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Research Funding Opportunities for Early Career Researchers (ECRs)

Ofonime Udoudo PhD
Research & Knowledge Exchange Division



We aim to discuss..

- The ECR
- Making the most of the ECR career stage
- Bidding for research funding in the context of your career & career stage
- A Recap



The ECR..

- Time since gaining a PhD?
 - Based on experience (years) since PhD or how active in research role
- Transitioning from PhD into independence
 - In some cases distinguished from post-doc
 - Bidding experience – writing, PI, Co-I?
 - Other relevant professional experience?





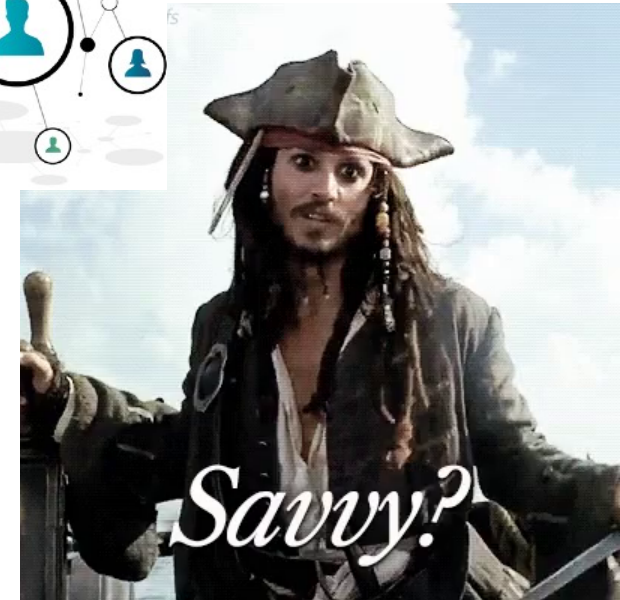
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Making the most of the ECR Career Stage

- Know why you are bidding
- Position yourself to bid
- Visualise your dream research project
- ...and break it down (3, 5 - 10 year plan)
- Be pragmatic and opportunistic



<https://tenor.com/search/savvy-gifs>

<https://diversity.lbl.gov/2016/06/29/employees-invited-to-attend-ambassador-program-open-house/>

<https://searchengineland.com/seo-trends-prepare-2017-263710>

Making the most of the ECR Career Stage



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In academic post, but still early career

!!

- Targeted schemes for ECRs
- New Investigator / First Grant schemes
- Fellowships aimed at ECRs
- Small / pilot grants aimed at ECRs

Schemes open to all !!

- Travel/workshops to pilot studies
- Usually smaller amounts

Offer to lead in the development/writing of a bid in order to be named Co-I for the more experienced researcher

Making the most of the ECR Career Stage



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Coming to the end of your PhD !!

- Speak to your supervisor, utilise your networks
- Job sites/university websites for funded posts
- Apply via an institution

Routes available !!

- Postdoctoral post on a research grant
- EU Marie Curie Mobility Fellowships
- Identify options at least a year before completion
- Submit bids up to 6 months before completion



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Bidding for Research Funding..

- Sign up to funder alerts
- Look out for the funding bulletin calls
- Approach the Research Development Team and consortium **early!**
- Prepare the bid/application/EoI
- Success rates
 - You wouldn't want to apply for a funding call with a <5% success rate

Bidding for Research Funding..



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Structure/Style and content

- Write in plain English**
- Audience may not be expert in your field**
- Justification of Resources (also costing)
- Impact Statements / Pathways to Impact
- Word/character count – concise, punchy

Pitfalls

- Address the funding criteria
- Deadlines & Institutional signoff
- Online portals



Bidding for Research Funding..

- **UK Research Council funded projects repository**
 - Gateway to Research - <http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/>
- **EU Funded Projects repository**
 - **CORDIS** - The EC's comprehensive database of previously funded projects. A great source of information if you are searching for leaders in a particular field: http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/home_en.html
- **UKRI / EU Research Participant Portal / Industry / Niche funders**
- **Funding Search software**
 - Research Professional, Idox grantfinder



A Recap..

- Funding is tight, but targeted grants available for ECRs
- Diversify; set your direction / create a funding road map / collaborate
- Check eligibility & plan towards New Investigator grants / PDRA posts
- Consider internal / institutional funding available
- Engage the Research Development Team (if available in your institution)

Thank you for your time !!



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