Planning for an NIH Training or Career Development Award

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It’s Never Too Early to Start Preparing for Your First Training or Career Development Grant

• For most early career PhD scientists or physician scientists, obtaining an NIH F-award, and then K-award, or a similar grant, is an important milestone in developing an independent research career. (Consult Paul Sanders about similar opportunities at VAMC)

• Positioning yourself to be in a strong position to be competitive for a K-award requires achievements in several domains

• What is the intended role of an F award and later a K award?
Fellowship (F or T) vs. K Awards

Similarities
• Time dedicated for research and career development
• Largely restricted to U.S. citizens/nationalists or permanent residents
• Evaluates applicant, mentor, training plan and research.

Differences
• NRSA Fellowship awards 100% effort; K awards minimum 75% effort except in special circumstances
• Fellowships most often pre and postdoctoral level; K awards more often for faculty than postdocs (but there are exceptions)
Types of Fellowship Awards

• F30 Predoctoral MD/PhD and Other Dual Doctoral Degree Individual National Research Service Award
  – Support for individual MD/PhD and other dual doctoral degree students to extend their potential for career in research

• F31 Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award
  – Support of research leading to Ph.D. or equivalent research degree for individuals to extend their potential for career in research

• F32 Postdoctoral Individual National Research Service Award
  – Research training to individuals to broaden their scientific background and extend their potential for research
NIH Loan Repayment Program

• Commit to perform research for 2 years, and the NIH repays up to $35,000 per year of your qualified educational debt and covers the resulting taxes.

• You must be conducting research in one of the following 5 areas:
  – Clinical Research
  – Pediatric Research
  – Contraception & Infertility Research
  – Health Disparities Research
  – Clinical Research for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds

K Awards Are Mentored Career Development Awards

• There are a number of different mentored K awards that individuals with a research or health professional doctorate should consider.

• Most of these awards support individuals after they have completed training and are transitioning to a faculty position.

K Kiosk:  https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/career-development
Key Features of K Awards

- Require a compelling rationale for why you need additional mentored training
- 3 – 5 years in length
- Provide substantial salary support (75% effort) but limited research funding
- Contain both a training plan and a research plan
- Includes a team of mentors, co-mentors, advisors
- Generally funds to do the research come from the primary mentor
- Goal: transition to research “independence”
Types of Mentored Career Development Awards

• K01

  – Mentored Research Scientist Development Award: for individuals with PhD or comparable degree, usually within 5 years of obtaining PhD, provides for an intensive, supervised career development experience in the biomedical, behavioral, or clinical sciences leading to research independence.

  • Some NIH institutes use this award for individuals who propose to train in a *new field*.
  • Other NIH institutes use this award to increase research workforce in particular types of research.
Types of Mentored Career Development Awards (cont’d)

• K08
  – Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award: MD or comparable degree, development of the independent clinical research scientist.

• K23
  – Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award: MD or comparable degree, development of the independent research scientist in a clinical arena.

• K25
  – Mentored Quantitative Research Development Award: To foster interdisciplinary collaboration in biomedical research by supporting career development experiences for scientists with quantitative and engineering backgrounds.
Newest Types of Mentored Career Development Awards

• K99/R00
  – NIH Pathway to Independence (PI) Award: Provides an opportunity for promising post-doctoral scientists to receive both mentored and independent research support from the same award.
  – 2 years of mentored research (K01/K08 equivalent)
  – 3 years of independent research support (R01 equivalent)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount of Funding per year</th>
<th>K01</th>
<th>K08</th>
<th>K23</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salary Support</td>
<td>Up to $90K plus fringe benefits</td>
<td>Up to $90K plus fringe benefits</td>
<td>Up to $90K plus fringe benefits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research/Training</td>
<td>$25K Plus up to $50K last two years via R03</td>
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Be Your Own Best Advocate

Take advantage of institutional career development programs

• CCTS KL2 Program – 2 years of K-level support, anticipating that you will apply for an individual K-award for an additional 3 more years

• Other K-award programs

• Dept of Medicine Frommeyer Fellowship – senior fellows or junior faculty 2 years of partial salary support ($50K fellows; $75K junior faculty) and $10K for supplies

• Dept of Medicine “Pathways in Academic Medicine Program”
  http://www.uab.edu/medicine/dom/pathways-in-academic-medicine
Be Your Own Best Advocate

Take advantage of institutional career development programs:

- CCTS TIERS Program (Training Interdisciplinary Research Scholars) – every other month 4:45-6:00 career development topics  [http://www.uab.edu/ccts/tiers](http://www.uab.edu/ccts/tiers)

- CCTS K-writing club (5 weeks covering each section of the grant, including peer feedback as you write)

- Dept of Medicine K-grant internal review process

- CCTS Panels for internal grant review
  - Nascent Projects Panel (NPP)
  - Panels Done Quickly (PDQ)
Who to Contact When?

**Contact UAB Office of Sponsored Programs**, or grant.gov, or NIH eRA Help for issues related to submission.

Contact SRO for any review related issues such as changing IRG, sending in supplements, indicating conflicts etc.

Contact PD/PO for IC scientific mission relevance of your research, and advice on grant mechanism, IRG selection and/or revision; and GMS for budget related issues.

Application in Peer Review

Contact PD/PO questions about your summary statement or for revision and funding.

Once funded, contact PD/PO for scientific relevant issues and GMS for process and/or policy issues.
How are grants assigned to a study section?

- The applicant can request assignment to a particular institute and study section in a cover letter.

- If a letter is not provided, the CSR will assign the application based on title and abstract content.

What is an SRO (Scientific Review Officer)?

- Administrator of the study section
- Checks each grant for completeness
- Assigns reviewers
- Communicates with applicant and reviewers regarding:
  - assignment
  - supplemental information
NIH Review Panel Video


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fBDxl6l4dOA&feature=youtu.be