

Breakout Session: Mentoring

- 1) What resources were available to you at your institution to help you prepare your ECA application?
- 2) What might be the goals of offering to mentor new ECA applicants through the process? How would we measure progress or success?
- 3) Is there interest in setting up mentoring for ECA awardees with more senior scientists? What would that look like?
- 4) Are there existing models that might be useful to follow?
- 5) Would anyone like to volunteer to look into this issue and come up with an informal proposal for a path forward?

Mentoring Breakouts: Common Themes

- **During proposal preparation**
 - Not a lot of coordinated effort at the universities, but substantial organization at the labs. Some collaborations provide guidance on proposal content (but not on application process & budget)
 - “It’s stressful to not have someone you can ask dumb questions”
 - A general program through ECA alumni network would maybe be most efficient way to make sure this happens equitably across labs and universities
 - Ideas: Proposal preparation “boot camp”, mailing list for questions, slack channel, Wiki Q&A
 - “We’re all very busy, so best to not make this too complicated!”
- **During award period**
 - Guidance from people who have finished award, or are a few years in, for how to get started at the beginning (hire postdocs, administer award, etc.) would be very helpful
 - Guidance for how to roll off the award back onto base funding also needed!
 - Networking is a critical part of mentoring
- **Other thoughts**
 - Mentoring can mean different things: can be more or less actively involved
 - University example: 2 senior faculty assigned to mentor 1 new junior faculty. Very helpful.
 - To motivate active mentoring (senior awardees to more junior), would be nice to have a pot of money to support the time spent on this mentoring