Office of the Vice President for Research
Research Administration Services

Launching a research career

Finding funding

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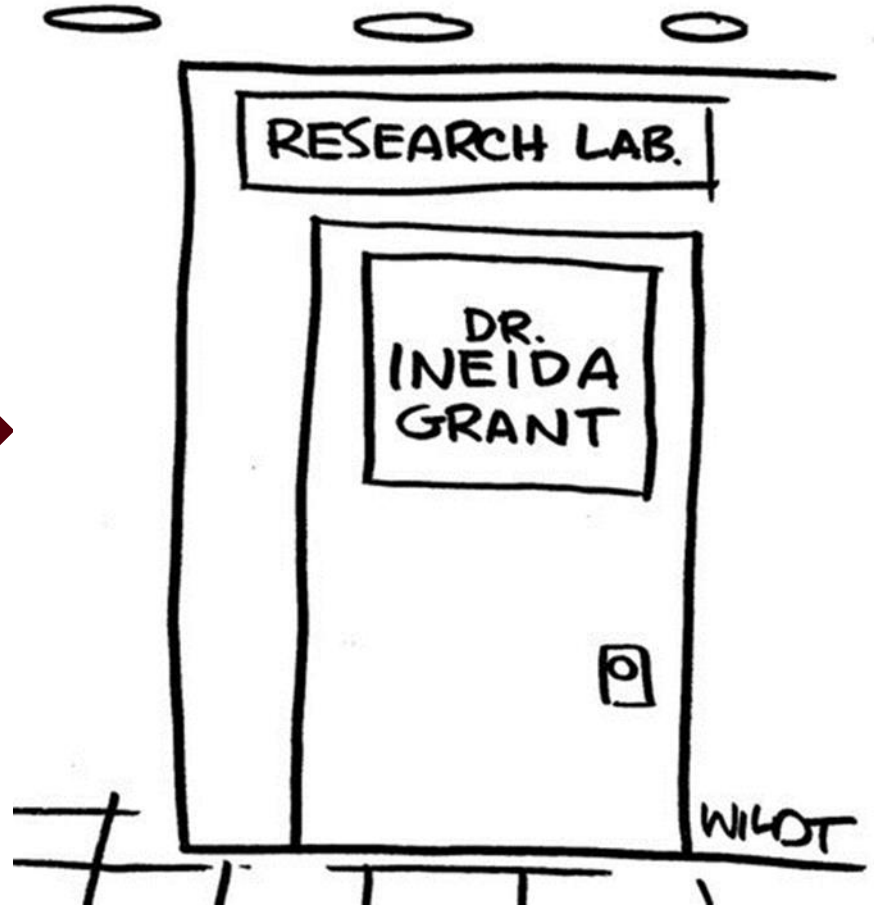
Is this for me?

- Do I want a research career?
- Do I want to be in academia?
- Do I want a faculty position?
- Where will I be in 2031?
- How do I get there?



Why Research Matters

- Drives innovation and knowledge exchange
- Improves society and quality of life
- Supports career advancement in academia (and industry)

Who funds research?

- Universities
- Philanthropy
- Foundations (Under-recovery, T&Cs, & Office of Foundation Relations)
- Industry (T&Cs, IP, negotiations, others)
- Federal government (varies by agency and type of funding)

Genesis of the U.S. government funding research

Advances in science when put to practical use mean more jobs, higher wages, shorter hours, more abundant crops, more leisure for recreation, for study, for learning how to live without the deadening drudgery which has been the burden of the common man for ages past. Advances in science will also bring higher standards of living, will lead to the prevention or cure of diseases, will promote conservation of our limited national resources, and will assure means of defense against aggression. But *to achieve these objectives - to secure a high level of employment, to maintain a position of world leadership - the flow of new scientific knowledge must be both continuous and substantial.*

Vannevar Bush, Director of the Officer of Scientific Research and Development from Science the Endless Frontier (1945)

What research gets funded?

- High-impact
- Aligned with funder priorities
- Responds to urgent needs
- Politically relevant topics

How do I get funded?

