)
- Individual meetings with program staff
- Continued engagement post-program

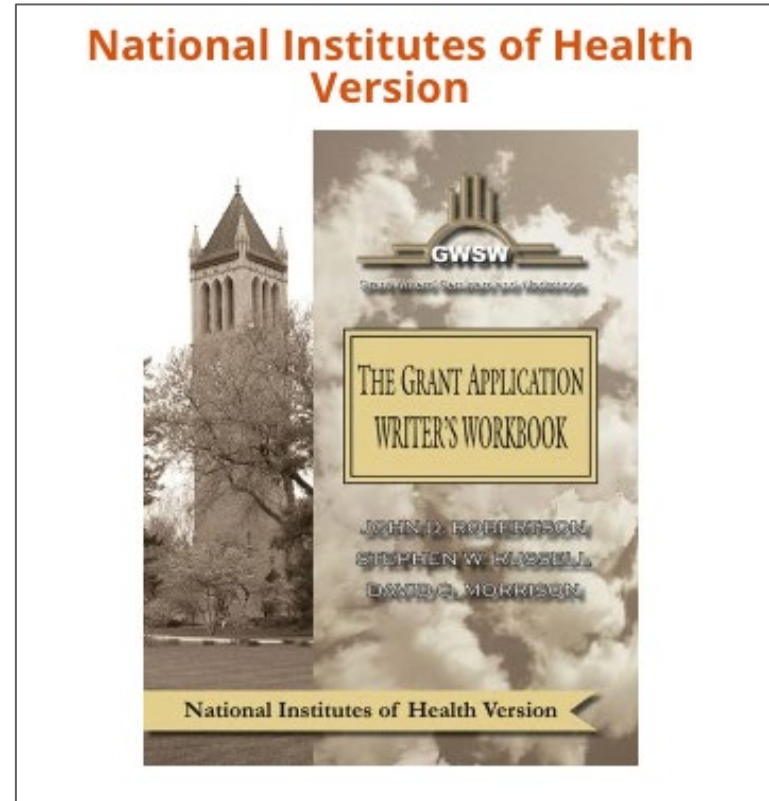
Associate Activities

- Grant Writing Seminar (February) and Workbook (top 50 scores)
- Mock Review (Observer only)
- Professional and career development training through PAVES

Grant Application Preparation & Technical Assistance



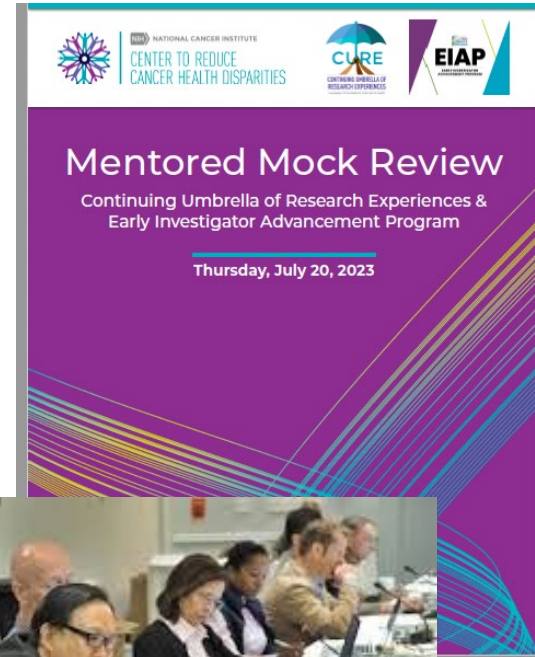
- Grant Writing Seminar
February 13-14, 2024
(Scholars and Associates)
- Grantsmanship Workshop
March – July 2024
(Scholars Only)
 - Specific Aims Group Review (May 2, 2024)
 - 30-Minute, 1-on-1 with
Grantsmanship expert (May 2 or 3, 2024)
 - Review of full draft R01 (drafts due July
24)



Mentored Mock Review



- Set up like an official study section.
- Scholars will be offered an opportunity to be review chairs and reviewers.
- Associates are offered the opportunity to be observers.
- A scientific review officer (SRO) from the Center for Scientific Review (CSR) runs the review just as they would a regular review.
- Reviewers score actual grant applications that were submitted.
- Scores are entered in a mock NIH system.
- After the mock review, the actual review scores are revealed and discussed with the group.



