

The NIH K Grants for Career Development

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K Grants

- NIH Career Development Grant
- K Kiosk lists 13 active awards
- I control a 14th – KL2, not listed
- Many are very specific and not all institutes of the NIH support.
- Many for researchers with a clinical degree (that can be combined with Public Health Master or PhD degree)

The place for information: K-Kiosk

<http://grants.nih.gov/training/careerdevelopmentawards.htm>

What makes them career development?

In general:

- For early career investigators
- Fund time off (75%) to get started with research—3 to 5 years
- Require a mentor or mentoring team
- Most require some sort of career development plan or training activities to undertake during the award period
- Goal: To transition early stage investigators to research “independence”.

“Development of the independent research scientist.”

K Awards at OSU

For the years 2011 to 2014:

- \$15,244,205 in K awards at OSU
- Funded from 15 NIH Institutes & Centers
- 88 Grants
- ~ 36 Individual grants
- ~ 49 Institutional

Source: NIH RePORT < <http://report.nih.gov/> >

Eligibility

For all NIH grants:

- Candidates must be U.S. citizens or non-citizen nationals

or

- Possesses a permanent resident card (a Green Card)

K01 in Biomedical Big Data

Mentored Career Development Award in Biomedical Big Data Science for Clinicians and Doctorally Prepared Scientists

- Purpose: provide salary and research support for a sustained period of “protected time” (3-5 years) for intensive research career development under the guidance of an experienced mentor, or sponsor, in biomedical Big Data Science.
- Eligibility: Research or health-professional doctoral degree or equivalent
- Sponsoring Institutes include National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

K07 Development & Leadership

Purpose:

- **K07 Development award:** provides up to 5 years of salary and research support for junior investigators
- **K07 Leadership award:** support for up to 5 years for senior investigators interested in improving the curricula and enhancing the health-related research capacity within an academic institution
- **Eligibility:** a clinical, research, or health-professional doctoral degree.
- **Used by:**
 - National Institute on Aging (NIA)
 - National Institute on Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism (NIAAA)

K12: Institutional K Award

- NCI has a K12 which is used by OSU's CCC
- Goal: "Increase the number of clinicians and Ph.D. scientists who are trained to design and test clinical therapeutic research protocols (pilot/Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III clinical trials), conduct patient-oriented cancer therapeutic research in team research environments"

Source: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-13-201.html>

CCTS KL2 Award

- Institutional grant from NCATS
- Purpose: career development of investigators who have made a commitment to conduct either patient-oriented or translational research
- Eligibility: research or health-professional doctoral degree or its equivalent
- Three year grant
- Receive 75% salary support; research funding; support to write R01 grant in third year

Current KL2 Scholar



Alison Norris, MD, PhD,
Assistant Professor, College of Public Health

Project: Sexual and reproductive health
decisions from medical & epidemiological
perspectives

Mentor: John Casterline, PhD

K99/R00: From Post-Doc to Faculty

- NIH Pathway to Independence Award
- Purpose: Two-stage award to support the final stages of postdoctoral training and to provide independent funding when the candidate secures a faculty position.
- Eligibility: Those with a clinical or research doctorate and no more than 4 years of postdoctoral research training at the time of initial application or resubmission.

K Awards to Promote Diversity

Goals:

1. Provide support & protected time (3-5 years) “for an intensive, supervised career development experience in the biomedical, behavioral, or clinical sciences leading to research independence.”
2. Provide that experience to “individuals representative of groups that have been shown to be underrepresented in health-related science”
 - Eligibility: PhD, clinical degrees
 - For example: NCI uses K01, K08, and 22 for this purpose.

Source: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-12-050.html>

Writing a K Grant

“Understand the intent of the mentored K award: To help promising new investigators achieve research independence (i.e., to compete successfully for R01 funding).

Therefore, preparing for the R01 grant application you will submit at the end of the K award should be the organizing principle of the K grant application.”

Thomas Mitchell, MPH

Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, University of California
San Francisco

Source: <http://accelerate.ucsf.edu/training/K-grant-writing>

Parts of typical K award application

- The Candidate
- The Mentors and Collaborators
- The Environment
- The Research Plan

The Candidate

- Training
- Commitment to research
- Evidence of potential to be an independent investigator

The Candidate: Career Goals and Objectives

“Describe a systematic plan:

- that shows a logical progression from prior research and training experiences to the research and career development experiences that will occur during the career award period and then to independent investigator status; and
- that justifies the need for further career development to become an independent investigator.”

Source: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-14-044.html>

The Candidate: Career Development Plan

- Candidate and mentor prepare this.
- Course work, research, seminars: whatever is needed to “to develop the necessary knowledge and research skills in scientific areas relevant to the candidate's career goals”
- Must include training in the Responsible Conduct of Research

Source: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-14-044.html>

The Mentor

- Should be a recognized expert in the field of the research
- Should have a lab that is well-funded enough to cover research expenses of the candidate that K grant doesn't cover

The Mentor

The application must include a statement from the mentor:

- Mentor's qualifications as researcher and research supervisor
- A plan describing the mentoring that will occur
- A plan for career progression for the candidate from mentored to independent research
- A plan for monitoring the candidate's research, publications, and progression towards independence

The Environment

- Environment: that there are the resources to support research in your area
- Institutional Commitment: Key here is demonstrate you will be given the release time

The Research Plan

A sound research project that

- Relates to the candidates career development goals
- Demonstrates novelty, significance, and creativity
- Consistent with the ability of the candidate to carry out the proposed research
- The application must also describe the relationship between the mentor's research and the candidate's proposed research plan

Resources

Writing NIH Mentored K Award Applications

From Clinical & Translational Science Institute, UCSF

<http://accelerate.ucsf.edu/training/K-grant-writing>

Career Award Wizard [NIH]

<http://grants.nih.gov/training/kwizard/index.htm>

Center for Clinical & Translational Science

<https://ccts.osu.edu/education-and-training-programs/career-development-program-kl2>

Questions?

Cite & *SUBMit*

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