- Plan ahead
- Find funding opportunities
- Apply strategically
- Expect rejection
- Resubmit

Plan ahead-for the project & your career

1. Identify funding opportunity
2. Submission
3. Peer review (resubmission)
4. Funding decision
5. Award negotiation (if funded)
6. Rinse and repeat
7. What's next?

From NIH. See NIH Grants Process.

What makes a funding source appropriate?

Do I meet the requirements?

- Check fit and eligibility
- Review budget and period of support
- Understand all requirements before applying

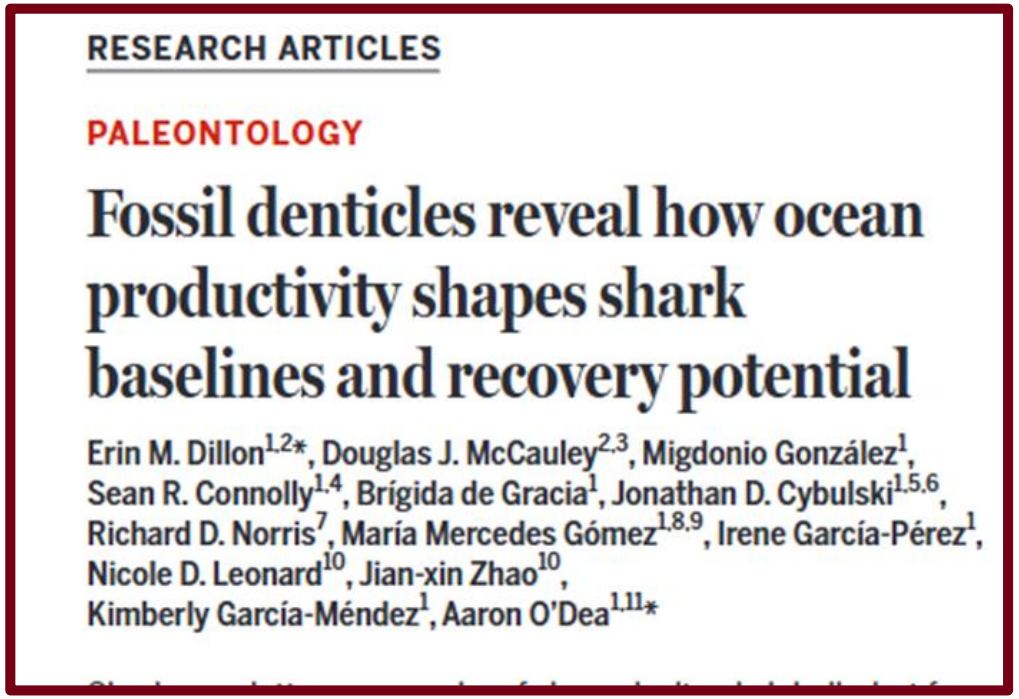
Are the funder, award terms, and requirements OK?

- Is my intellectual property protected?
- Does this opportunity close doors for me?
- Does this opportunity align with the organization where I work?
- Can MIT accept the terms?

Find funding: tools

- Artificial intelligence, intelligence & common sense
- Federal databases/email lists
  - NSF databases
  - Grants.gov
- University resources
  - PIVOT search tool
  - Listserv
  - Research development office hours

Find funding: Artificial intelligence, intelligence, & common sense



RESEARCH ARTICLES

PALEONTOLOGY

Fossil denticles reveal how ocean productivity shapes shark baselines and recovery potential

Erin M. Dillon[1,2]*, Douglas J. McCauley[2,3], Migdonio González[1], Sean R. Connolly[1,4], Brígida de Gracia[1], Jonathan D. Cybulski[1,5,6], Richard D. Norris[7], María Mercedes Gómez[1,8,9], Irene García-Pérez[1], Nicole D. Leonard[10], Jian-xin Zhao[10], Kimberly García-Méndez[1], Aaron O'Dea[1,11]*

