



# AES Early Career Grant Funding Partnerships

Anne Gramiak, MPH, MSLOC

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# Early Career Grant Program

- AES started independent grant program in 2015, now awarding over \$1 million each year
- 5 grant mechanisms:
  - Predoctoral Research Fellowships (\$30,000)
  - Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (\$50,000)
  - Research and Training Fellowships for Clinicians (\$50,000)
  - Pediatric Research and Training Fellowship for Clinicians (\$50,000)
  - Junior Investigator Research Awards (\$50,000)
- Core feature of application is the mentoring plan and reviewer feedback
- 40% of funded researchers go on to receive NIH funding
- Funding partnerships allow smaller epilepsy organizations to fund research in their interest area

# Funding Partners

- Value AES offers is the science review and grant management
- Started with 3 funding partners in 2015, now at 22
- Partner support levels range from 10%-100% of the award
- Average 5 co-funded applications each year
- Members of the Epilepsy Leadership Council, a coalition working to improve the lives of people living with epilepsy

# Benefits for Funding Partner

- No administrative charge to manage grant
- Allows organizations to fund research when they don't have funds to independently fund grants
- Complimentary registration to AES Annual Meeting for being an ELC member
- Leverage grant program announcements to promote science in interest area
- Attract early career scientists to research in interest area

# Overcoming Challenges

1

Number of applications submitted on funding interest



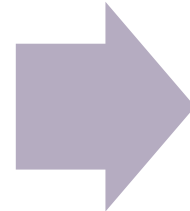
Partner promotes through science advisors



Expand interests to related conditions (DEEs)

2

Quality, competitive applications



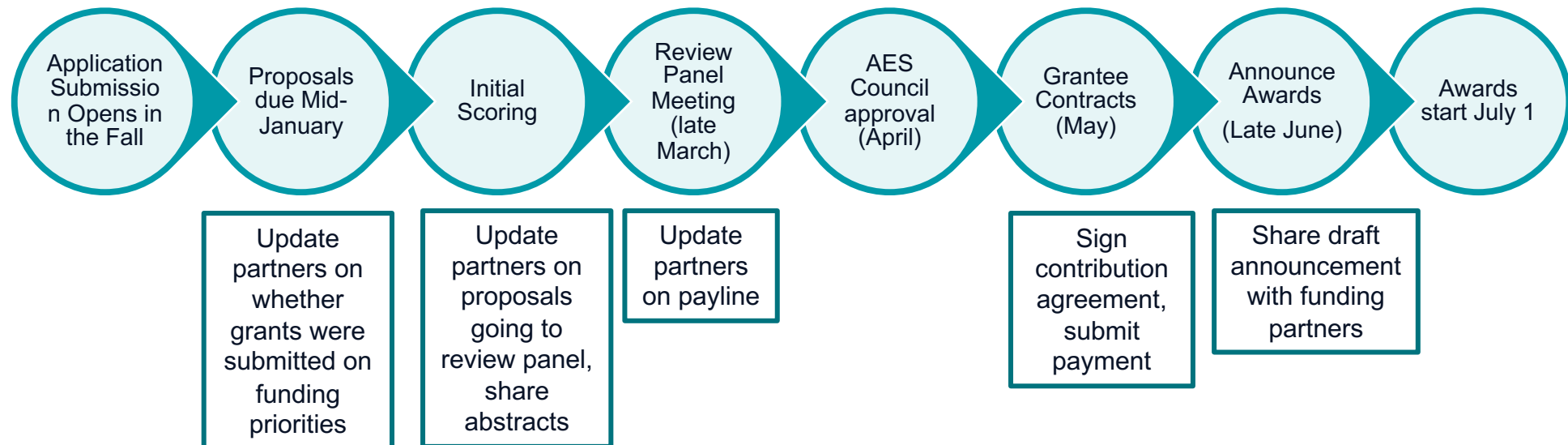
Partner promotion to senior science advisors

# Successes

- Expanded research in rare epilepsies
- Success of early career researchers working on rare epilepsies, continue to receive funding to research that area
- Mentors introducing rare epilepsies to their research mentees (Koolen DeVries Syndrome)
  
- Organizations have now grown to offering their own grant programs (FamilieSCN2A Foundation)
  
- Partner funds enable AES to award more early career grants each year

# Tips for Success

- Create visual to onboard new funding partners





# Tips for Success

- Multi-year contribution agreements



**CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT  
FY2024-2028**

The parties to this Contribution Agreement (“Agreement”) are the American Epilepsy Society (AES) and the Pediatric Epilepsy Research Foundation® (PERF™). The PERF™ wishes to provide funds to support half of one pediatric Research and Training Fellowships for Clinicians award. AES wishes to accept and administer these funds on behalf of PERF™, and co-fund the award, subject to the terms specified in this Agreement.



# Tips for Success

- Partner recognition
  - On website
  - In award name
  - During grantee annual meeting reception
  - In Annual Meeting program book

## AES RESEARCH GRANTS

Thanks to the generosity of AES members, donors, and non-profit partners, AES is one of the largest non-governmental funders for those starting careers in epilepsy research.

### FOR EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATORS

\$150,000 over two years	Sergievsky Award for Epilepsy Health Equity and Diversity
Up to \$30,000	Predoctoral Research Fellowships
Up to \$50,000	Postdoctoral Research Fellowships
Up to \$50,000	Junior Investigator Research Awards
Up to \$50,000	Research and Training Fellowship for Clinicians
Up to \$50,000	Pediatric Research and Training Fellowship for Clinicians, funded by AES and Pediatric Epilepsy Research Foundation
Up to \$22,000	Epilepsy Study Consortium Mini-Grants
\$150,000 over two years	Susan S. Spencer, MD, Clinical Research Training Fellowship in Epilepsy ( <i>not currently accepting proposals</i> )

*Early Career Grants are supported in part by the Sergievsky Research Fund for Epilepsy Health Equity and Diversity, The Lennox & Lombroso Trust for Research and Training, and the Susan S. Spencer Fund for Clinical Research and Education.*

### FOR ESTABLISHED INVESTIGATORS

*The application period for these grants will open in early 2024.*

Up to \$50,000	AES Infrastructure Grants
Up to \$20,000	AES Seed Grants
Amounts Vary	Research and Training Workshop Grants

**85%** of our research grant dollars support early career scientists working across the full spectrum of epilepsy research.

AES is proud to partner with these non-profit organizations to support highly reviewed proposals that align with the organizations' research priorities.



Learn more at [aesnet.org/research](https://aesnet.org/research)



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AMERICAN EPILEPSY SOCIETY