Peer Networking

- Scholars are encouraged to network with their EIAP peers.
 - Formal meet and greet
 - Gather at conferences
 - Connect via social media, email, and phone



Mentoring



Matched Mentoring



- Applicants must include in their application what they are looking for in a mentor.
- Our team works very hard to find mentors that match the listed criteria from our list of volunteer mentors who are NCI-funded investigators.
- The EIAP team confirms with the mentor and mentee and then connects the two to meet.



- Volunteer mentors received a number of NIH grants:
 - Research Grants (R series) 100%
 - Career Development Awards(K series) 55%
 - Research Training and Fellowships (T and F Series) 35%
 - Program Project and Center Grants(P Series) 35%
 - Cooperative Agreements (U) (85%)
- Committed to provide guidance to underrepresented junior investigators

EIAP Timeline of Activities



Professional Development Workshops and Webinars

Professional Advancement Virtual Engagement Series (PAVES) is a monthly webinar that provides career development resources to support diverse cancer and cancer health disparity researchers and clinician scientists.

- **When:** The last Wednesday of each month from 3:00-4:00 pm Eastern (times and dates may vary)
- **Where:** Virtual (**registration is required**– email PAVES@nih.gov)
- **Who:** New and Early-Stage Investigators, post-doctoral student scientists, clinician scientists, researchers, and others
- **What:** Explore NIH funding opportunities, identify new career resources, acquire new insights and skills in the cancer research grant proposal development process, and other career development skills.
- **Visit:** <https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/crchd/about-health-disparities/resources/paves>

Previous Session Titles:

- Developing a Strong NIH Grant Application
- Becoming a Cancer Research Investigator- Extramural and Intramural
- Putting the "I" in Science: Leveraging Your Story to Chart Your Career

Everyone is welcome to attend PAVES

Email to receive monthly notices and register for events: PAVES@nih.gov



EIAP Program Staff Interaction



- Quarterly one-on-one meetings
- *Ad hoc* meetings
- Resource sharing
(e.g., program announcements, NIH grant resources, etc.)



Make a Perfect Pair with NIH Matchmaker



Find Program Officials that closely match your research!

The image shows a promotional graphic for the NIH Matchmaker tool. It features a purple background with white text. On the left, there is a magnifying glass icon with a heart inside it. On the right, there is a screenshot of the NIH Matchmaker website interface, which includes a search bar, a list of search filters, and a table of search results. The text 'Find Program Officials that closely match your research!' is positioned to the right of the screenshot. A location pin icon is also visible next to the text.

The EIAP Experience

Expectations for Each Scholar

- Complete an R01 grant proposal for submission by October/November 2024
- Engage with peers
- Develop a relationship with an established mentor
- Attend EIAP activities such as the Grantsmanship workshop webinars, MMR, and one-on-ones with EIAP staff
- Learn and grow through a professional and career development series





EIAP Eligibility and Application Requirements

Participant Eligibility: Is EIAP for YOU?

- Must be a US citizen, noncitizen national, or permanent resident
- Must be an [Early Stage Investigator or New Investigator](#) currently conducting cancer or cancer-related research
- Has not previously **successfully** competed for NIH R01 or equivalent funding
- Evidence of R01 application readiness by October/November 2024
- Holds a current position in an institution that is:
 - Eligible for an R01 application
 - Supportive of the applicant's plans to submit an R01 application by October/November 2024

- ❖ See <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide.html>
- ❖ *Applicant should be prepared and committed to work toward and submit an R01 application by October/November 2024.*

Participant Eligibility: Is EIAP for YOU? (con't)

Can you dedicate time to attending these events?

