



Grant Writers' Seminars and Workshops

M. S. (Peg) AtKisson, Associate Member, Grant Writers' Seminars & Workshops, LLC

Education:

Ph. D., Neuroscience, Tufts University School of Medicine

Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences, Boston, MA

Neural Systems and Behavior, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA

Selected Experience:

- Tufts University, Boston MA - Director of Proposal Development, Office of the Vice Provost
- International Medical Equipment Collaborative, North Andover, MA - Director of Communications and Grant Writing
- Tufts University, Boston MA - Scientific Proposal Specialist, Office of the Associate Provost for Research
- Consultant, Grant writing – clients including the Association of Computing Machinery, Hunter College, Tufts University, Wake Forest, and others who will not allow their names to be used.
- Cogniscent, Inc., Grafton, MA - Molecular Biology
- Veritas Medicine, Cambridge, MA - Associate Editor



Photo courtesy University of North Texas

Professional:

Peg AtKisson came into science when she discovered a love of biology while pursuing degrees in English and European languages at Wesleyan College in Macon, GA. She transferred to Florida State University because there were more opportunities for working in a research laboratory. After graduating with a BS in biological sciences, she spent fifteen years at the bench in cell biology, cancer biology, neuroscience, and nanotechnology as a technician, graduate student and consultant. She turned her training in science and background in writing toward the problem of effective communication in grant applications. Her first formal training in grant writing was a Write Winning Grants seminar given at Tufts University by GWSW co-cofounder Dr. Stephen Russell. She considers this experience the foundation of her success.

During her work with Tufts University, Dr. AtKisson made significant contributions to over \$140M in funded grants, including proposal writing, grantsmanship support, team building and strategy design for all areas of research and scholarship. She began as a contract grant writer in 2001, and left Tufts as Director of Proposal Development in 2010, having created an office for grantsmanship support for faculty and multidisciplinary research teams. Her role at Tufts included both direct work on specific applications, and overall strategies to help position university faculty to be highly competitive. Her team's successes ranged from new NSF programs for research and education, significant awards from foundations, research grants for individual investigators from many federal agencies, and large NIH infrastructure grants. She joined Grant Writers Seminars and Workshops part time in 2008, and full time in 2010.

Faculty feedback on "Write Winning Grant Proposals" with Dr. Peg AtKisson

Baylor University

- I appreciated that this focused on the why rather than just how-to. The handouts are outstanding. Thanks very much for this resource.
- Broadly applicable to various agencies. I appreciated coverage of idea development and time scheduling necessary for successful grant writing.
- The presenter was outstanding: engaging, personable, and knowledgeable.

Brown University

- By far the most practical, specific and most easily implemented seminar I've attended on this topic.
- Phenomenal speaker. Very comprehensive workshop with many practical pearls.
- This seminar was helpful because it puts all the information in a logical sequence over the course of the day. Seeing all the keys and pitfalls presented together made everything very clear. The speaker was enthusiastic and entertaining as well as very knowledgeable.

University of Tennessee Institute for Agriculture

- Awesome! Awesome! Awesome! Went to a 2-day grant writing course offered by [...], and learned more today!
- Hits on a lot of topics mostly overlooked by researchers. Extremely helpful for organizing the grant process.

Harvard CTSA

- This was a uniformly excellent presentation. It was informative, with enough detail to be completely actionable, which is very different from prior grants courses I've taken. I think the information from this session will truly improve my ability to write a great grant and feel very lucky to have gotten this experience at this early point in my career.
- I know I have scored everything as excellent, but I really found the presentation today to be very informative, useful, and engaging. Thanks for a great learning experience.
- Well-tailored to our career stage. Relevant information and useful tips, especially insight about what really goes on in review.

University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee

- Extremely engaging. Impressively informative. I don't know if I have ever been so widely awake during an all-day workshop. I very much like that no time is wasted through the workshop, and that we have an opportunity to continue the workshop through hands on training after the workshop. Also I was impressed with [the presenter's] patience and willingness to spend time during breaks answering the questions of participants. My humble opinion is that the workshop – particularly in these times of fiscal austerity – should be Mandatory, especially for junior faculty.
- The tips provided and the tactical approach was very useful, and I am walking away with a lot.
- I especially appreciated the presenter's talent for explaining the conceptual underpinnings of her recommendations. Her approach made the presentation helpful not just for grant writers but writers more generally. I enjoyed and benefited from the presenter's point that grant writing is an iterative process that is integral to, not external from, the scholarship itself.