

Claflin Distinguished Scholar Award Applications: Tips for Success

Summary of January 13, 2015 Claflin Panel Discussion

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Are you planning to apply for a 2015 Claflin Distinguished Scholar Award? This post summarizes highlights from a recent Claflin panel discussion and points you to a helpful resource that offers one-on-one consultations for applicants.

On January 13, 2015, a panel of Claflin Distinguished Scholar alumnae offered tips on putting together a successful application. The panel consisted of:

- **Andrea Ciaranello, MD, MPH**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, 2011 Claflin Scholar
- **Karen K. Miller, MD**, Associate Professor of Medicine, 1999 Claflin Scholar, Co-Chair of the Claflin Award Review Committee
- **Basak Uygun, PhD**, Instructor in Surgery, 2013 Claflin Scholar

The attendees were fortunate to hear the panelist's personal perspectives, as well as what the review committee expects. Following are a few highlights of the panel discussion:

- The strongest candidates have at least some independent funding. This can be in the form of a career development (K) award, an R21 pilot grant, foundation grant, or industry funding. NIH funding is considered the strongest form of funding in assessing candidates.
- Make sure that your research plan is understandable to scientists outside your field. In addition to describing the research you will do, focus on why this research is important.
- Do not make a research plan that is too ambitious. Remember that the award supports additional staff or resources for a period of two years. Panelists advised having a research plan that builds upon your currently funded research.
- The strongest applications describe how the Claflin Distinguished Scholar Award will be leveraged into future grant funding. The review committee wants to see how you will use the award to grow your research program and expand your independence.
- The personal statement should be a short and simple description of your current child-rearing duties. Do include a description of any special circumstances, but avoid drama and keep it straightforward.
- Do not be discouraged if your application is not funded on the first try. Many successful Claflin Distinguished Scholars apply more than once, including two of the current panelists.

Helpful Resource:

For additional support in writing your 2015 Claflin application, we encourage you to sign up for the Office for Women's Careers' **Claflin Consultation Initiative (CCI)**. The CCI matches applicants with Claflin Distinguished Scholar alumnae for feedback, support and encouragement on their applications.

Please click [here](#) to sign up for a consultation meeting.