**Welcome to the National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

**Tuesday, April 12, 2022**



**2:00p.m. – 3:30p.m.**

**Delegation:          Ohio State University**

**Virtual Webinar:**  [**Zoom Link**](https://osu.zoom.us/j/99729088312?pwd=cHZDMmN4bmhVcUNxU3VaMm11WDdZUT09)

**Agenda:**

**2:00p.m. *Virtual Welcome***

**Cynthia Dwyer, M.A.**

Outreach Coordinator

Office of Extramural Research (OER), NIH

[Cynthia.Dwyer@nih.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Dwyer@nih.gov)

***Fundamentals of the NIH Grants Process***

**Laura Gray**

Policy and Compliance Lead

National Cancer Institute (NCI), NIH

[Laura.Gray@nih.gov](mailto:Laura.Gray@nih.gov)

**Jacquelyn Saval**

Grants Management Specialist

National Cancer Institute (NCI), NIH

[Jacquelyn.Saval@nih.gov](mailto:Jacquelyn.Saval@nih.gov)

***Navigating Career Development Opportunities***

**Shoshana Kahana, Ph.D.**

Deputy Director, Office of Strategic Extramural Programs (OSEP)

National Institute on Aging (NIA), NIH

[Shoshana.Kahana@nih.gov](mailto:Shoshana.Kahana@nih.gov)

***Best Practices for Competitive NIH Grant Applications***

**Anita Bechtholt, Ph.D.**

Associate Director for Research Training & Career Development

National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH), NIH

[Anita.Bechtholt@nih.gov](mailto:Anita.Bechtholt@nih.gov)

**3:30p.m.** ***Conclusion***

# **Bios:**

# **Anita Bechtholt, Ph.D.**

**Associate Director for Research Training & Career Development**

**Division of Translational Research, National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), NIH**

Dr. Bechtholt earned her Ph.D. in Behavioral Neuroscience at Oregon Health & Science University in 2004. Her thesis work examined the role opioid receptors in the conditioned rewarding and aversive properties of ethanol and was supported by an individual predoctoral NRSA from the NIAAA. Dr. Bechtholt’s postdoctoral training in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania focused on understanding how antidepressants are effective, when they are effective, using a variety of behavioral, neurochemical, pharmacological, and genetic methods. This work was supported by a Young Investigator Award from the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression. Her independent research program in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School – McLean Hospital was focused on understanding the role of glial cells in the treatments and causes of psychiatric disorders including anxiety, depression, schizophrenia and alcoholism. This work was funded by the National Institute for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the National Institute of Mental Health, a Young Investigator Award from the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression, an ABMRF from The Foundation for Alcohol Research, an Eleanor and Miles Shore Harvard Medical School Fellowship, and funds from the Shervert Frazier Research Institute.

Dr. Bechtholt joined NIH and NIAAA in the Division of Neuroscience and Behavior as a Program Director in 2012 and transitioned to the Division of Treatment and Recovery Research in 2014 where she administered grants related to translation, neuroscience, biomarkers, technology, centers and training. Since 2019 Dr. Bechtholt has managed a portfolio focusing on training and career development projects related to child and adolescent mental health in the Division of Translational Research at NIMH.

# **Cynthia Dwyer, M.A.**

**NIH Virtual Grants Seminar and Outreach Coordinator**

**Office of Extramural Research (OER), Office of the Director, NIH**

Ms. Cynthia Dwyer serves as a coordinator of the NIH Virtual Seminars on Program Funding and Grants Administration. As part of her responsibilities in the Office of Extramural Research’s Division of Communications and Outreach, she coordinates additional outreach activities and the development of resources for the extramural research community.

Ms. Dwyer began her career with the NIH in 2000 as a Grants Management Specialist for the National Cancer Institute (NCI), where she served for five years. In 2005, she moved to the NIH Office of Policy for Extramural Research Administration (OPERA) where she served as a Grants Policy Officer prior to joining OER’s communications office. Ms. Dwyer obtained her bachelor’s degree from the University of North Texas, her teaching degree from University of Missouri-St Louis, and Master of Arts in School Administration from Lindenwood University in St. Charles, MO. Prior to her career with the NIH, Ms. Dwyer taught grade school, wrote grants for her school district, served as a regional customer service trainer and manager for a major retail chain, and published a travel magazine for Central Missouri.

# **Laura Gray**

**Policy and Compliance Lead**

**National Cancer Institute (NCI), NIH**

# Laura Gray is the Policy and Compliance Lead at NCI; where she advises on internal controls, staff training and policy implementation. Previously at NIH, she was an Assistant Compliance Officer within the Office of Policy for Extramural Research Administration (OPERA) and Grants Management Specialist at NCATS. Laura has over 15 years of public health experience working with international and domestic health organizations. She holds master’s degree in Public Health from Boston University and a Bachelor of Arts from Northwestern University.

# **Shoshana Kahana, Ph.D.**

**Deputy Director, Office of Strategic Extramural Programs (OSEP)**

**National Institute on Aging (NIA), NIH**

# Dr. Shoshana Kahana joined the National Institute on Aging (NIA) [Office of Strategic Extramural Programs (OSEP)](https://www.nia.nih.gov/research/osbr/meet-nia-office-small-business-research-staff) as Deputy Director in December 2021. Prior to joining OSEP, Dr. Kahana was the NIH Training Policy Officer and Senior Advisor in the Division of Biomedical Research Workforce in the NIH Office of Extramural Research. In that role, she provided scientific leadership and oversight for NIH extramural training and career development programs and policies. Dr. Kahana also developed and led several NIH-wide programs linked to the NIH Next Generation Researcher Initiative and the sustainability of the biomedical research workforce, including co-chairing the Early-Stage Investigator Extension Committee and overseeing the development of the Katz Early-Stage Investigator program.

# Dr. Kahana also has considerable programmatic expertise, having served as a Program Director at the National Institute on Drug Abuse from 2008 to 2017, where she managed an extensive grant portfolio focused on substance abuse and HIV treatment development and health services research. During her tenure at NIH, Dr. Kahana has earned numerous honors, including NIH Director’s Awards and NIH Office of the Director Honor Awards. Dr. Kahana earned her Ph.D. in clinical psychology in 2006 from Case Western Reserve University.

# **Jacquelyn Saval**

**Grants Management Officer**

**National Cancer Institute (NCI), NIH**

Jackie Saval began her career as a Grants Management Specialist at the National Cancer Institute in 2008. In her role as a Grants Management Specialist, she manages business related activities associated with grant awards and is responsible for pre-award and post-award grant actions. She enjoys working with grantees and applicants throughout the grants process to advise them on policies and administrative requirements. She holds a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.