<i>Date (All times Eastern Time)</i>	<i>Activity</i>
<i>February 6, 2024</i>	<i>Scholar Orientation</i>
<i>February 13, 2024, 1-4:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Grant Writer's Seminar Day 1</i>
<i>February 14, 2024, 1-4:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Grant Writer's Seminar Day 2</i>
<i>End of February- Early March 2024</i>	<i>Scholar 1 on 1 (more information to come)</i>
<i>March 20, 2024 (11am EST)</i>	<i>Pre-Proposal Due (more information and guidance will be provided once the program starts)</i>
<i>April 4, 2024</i>	<i>EIAP Peer Networking Event</i>
<i>May 2, 2024(a.m., TBD)</i>	<i>Group Workshop Session</i>
<i>May 2 or 3, 2024 (p.m., TBD)</i>	<i>One scheduled one-on-one session with a grant expert to discuss your pre-proposal</i>
<i>TBD</i>	<i>Mentored Mock Review Orientation</i>
<i>May-June 2024</i>	<i>Scholar 1 on 1 (more information to come)</i>
<i>TBD</i>	<i>Mentored Mock Review</i>
<i>July 24, 2024</i>	<i>Final Grant Proposal for Grantsmanship Review</i>
<i>August-September 2024</i>	<i>Scholar 1 on 1 (more information to come)</i>
<i>October/November 2024</i>	<i>Submit Grant Application</i>

Application Components



■ *Application*

- Name, email, current institution
- Statement that you are a citizen, non-citizen national, or legal permanent resident of the United States. (Do not send documentation with your application.)
- Statement indicating you have not previously received NIH R01 or equivalent funding as a Principal Investigator.
- Statement indicating preparedness to submit an R01 (*which includes a draft R01*) by October/November 2024.
- Statement indicating whether you are an Early-Stage Investigator (ESI) or New Investigator (NI).
- Your immediate and long-term career goals.



Application Components

- Cancer research type (i.e., basic, translational, behavioral/population, or clinical) and site (e.g., lung, brain, skin) if appropriate.
- Please let us know how you heard about EIAP.
- Please let us know what you are looking for in a mentor (e.g., qualities, areas of research, etc.)
- Additional information you feel is relevant.

NCI values diversity and particularly encourages applicants from populations underrepresented in the cancer research workforce, as noted in the NIH's Notice of Interest in Diversity ([NOT-OD-20-031](#)).

Application Components (Continued)

- *Institution Letter (signed and written on letterhead)*
 - From appropriate institution leadership in support of R01 application submission by October/November 2024
 - Indication of availability of institutional support, equipment, and other physical resources
 - Description of current mentoring support
- *Biosketch (see <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>)*
- *Two letters of reference.*
 - At least one should be someone who has direct experience with your research skills and potential to carry out an R01 research project.



Resources:

Writing the Biosketch: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>

Watch: Best Practices for an Effective NIH Biosketch:

https://ncihub.cancer.gov/groups/crchdsupplements/File:/uploads/Paves_14_Best_Practices_for_an_Effective_NIH_Biosketch-20220330_1902-1.mp4

Application Components (Continued)

Draft R01 application (NOT CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW) that complies with NIH standards, including:

- *Project Summary/Abstract (1 page)*
- *Specific Aims (1 page)*
- *Research Strategy (no more than 12 pages to include)*
 - *Significance, Innovation, Approach, Research design, Justification, Expected outcomes, and/or impact*



Consider:

- Whether **preliminary data** has been collected or will be by the time the application is submitted to NCI
- This is a **draft**. It does not have to be perfect.
 - Focus on **novelty, grammar, spelling, sentence structure, evidentiary support**

Resources:

Write Your Application: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-and-write/write-your-application.htm>

Watch: Developing a Strong NIH Application:

<https://cbiit.webex.com/webappng/sites/cbiit/recording/d6ccabcab091103bb5f70050568110b2/playback>

Application Submission to Start Date Timeline



Applications must be submitted by **November 1, 2023**. Instructions will be posted on the website.

If selected, EIAP scholars are expected to attend a two half-day virtual Grants Writing Workshop on **February 13 and 14**.



Contact: EIAP@nih.gov

Webpage: <https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/crchd/diversity-training/eiap>

Selection Criteria

- Research Experience and Accomplishments
- Training and Professional Accomplishments
- Institution Support
- Draft R01 Proposal
- Letters of Reference

INSTITUTIONAL TRAINING & INSTITUTIONAL CAREER AWARDS

Overall Impact:
 The likelihood that the proposed training (T) or career development (K) program will prepare individuals for successful, productive scientific research careers and thereby exert a sustained influence on the research field(s) involved

Overall Impact	High	Medium	Low
Score	1 2 3	4 5 6	7 8 9

Evaluating Overall Impact
 Consider the 5 criteria (weighting based on reviewer's judgment):

