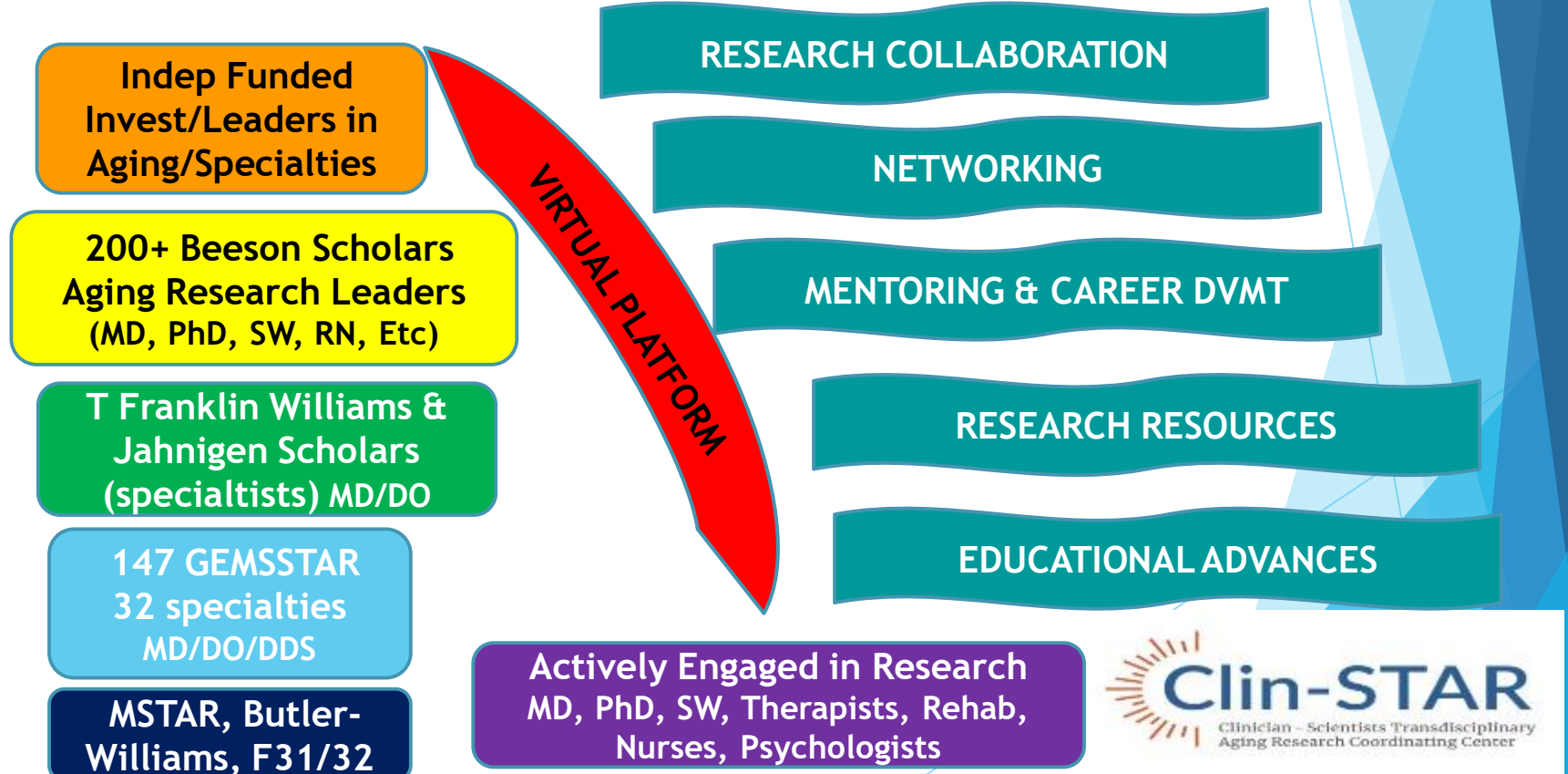


# Working WITH Program Officers

Susan Ziemann, M.D., Ph.D.  
Medical Officer, Geriatrics Branch  
Division of Geriatrics and Clinical Gerontology, NIA, NIH  
GEMSSTAR Webinar 10/15/20

