**CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY – JOANNA DOWNER**

Joanna Downer founded the Office of Research Development at the Duke University School of

Medicine in 2009 and now leads a team of four (soon to be five) research development

professionals whose primary charge is facilitating development of complex research grants. She

previously worked in science writing and media relations, first at Duke Medicine and then at Johns Hopkins Medicine. At Duke, she covered basic and clinical cancer research, and at Hopkins she covered the biomedical sciences, genetic medicine, and cell engineering. She also has extensive experience in scientific editing. Joanna holds an MA and PhD in nuclear chemistry from Washington University in St. Louis. While in graduate school, she was a Mass Media Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science placed at Time Magazine in Washington, DC. Joanna also holds a BS with Honors in chemistry from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA. Joanna, once an avid volleyball player, now spends her free time running long distances or petting her big yellow dog and hanging out with her husband and stepsons.