Career Development Awards:
5 Tips for Success in CDA and beyond

Renda Soylemez Wiener, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor, BU School of Medicine
Investigator, Center for Healthcare Organization & Implementation Research
Adjunct Faculty, The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy & Clinical Practice

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Relevant Disclosures

Pulmonary and critical care physician and health services researcher at BUSM

Just started year 5 of my NCI K07 award

I am also a VA employee

- Considered applying for a VA HSR&D CDA
5 Tips for a success in CDA and beyond

1. Choose the right CDA mechanism
2. Call the program officer before applying
3. Build the right mentorship team
4. Tell a coherent story for career development – what you’ve done and where you’re going
5. Hang in there! – importance of persistence
1. Choose the right CDA mechanism

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>NIH/AHRQ K award</th>
<th>VA CDA</th>
<th>Foundation CDA</th>
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**Success rate of K applications, 1997-2012**

![Success rate graph](image-url)
# 1. Choose the right CDA mechanism

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<th>NIH/AHRQ K12 or KL2 award</th>
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<td>- 2-4 year CDA awarded by individual institution</td>
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<td>- e.g. RWJ Clinical Scholars; American Heart Association</td>
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Choosing the right CDA

- NHLBI K23 (clinical)
- NCI K23
- NCI K07

- VA HSR&D CDA
- American Cancer Society CDA
2. Call the program officer before applying

- Can help you choose the right mechanism
- Can help you tailor your proposal to meet institutional priorities and advise you on what needs work
3. Build the right mentorship team

Mentors should provide complementary perspectives: research and career, different backgrounds

Don’t be afraid to reach out to senior investigators doing related work in the field

- Use professional societies to your advantage

Mentors should be invested in your success – for CDA and beyond
Evaluation of Individuals With Pulmonary Nodules: When Is It Lung Cancer?

Diagnosis and Management of Lung Cancer, 3rd ed: American College of Chest Physicians Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guidelines

Michael K. Gould, MD, FCCP; Jessica Donington, MD; William R. Lynch, MD; Peter J. Mazzone, MD, MPH, FCCP; David E. Midthun, MD, FCCP; David P. Naidich, MD, FCCP; and Renda Soylemez Wiener, MD, MPH

BMJ

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ANALYSIS

TOO MUCH MEDICINE

When a test is too good: how CT pulmonary angiograms find pulmonary emboli that do not need to be found

Renda Soylemez Wiener assistant professor, Lisa M Schwartz professor, Steven Woloshin
4. Tell a coherent story for career development plan – where you’ve been and where you’re going

This will pay off for CDA and far beyond!
4. Tell a coherent story for career plan

- My K07 goal: to understand and improve medical decision-making surrounding lung nodule evaluation to promote patient-centered care

- 4 seemingly unrelated prior publications
Effect of Nucleic Acid Amplification for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* on Clinical Decision Making in Suspected Extrapulmonary Tuberculosis

Renda Soylemez Wiener, MD; Phyllis Della-Latta, PhD; and Neil W. Schlager, MD, FCCP

Trends in the Use of the Pulmonary Artery Catheter in the United States, 1993-2004

Renda Soylemez Wiener, MD
H. Gilbert Welch, MD, MPH

Benefits and Risks of Tight Glucose Control in Critically Ill Adults
A Meta-analysis

Renda Soylemez Wiener, MD, MPH
Daniel C. Wiener, MD
Robin J. Larson, MD, MPH
Unifying theme: Medical Decision Making

- How doctors translate evidence into practice
- How doctors and patients discuss and make medical decisions
- How to improve decision-making to minimize harms to patients

Used this theme for my K application … and subsequent grant applications

- Creating decision support to promote patient-centered care during pulmonary nodule evaluation
- Informing implementation of patient-centered lung cancer screening programs in VA
Unifying theme: Medical Decision Making

- How doctors translate evidence into practice
- How doctors and patients discuss and make medical decisions
- How to improve decision-making to minimize harms to patients

Used this theme for a series of research papers:

- Population-Based Risk for Complications After Transthoracic Needle Lung Biopsy of a Pulmonary Nodule: An Analysis of Discharge Records
- What Do You Mean, a Spot? A Qualitative Analysis of Patients’ Reactions to Discussions With Their Physicians About Pulmonary Nodules
- Augmenting Communication and Decision Making in the Intensive Care Unit with a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Video Decision Support Tool:
- Utilization patterns and patient outcomes associated with use of rescue therapies in acute lung injury*
- Use of Noninvasive Ventilation in Patients with Acute Respiratory Failure, 2000–2009
Unifying theme: Medical Decision Making

- How doctors translate evidence into practice
- How doctors and patients discuss and make medical decisions
- How to improve decision-making to minimize harms to patients

Used this theme to help choose other activities

- ATS Documents development & implementation committee
- Co-Chair of ATS/ACCP taskforce to create pulmonary top 5 list for Choosing Wisely campaign
5. Be persistent

Applies throughout career (grants, manuscripts)

- K07 funded … but my first K07 application was not scored
- Complications of CT guided lung biopsy published in Annals IM… but first rejected by JAMA

Batting 300 is good!

Questions???

rwiener@bu.edu