# But Wait...Dr. Wagster didn't mention the SPECIAL SAUCE!

- ▶ More Resources for Investigators focusing on Aging/Geriatrics aspects within Specialties:
- ▶ Introducing Clinician Scientists Transdisciplinary Aging Research - Clin-STAR - a Virtual Wonderland of Opportunities!! Funded by NIA to American Federation of Aging Research (AFAR)

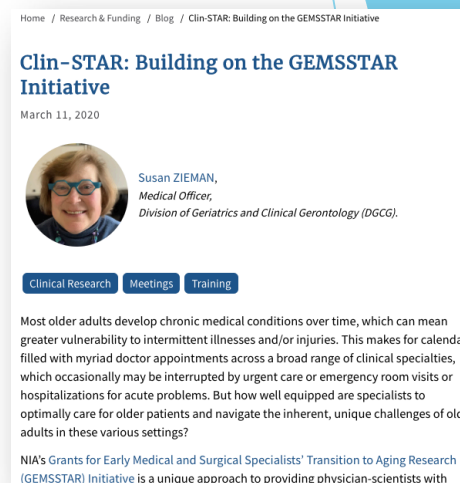




National Institute  
on Aging

## *Synergizing Career Development Toward Improved Care of Older Adults across Specialties and Disciplines*

- ▶ NIA identified need to facilitate transdisciplinary aging research by medical and surgical specialists by:
  - ▶ Funding the creation of **virtual platform** (database designed, executed and overseen by AFAR and PIs) – **Clinician Scientist Transdisciplinary Aging Research (Clin-STAR Coordinating Center)**
  - ▶ **Expand GEMSSTAR Scholars Community** to include specialty Clinician Scientists at all career levels and background (investigator defined by NIH) – pharmacists, therapists, post-doc, social workers, nursing investigators, etc)
- ▶ Opportunities and resources: webinars, career development, transdisciplinary research, networking, mentoring, aging research skills, in person and online meetings/interest groups, mini-sabbaticals, visiting professor
- ▶ Core Structure
  - ▶ Leadership – Tom Gill, Yale
  - ▶ Mentorship & Career Development – Kristine Yaffe- UCSF
  - ▶ Research & Dissemination – Jeremy Walston



