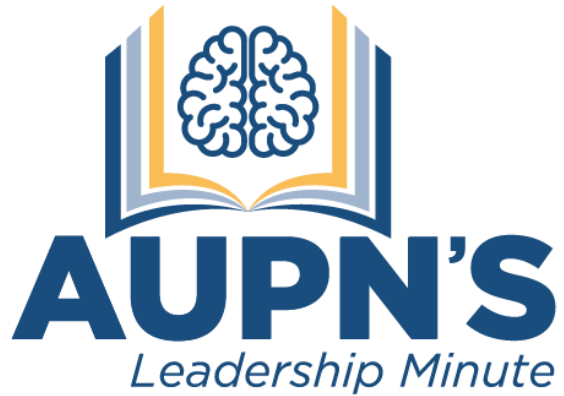




**Donald S. Higgins, Jr. MD**

Veterans Health  
Administration  
Albany Medical College



***Succeeding in Basic  
Research as a  
Department***



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McGovern Medical  
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## **Leadership Minute Podcast Episode Description**

A major challenge in academic neurology departments is supporting basic and translational research. As clinical revenue becomes increasingly important to the financial health of Neurology Departments, supporting non-clinical activities such as teaching and research has become increasingly difficult.

This is especially problematic for physician scientists, many of which require several years of both salary and research support.

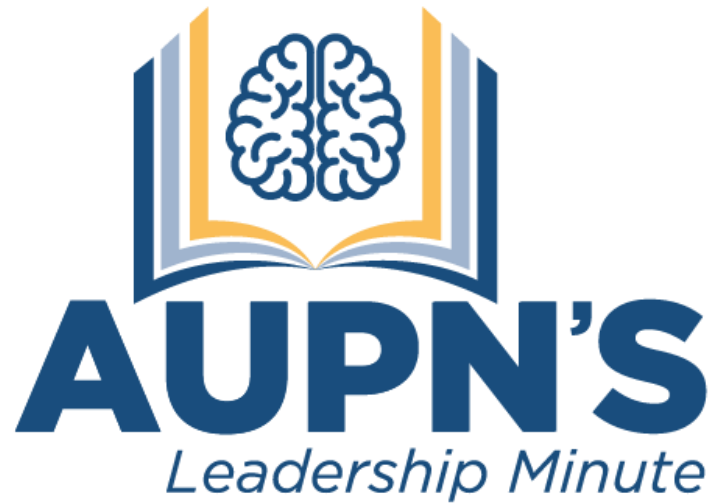
So how can you build research in your Department?

# How to set the foundation

- Recruit well and identify leaders and mentors
- Integrate basic, translational, and clinical efforts across the Department
- Value all research from the cell to the community
- Provide specific support (statistics, bio-informatics, human samples, equipment, and DATA)
- Mix in some basic science in grand rounds and resident lectures
- Partner people (MD, PhD, MD/PhDs)

# Specific Examples

- Start early in training (summer programs, R25, pairing post-doctoral and clinical fellows)
- The “K club”
- Develop biobanks and samples (i.e., COVID)
- Find some cash! Can be foundations, philanthropy, or “just missed programs” supported by the University
- Pilot grants (IGNITE and SPARKS)
- CTSA opportunities



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