



# **V Scholar Summit: Professional skills they don't teach in grad school**

**HRA Session: Engaging Awardees, 10/21/2021**  
**Carole Wegner, PhD, V Foundation for Cancer Research**

# V Scholar Summit: What is it?

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Duration: Two-day event (in person 2016-2019; CX in 2020; Virtual event in 2021)

## Who attends?

- V Scholars with current grants (75-100 invited, approx. 35-45 come); Asst. Prof <5 yrs.
- Invited mentors (past V scholars, VF Scientific Advisory Committee members)

## Agenda components?

- Effective Lay Scientific Communication (Alan Alda Communications Workshop- Day 1)
- Other Professional Skills, variable (Grant Writing, Lab Management, Hiring Talent, Negotiating Contracts)
- Networking (Poster Session; shared meals)
- Driving Collaboration (Poster Session; Networking sessions on specific topics)

# V Scholar Summit: Resources

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## Staff time:

- 2-day event, plus 6 months advance planning, on-site staff
- Hired Communication Trainers
- Paid expenses for SAC & past V Scholar speakers (no honorarium)

## Other expenses:

- Travel Grants (\$2,500 allowable from their V Scholar Grant budget)
- Paid expenses for SAC & past V Scholar speakers

## Total Conference Costs - variable depending on On-site/Hybrid/Remote

- 2019 In person (58K less 15K from sponsors): 43K
- 2021 Virtual (23K less 15K from Sponsors): 8K

## Technology Costs:

- iPosterSessions (\$8,545; will retain for in person meetings)

# V Scholar Summit: Evaluation

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## Anonymous Post-Summit Survey

### Criteria evaluated

- Demographics of V Scholars (Year of grant, degrees, gender)
- Scoring of speakers and topics
- Would attendee recommend to others?
- Comments that inform the next session

# V Scholar Summit: Evaluation

## 2019 V Summit Survey Responses

**Response Rate:** 21 V Scholar attendees; 18 completed surveys (85.7% response rate)

**Personal Demographics of Respondents:** 56% Male, 44% Female; 11.1% PhD, 66.7% MD, 22.2% MD & PhD; 95% Asst Prof Level

**Would you recommend the V Scholar Summit to another V Scholar?** Yes (100%)

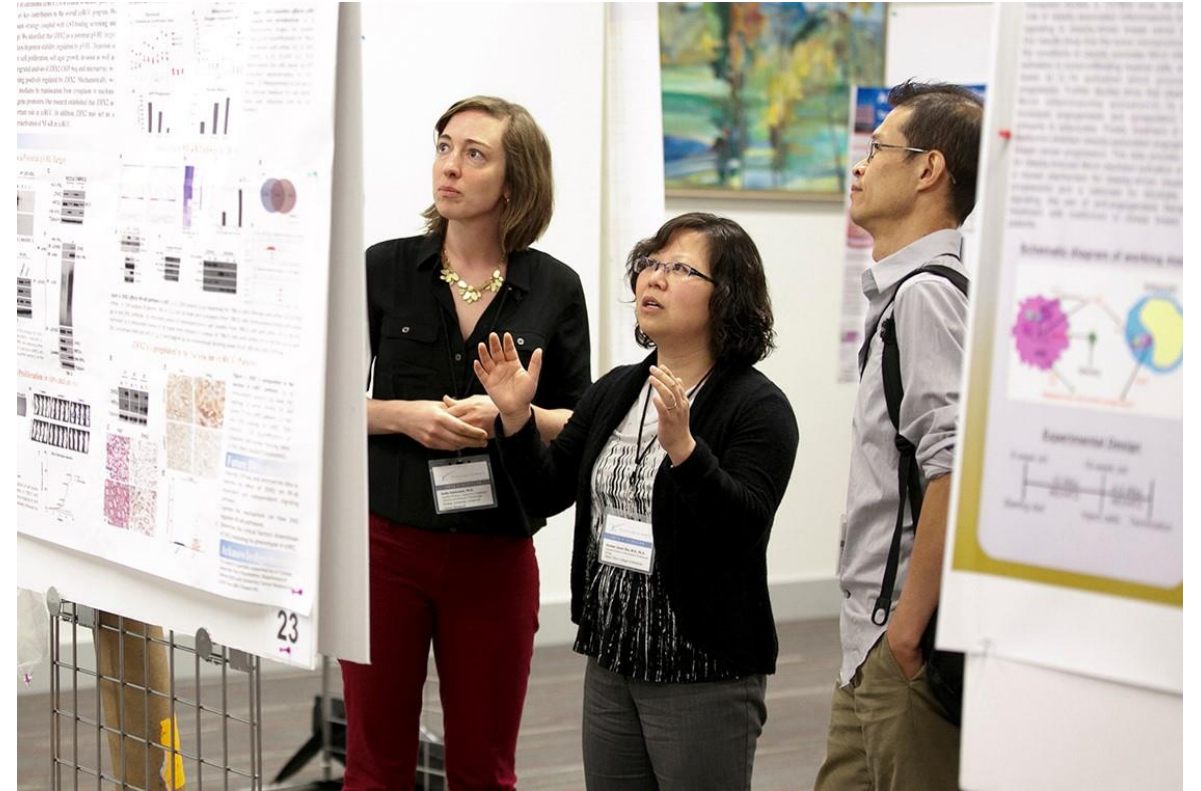
**Would you attend another V Scholar Summit in the future?** Yes (77.3%) Maybe (18.2%) No (0)

### What do you think the most important component of this conference is and why?

- **Poster session/networking!** This was a great meeting to meet other V Scholars, but also get to know patient research advocates and senior faculty in the field. This opportunity will definitely help future interactions and collaborations.
- The **communications workshop** was the most important feature of this V Summit since this provides a unique opportunity for junior faculty to hone essential career skills. Very helpful toward identifying exciting ways to communicate our research.
- Listening to **patient advocate** and **advice on writing good grant**.

### What topics would you add or exclude in future V Scholar Summits & why?

- Running a lab, management of time and people
- Grant writing session
- Effective time management and distribution of time and resources for early career faculty.
- Keynote from a well-established cancer biologist
- How to find our next faculty appointment
- Connect with patient advocate groups
- Dealing with mental health issues
- Succeeding in first job



This was hands down the most useful conference I have attended so far both from a professional and personal development standpoint. The tools and advice I gained from this meeting will be essential to my career trajectory going forward. Thanks so much for this incredible opportunity and for allowing me to join the powerful network of V Scholars!