**Read the blog here:**  
<https://bit.ly/39nSWoE>

- NIA Administrative Supplement to AGS

**Clin-  
STAR.org**

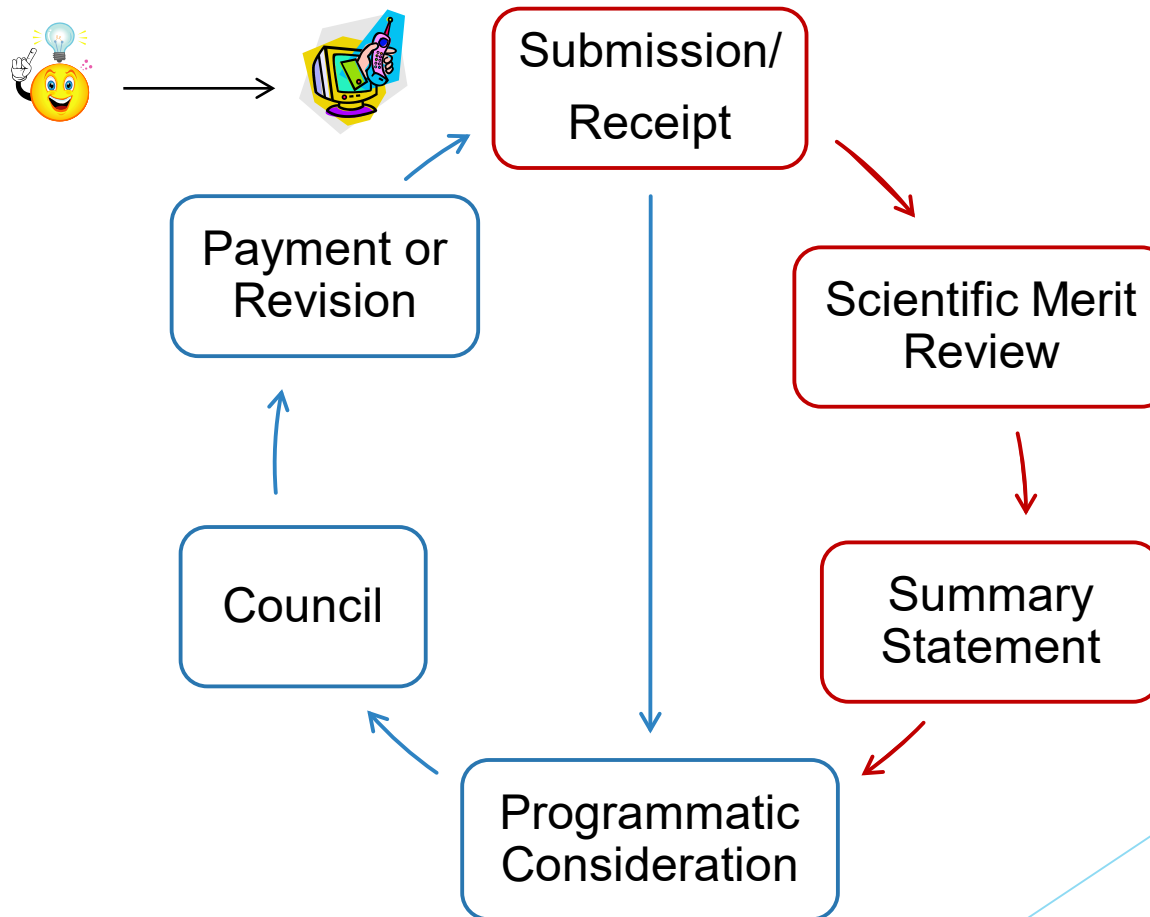
# More about Program Officers

- ▶ We are scientists
- ▶ We have 3 major goals & approaches.
  - Supporting our institute's mission. We set funding priorities.
  - Fostering the development of science. We develop funding initiatives, identify the most exciting scientific opportunities, and advocate for scientific projects.
  - Facilitating the grant application process for investigators. We talk to PIs about their ideas daily, offer feedback on draft Specific Aims, explain Summary Statements, and provide advice for navigating the system.
- ▶ We cannot fully achieve these goals unless you contact us.

# Communicating with Program Officers

- ▶ We are a limited commodity but here to help!!
- ▶ Email query rather than call (we telework and attend meetings)- use GEMSSTAR Email (NIAGEMSSTAR@mail.nih.gov)
- ▶ Send draft of specific aims and questions with initial contact
- ▶ The earlier the contact, the more beneficial the advice.
- ▶ We will help to connect you with the most appropriate PO(s)
- ▶ The more you prepare, the better the information you'll get!
- ▶ Mentors, collaborators welcome on calls.
- ▶ We talk amongst each other and have the same information. Please avoid searching for additional info from multiple POs.
- ▶ *We do not participate in peer review process.*

# With Whom do I Communicate When?



# Take Home Points

- ▶ NIA is happy to help you - please contact [NIAGEMSSTAR@mail.nih.gov](mailto:NIAGEMSSTAR@mail.nih.gov)
- ▶ Ponder your research and career trajectories
- ▶ Clear, Concise, Passionate Writing
- ▶ Follow ALL Instructions
- ▶ Please pack LOTS of PATIENCE for this journey
- ▶ Get lots of feedback

***BEST WISHES!!!***

# Q&A Session