In today’s funding climate, it is becoming increasingly more challenging to secure independent NIH research funds. Recent data shows ~30% of K awards (NIH RePORT) are funded each year annually.

In order to assist our junior faculty in obtaining NIH funding, in 2014 the Washington University Office of Training Grants and Clinical Research Training Center, with support from the Institute for Clinical and Translational Science, launched a bi-annual NIH Mock Study Section designed to simulate an actual NIH study section.

During this session, NIH clinical and translational R, K, and F series grant applications are reviewed, critiqued, and scored by three internal faculty members as well as other study section members and the feedback is distributed to applicants in a Summary Statement format.

**Conclusions**

- NIH Mock Study Sections are an effective tool to help secure NIH grant funding.
- Over a two year period (2015-2016) We found that 44.4% (4 of 9) of NIH mock study section participants secured NIH K awards, as compared to 32% of K applicants at Washington University and a 30% success rate at NIH as a whole.

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