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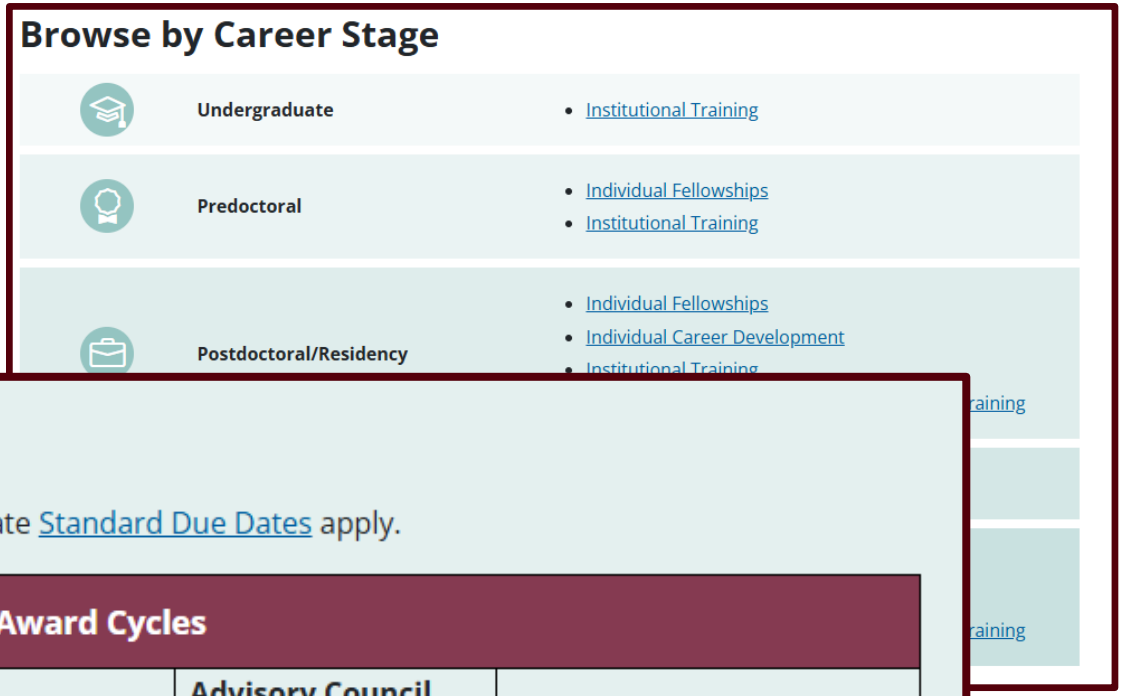
Dillon, E. M., McCauley, D. J., González, M., Connolly, et al. (2026). Fossil denticles reveal how ocean productivity shapes shark baselines and recovery potential. Science, 393(6812), 732–735. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aec2144

Find funding: federal databases



Browse by Career Stage

Undergraduate	• Institutional Training
Predoctoral	• Individual Fellowships • Institutional Training
Postdoctoral/Residency	• Individual Fellowships • Individual Career Development • Institutional Training

Due Dates

The Key Dates section of funding opportunities lists specific due dates. Many opportunities indicate Standard Due Dates apply.

Standard Application Due Dates (when applicable)		Review and Award Cycles		
New	**Renewal, Resubmission, Revision as Allowed**	**Scientific Merit Review**	**Advisory Council Review**	**Earliest Start Date**
February 12	March 12	June - July	August or October	September or December
June 12	July 12	October - November	January	April
October 12	November 12	February - March	May	July

[Research Scientist Development Award - Research & Training (K01)]

Apply strategically

Is this funding opportunity right?

- Check fit and eligibility
- Review budget and period of support
- Understand all requirements before applying

What now?

- Request proposal assistance early
- Work with DLCI research administrator & RAS Contract Administrator
- Allow time for MIT and sponsor reviews

Proposal decisions

- YES!!
  - Notify your DLCI research administrator
  - Ask what the next steps are
  - Read the award multiple times, noting your obligations
  - Go get yourself a cocktail/mocktail
- NO!!
  - Congratulate yourself because you are in good company
  - Take a breath
  - Read the comments carefully, organize them, act on them!
- EITHER RESPONSE
  - Start working on your next proposal!

Institute Resources

PIVOT

Setting up searches

MITFundOps Listserv

Subscribe

Research Development Team

ResearchDev@mit.edu

Borgesen@mit.edu

dcamp@mit.edu

Office Hours – Join on Zoom