

**NIH F Award Workshop Series Announcement!**

The Purdue Institute for Cancer Research, Office of Research, and Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars (OGSPS) are launching a writing-intensive NIH F Award Workshop for PhD students, MD/PhD students or postdocs who are interested in applying for the F awards (F30, F31 and F32). Although we don't yet have numbers for last year's F30/F31 participants, previous workshops have yielded close to a 50 percent success rate. This year, we extend the workshop to postdocs interested in F32 awards and hope to help more Purdue trainees achieve their career goals in health-related research.

**Why apply for an F award?**

- Receive a stipend (and have the tuition covered for F30/31)
- Improve critical grant writing and communication skills early on in career
- Establish new collaborations
- Align with the development of thesis projects

**Who should attend?**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>-year PhD students interested in the F31 award
- OR-
- MD/PhD students within 1-1.5 years into their PhD studies interested in the F30 award
- OR-
- Early postdocs interested in the F32 award
- U.S. citizens or permanent residents
- Eligible students who can commit to the 6-month schedule of lectures, draft-writing, and peer-draft reviewing (see table below)
- Eligible students whose advisor/PI can commit to the 6-month draft-reviewing and feedback schedule (see table below)

**What will the workshop series cover, and when and where does it meet?**

- The workshop will provide one introductory lecture and 5 main lectures covering different sections of the application. Each main lecture is followed by a Q&A session. Participants will have a complete ready-for-submission application at the end of the workshop.
- The workshop will run from September 23, 2025 to February 10, 2026, aiming for the submission deadline of April 8, 2026.
- Lectures and accompanying Q&A sessions will be on selective Tuesdays from 9:30-10:30 AM at WALC 2087.
  - o We record sessions if you have a scheduling conflict, but in-person attendance is highly encouraged
- In addition to writing their own drafts, participants and their advisor/PI will each review one draft written by another workshop participant.
  - o The total time commitment for peer-draft-review should be no longer than 6 hours over the 6 months (reviewing 4 application-section drafts at 1.5 hours each, using a rubric, and having 1 week to review each draft).
  - o The review time-periods are in the timetable below.

Topic/ Application Section	Lecture	Q&A Session	Draft Due	Peer Feedback Due
Fellowship and Workshop Series Overview	09/23/25	None	None	None
Specific Aims and Review Criteria	09/30/25	10/07/25	10/17/25	10/24/25
Research Strategy: Scientific Foundation & Rationale	10/28/25	11/11/25	11/14/25	11/21/25
Research Strategy: Approach	12/02/25	12/15/25	01/02/26	01/09/26
Candidate's Goals, Preparedness, Potential, Training Activities and Timeline & <b>Sponsor Guidance</b>	01/13/26*	01/27/26*	01/30/26	02/06/26
Biosketch and Other Documents	02/10/26	None	None	None

\*Sponsors encouraged to attend

### Why attend this workshop?

- **Expert instructors.** The workshop will be taught by Dr. Perry Kirkham (Coordinator of NIH Research Development, Office of Research) and Rachel Gehr (NSF Graduate Research Fellow, PhD student in Engineering Education). They will also be present at the Q&A sessions. Guest speakers who have been awarded with the fellowships will also be invited to give presentations and answer questions.
- **Ample writing time.** Participants will have at least one-month writing/editing time for each major section.
- **Hands-on learning.** Participants review peer drafts and provide feedback using a NIH-inspired scoring rubrics.
- **Multiple reviews.** Drafts after each lecture will be reviewed by peer participants, instructors, and by each participant's mentor(s). Final application packages will be reviewed by additional faculty members before submission, and we are working with CTSI to provide a Mock Review Panel.
- **\$500 from OGSPS will be awarded to students who submit their F award applications after the workshop.**

Register for the workshop before September 16, 2025 at <https://redcap.link/FWorkshop>

If you have any questions, please email [trainee-funding@purdue.edu](mailto:trainee-funding@purdue.edu)

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**Dr. Perry Kirkham**

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