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Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

Navigating the Foundation Funding Landscape

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Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

#SITC2018

Presenter Disclosure Information

Kristen Mueller, PhD

The following relationships exist related to this presentation:

No Relationships to Disclose

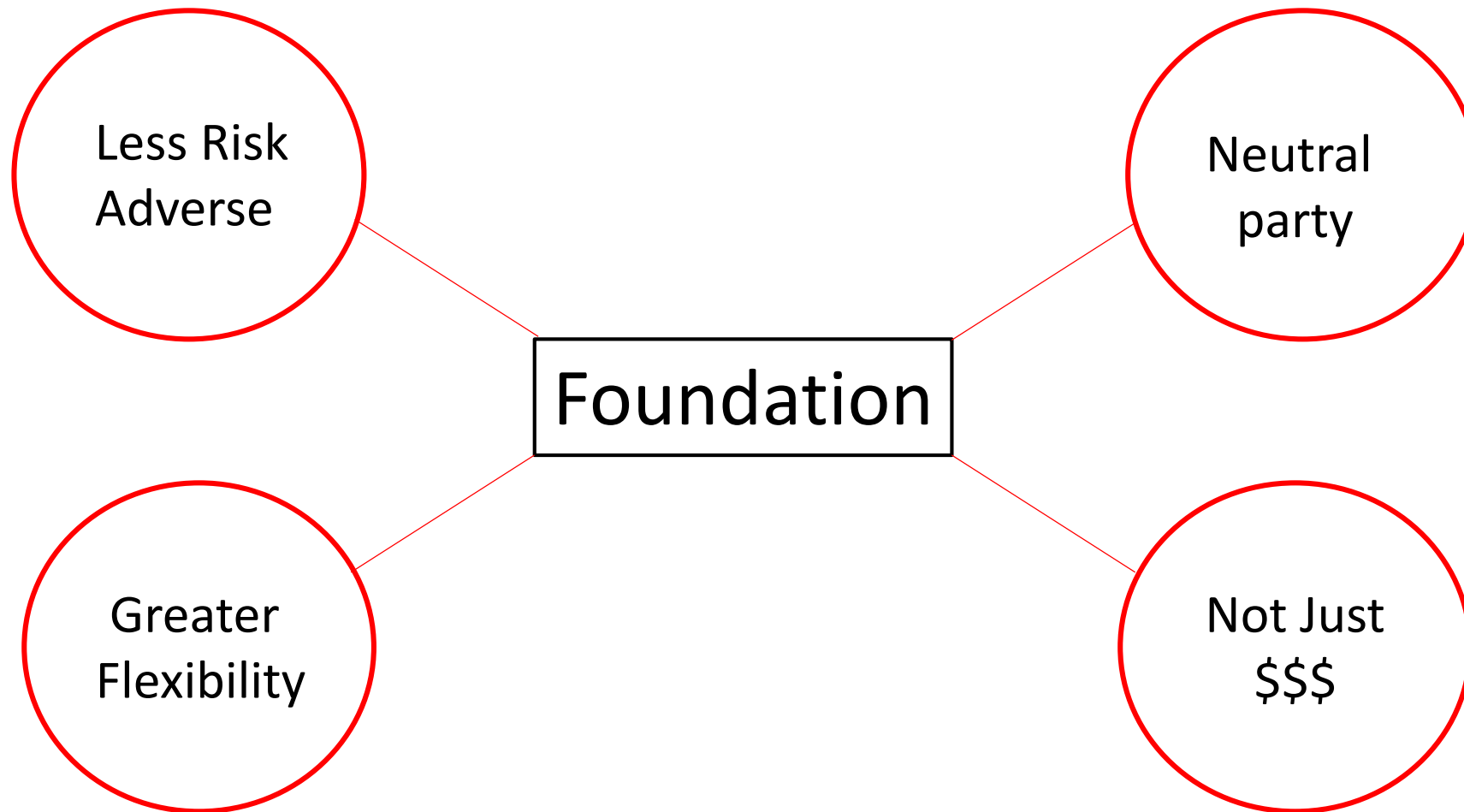
Who Am I and Why I'm Here

- Immunologist by training
- Currently oversee the grants program at MRA
- Before that, spent 8 years as a research editor at Science

What's MRA?

Mission: to end suffering and death due to melanoma by collaborating with all stakeholders to accelerate powerful research, advance cures for all patients, and prevent more melanomas

Why Private Funding?



Compared to NIH, Foundation Funding Might Seem Like the Wild, Wild West...

- The Good News: There are a lot of foundations in the oncology space that fund research!
- The Bad News: If you know one foundation, you know one foundation.



Selecting Foundation Funding That's Right for You

Things to consider:

- Project or person?
- How are awards selected?
- Does the foundation fund indirects (F&A)?
- What are the award terms around IP and ROI?
- Beyond the \$\$, are there additional benefits?



Selecting Foundation Funding That's Right for You

Who can help?

- Colleagues and collaborators
- Office of Sponsored Projects/Grants and Contracts/Foundation Relations
- Foundation websites



Preparing Your Application: Is It a Good Fit?

Understanding the Request for Proposals (RFP)/Program Description

- Eligibility Criteria
- Special Emphasis Areas
- Special Opportunities
- Who is on the review committee?
- Speak to the Program Manager/Program Director
- Who/what else does the organization fund?



Special Emphasis Areas

- Identifying strategies to overcome resistance, treatment failure, and/or difficult-to-treat melanoma subtypes such as acral, mucosal or uveal melanoma
- Informing logical and optimal combination therapies, therapeutic sequences, and/or treatment regimens including adjuvant and neoadjuvant approaches
- Developing strategies to prevent and/or treat metastatic disease
- Identifying markers of response, resistance, and/or risk of recurrence or death
- Improving prevention and early detection strategies by understanding of the biological basis for melanoma formation and/or developing new diagnostic approaches

Special Opportunities

- Artificial Intelligence
- Dermatology
- Radiation Oncology
- Immunotherapy
- Immune-related adverse events

Understand the Review Process

- Are the review criteria published?
- Are applications peer reviewed?
- What is the role of program staff?
- Are patient advocates part of the review process?
- Do you know any of the reviewers?



"Is it just me or are these review panels getting a lot tougher?"

Keys to a Successful Grant Application

- Clear rationale
- Preliminary data (optional)
- Hypothesis driven?
- Interdependent aims?
- Statistical analysis plan
- Data sharing
- Alternative hypotheses
- Patient impact



“Fred, rumor has it you’re closing in on some profound, elemental truths about the universe, and I wanted to remind you that our research funding specifically prohibits that!”

Melanoma

Research Alliance