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