



2026 AAS/SUS Surgical Investigators' Course:

# The Grant Writing Workshop

February 1-2, 2026 | Hilton Orlando Buena Vista Palace

*Course takes places immediately preceding the Academic Surgical Congress.*

## Day 1: SUNDAY, February 1, 2026

**\*Schedule subject to change**

**\*Schedule reflects invited faculty**

- 1:00 pm – 1:10 pm** Introduction – Callisia Clarke, MD, MS, Thomas Varghese Jr. MD, MS, MBA
- 1:10 pm – 1:45 pm** Essential Elements of a Successful Research Proposal – Moderator – Ankush Gosain, MD, PhD, MBA
- 1:10 pm Generating a Hypothesis and Specific Aims – Amy Suwanabol, MD, MS
  - 1:20 pm Conveying Significance and Innovation – Andrew Ibrahim, MD, MSc
  - 1:30 pm Graphics/Figures – Susanne Warner, MD
- 1:45 pm – 2:00 pm** Strategies for Success in Grant Writing: What I Wish I Knew Earlier – Dorry L. Segev, MD, PhD
- 2:00 pm – 2:15 pm** How to Get Funding for Clinical Trials – Jashodeep Datta, MD, FSSO
- 2:15 pm – 3:00 pm** How Do Funding Agencies Work? – Moderator – Carrie Cunningham, MD, MPH
- 2:15 pm NIH Organization, Institutes, Funding, CSR, Award Types – Chandler Cortina, MD, MS, FSSO
  - 2:35 pm Non-NIH Funding Agencies – Luke Funk, MD, MPH
  - 2:50 pm Foundation Funding/Local/ Regional – Alexander Hawkins, MD, MPH
- 3:00 pm – 3:10 pm** BREAK
- 3:10 pm – 4:00 pm** Breakout Panel Discussion: Basic and Translational Research – Moderator – Timothy Donahue, MD
- 3:10 pm Topics: Budget, Equipment, Resources, Vertebrate Animals, etc. – Timothy Frankel, MD
  - 3:25 pm Scientific Approach – Tips and Tricks – Sundeep G. Keswani, MD, MBA, FAAP
- OR**
- 3:10 pm – 4:00 pm** Breakout Panel Discussion: Outcomes/Health Services Research – Moderator – Lisa McElroy, MD, MS
- 3:10 pm Topics: Budget, Resources, Strategy for Building a Research Team & Selecting Co-Investigators – Joseph Phillips, MD
  - 3:25 pm Scientific Approach – Tips and Tricks – Oluwadamilola Fayanju, MD
- 4:00 pm – 4:30 pm** Top 10 Mistakes Made when Writing Your First Grant – Justin Dimick, MD, MPH
- 4:30 pm – 5:00 pm** Redefining Metrics of Success – Karl Bilimoria, MD, MS
- 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm** Reception

## Day 2: MONDAY, February 2, 2026

**\*Schedule subject to change**

**\*Schedule reflects invited faculty**

**8:00 am – 9:00 am Panel: Navigating the NIH funding Journey – Moderator – Thomas Varghese Jr. MD, MS, MBA**  
Panelist: Callisia Clarke, MD, MS, Chandler Cortina, MD, MS, FSSO, Lesly Dossett, MD, MPH, Erika Newman, MD, MBA, FAAP, Justin Dimick, MD, MPH

**9:00 am – 9:50 am Breakout: Career Development Awards – Moderator – Joseph Phillips, MD**  
9:00 am The Do's and Don'ts of Writing an NIH K Award Application – Andrew Loehrer, MD, MPH  
9:15 am Developing the Candidate Statement & Career Development Plan – Colin A. Martin, MD, FAAP  
9:30 am Navigating Mentor Mentee Relationships– Caprice Greenberg, MD, MPH  
9:45 am Discussion – All Faculty

**OR**

**9:00 am – 9:50 am Breakout: Independent Awards – Moderator – Gita Mody, MD, MPH**  
9:00 am I Am Not Sure Where to Start – Who Can I Ask for Help? – Allison Martin, MD, MPH  
9:15 am How Do I Get Started (Start Up Funds/ If I Didn't have a K) – Anai Kothari, MD, MS  
9:30 am Panel Discussion/Small Group Advice – All Faculty

**9:50 am – 10:00 am Break**

**10:00 am – 10:50 am Score, Triage, Summary Statement and Resubmission – Moderator – Vikas Dudeja, MBBS**  
10:00 am What Happens to your Grants after Submission – Chandler Cortina, MD, MS, FSSO  
10:15 am Summary Statements and Preparing for Revision – Derrick Wan, MD  
10:30 am Discussion – All Faculty  
10:45 am Closing Comments

**10:50 am – 11:00 am Break**

**11:00 am – 1:00 pm Mock NIH Study Session (Health Services Research or Basic Science)**  
Registrants will be assigned to a mock study section with assigned faculty members.