- Ts**
- Training Program and Environment
 - Training PD(s)/PI(s)
 - Preceptors/ Mentors
 - Trainees
 - Training Record

- Ks**
- Career Development Program & Environment
 - PD(s)/PI(s)
 - Mentors
 - Candidates/ Scholars
 - Training Record

and other score influences, e.g. human subjects, animal welfare, inclusion plans, and biohazards

e.g. Proposes a high value training or career development program that is well designed to prepare individuals for highly successful, productive scientific research careers. May have some or no weaknesses in the criteria.

e.g. Proposes a high-value training or career development program that is adequately designed to prepare individuals for successful, productive scientific research careers. Weaknesses in the criteria reduce the overall impact to medium.

e.g. Proposes a training or career development program of moderate value that is adequately designed. May have some or no weaknesses in the criteria.

e.g. Proposes a training or career development program of moderate value that is adequately designed to prepare individuals for successful, productive scientific research careers. Weaknesses in the criteria reduce the overall impact to low.

e.g., Proposes a low-value training or career development program that is inadequately designed. Has some weaknesses in the criteria.

5 is a good, medium-impact application. The entire scale (1-9) should always be considered.



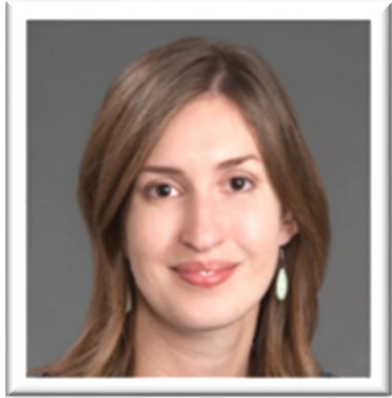
Scoring Criteria:

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/guidelines_general/scoring_guidance_training.pdf



Current Status of Some EIAP Scholars

EIAP Cohort I and II Successes



[Dr. Laurie E. McLouth](#), Assistant Professor, University of Kentucky College of Medicine, was awarded the Cancer Moonshot Scholars R01 for her application titled, ***Pathways, a Hope-Based Intervention to Support Personal Goal Pursuit, Mental Health, and Quality of Life during Advanced Lung Cancer Treatment***, through the National Cancer Institute (NCI).



[Dr. Jose Alejandro Rauh-Hain](#), Gynecologic Oncologist, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, was awarded the NIH Research Project Grant R01 for his application titled, ***Health Equity in Fertility Specialty Care Among Cancer Survivors***, through the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD). Dr. Rauh-Hain is a former CURE recipient (K08).

EIAP Cohort I and II Successes (continued)



[Dr. Huy Q. Dinh](#), Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison, was awarded the Maximizing Investigators' Research Award (MIRA) R35 for his application titled, ***Neutrophil Heterogeneity and Plasticity in Wound Healing***, through the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS).



[Dr. Hatice U. Osmanbeyoglu](#), Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh, reached research independence after being awarded the MIRA R35 award for her application titled, ***Computational Methods for Delineating Cell Context-specific Regulatory Programs***, through NIGMS.

EIAP Cohort I and II Successes (continued)



[Dr. Cristina Zavaleta](#), Assistant Professor at the University of Southern California, received the New Investigators to Promote Workforce Diversity in Genomics, Bioinformatics, or Bioengineering and Biomedical Imaging Research R01 for her application titled, ***A New Multimodal Molecular Imaging Approach to Guide Intra-Operative Tumor Resection and Post-Operative Treatment Planning***, through the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB). Dr. Zavaleta is a two-time former CURE recipient (K22 and R21) and served as Chair of CRCHD's annual Mock Review in 2015.



[Dr. Edjah Kweku-Ebura Nduom](#), a Neurological Oncologist at the Emory Winship Cancer Institute, a Daniel Louis Barrow Endowed Chair in Neurosurgery, and Associate Professor in the Department of Neurosurgery at Emory University School of Medicine was awarded the R01 for his application titled, ***Macrophage-targeted lncRNA-regulating nanoparticles for glioblastoma treatment***, through the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS).

Building a Community





Next Steps and Q and A

Thank you!

Send inquiries to:

EIAP@nih.gov

- Applications must be submitted by **November 1, 2023** ***instructions will be posted on the EIAP website.***





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www.cancer.gov

www.cancer.gov/espanol