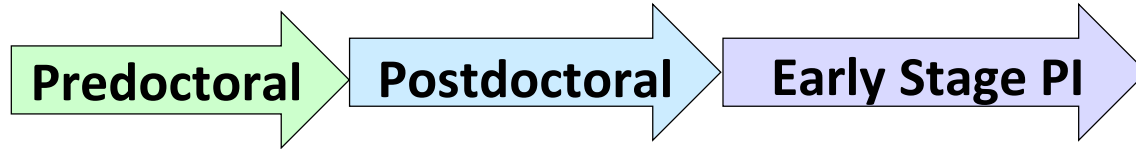


NCI Training Funding Opportunities: The Government Can Help!

*Susan Perkins, Acting Chief, Cancer Training Branch
Acting Deputy Director, Center for Cancer Training*

NCI Grant Funding for Trainees



**Many
Entry
Points**



*Open to Applicants with U.S. Visas

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Institutional Research Training Grant (Parent T32)

- Institutional training program for predoctoral and postdoctoral trainees
- Purpose
 - To develop and/or enhance research training opportunities for individuals interested in careers in biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research
- NCI expects mentors to have independent R01, or R01-like, research funding
 - New and Early Stage Investigators with no such funding may serve as co-mentors

Paul Calabresi Career Development Award for Clinical Oncology (K12)

- Institutional training and career development program for clinician-scientists (MD, DO, PharmD, nurses with PhDs, or equivalent)
- Purpose
 - To increase the number of clinician-scientists trained in clinical and translational cancer research, and to promote their career development as cancer researchers

R25 Cancer Research Education Grants Program

- Provides support for innovative, state-of-the-art educational activities
 - Curriculum or Methods Development
 - Research Experiences
 - Courses for Skills Development

NRSA Fellowships (Fs)

- The Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) is a Congressionally mandated program
- For individuals who are committed to a career in research
- Provide research training support for:
 - Predoctoral trainees enrolled in a PhD (**F31**) or formal dual doctoral degree program (**F30**)
 - Postdoctoral fellows who have the potential to become productive, independent investigators (**F32**)

NRSA Fellowships provide

- Stipend (full-time effort required)
 - Predocs (F30 or F31): \$24,816 per year for up to 5 or 6 years
 - Postdocs (F32): \$50,004—\$61,308 per year for up to 3 years
 - Stipend level depends on number of years of postdoctoral experience
- Partial tuition and fees
 - 60%, up to \$16,000 (in a degree program) or \$4500 (postdocs)
- Funds for training-related expenses (mostly health insurance, travel)
 - \$4200 for a predoc trainee; \$10,850 for a postdoc trainee

Fellowship applications: Factors to consider

- Fs do not fund the research project; therefore, NCI requires that the sponsor have research funding (R01 or equivalent)
- NCI requires a clear cancer focus in the research training
- Timing of submission
 - F30: typically in year 4 of a dual-degree program
 - F31: typically in year 3 of a PhD program; F99/K00
 - F32: 1st (30%) or 2nd (60%) year of postdoctoral fellowship
- NCI expects the applicant to have intellectual input in the project
- NCI encourages Fellowship applications

Individual Career Development Awards (Ks)

- Overall goal:
 - ...to help ensure that a diverse pool of highly trained scientists is available in appropriate scientific disciplines to address the Nation's biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research needs
- K award programs are:
 - ...designed to foster the transition of new investigators to research independence

Individual Career Development Awards (Ks) provide

- “Protected time” for research and research training for 3-5 years
 - Salary and fringe benefits
 - Minimum of 75% professional effort required
- Funds for research development support (\$30,000-\$50,000/year)
 - Research expenses, including technical personnel
 - Statistical services, computer time, etc.
 - Tuition & fees
 - Travel to scientific meetings, workshops, field sites

Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award (K08)

- Eligibility
 - Clinical/professional doctoral degree
 - Postdoctoral, staff, or faculty (non-tenured) position
 - NCI requires the candidate to have an active clinical license to practice in the United States
- Award (3-5 years)
 - Salary (up to legislative cap, \$192,300) + fringe benefits
 - Research development support (\$50,000)
 - NCI K08 supports training in all areas of cancer research

NCI Transition Career Development Award (K22)

- Eligibility
 - Postdoctoral research and clinical fellows
 - At least 2 years of postdoctoral training in cancer research
 - No more than a total of 8 years of non-independent postdoctoral research experience
- If selected, the applicant has 12 months to find a tenure-track position
- Award (3 years)
 - Salary up to \$100,000/year + fringe benefits
 - Research development support (\$50,000/year)

The Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00)

- Eligibility
 - U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and foreign nationals
 - Can have **no more than 4 years** of postdoctoral research experience
 - Must be in a mentored postdoctoral training position
 - Clinicians in a clinical faculty position that denotes independence in clinical responsibilities but not in research may also be eligible

K99/R00 Awards

- **K99** (mentored) phase, 1 year (minimum) – 2 years
 - Salary up to \$100,000/year + fringe benefits
 - Research development support (\$30,000/year)
- For candidates with temporary U.S. visas, the candidate's visa status must allow him or her to remain in the U.S. long enough to complete the K99 phase of the award
- During the K99 phase, the PI finishes postdoctoral research projects and applies for tenure-track assistant professor positions

K99/R00 Awards (continued)

- **R00** (independent) phase (3 years at a U.S. institution)
 - Award provides up to \$249,000/year for salary and research support
 - Pays full negotiated indirect cost rate
 - Transition to the R00 phase occurs only after an independent tenure-track full-time position (or equivalent) is offered and accepted
 - The transition application must be approved by NCI
 - The start-up package must be equivalent to the typical offer
 - The PI must be able to devote a minimum of 75% effort to research
 - The R00 phase is expected to be continuous in time with the K99 phase

Individual NCI training awards to promote diversity

- **F31** – NRSA for Individual Predoctoral Fellowships to Promote Diversity
- **K08** – Mentored Clinical Scientist Career Development Award to Promote Diversity
- **K22** – NCI Transition Career Development Award to Promote Diversity
- **K01** – NCI Mentored Research Scientist Development Award to Promote Diversity
- **R21** – NCI Exploratory Grant Award to Promote Workforce Diversity in Basic Research

Administered by the NCI Diversity Training Branch: crchd.cancer.gov

New NCI Training Programs

F99/K00 NCI Predoc to Postdoc Fellow Transition Award

- Objective: To encourage outstanding late-stage graduate students to pursue careers in cancer research as independent investigators by facilitating their transition to cancer research postdoctoral appointments
- Pilot program, now starting its fifth year
 - Application due date: **December 4, 2019**

F99/K00 NCI Predoc to Postdoc Fellow Transition Award

- For outstanding research doctoral candidates in the 3rd or 4th year
 - Not NRSA; graduate students on student visas are eligible
 - Non-clinical PhD or other research degree program
 - Only 1 nominee per institution
- Dual-phase funding
 - **F99** phase = 1-2 years; similar to F31
 - Fellow completes dissertation research, secures a postdoctoral fellowship
 - Transitions to **K00** phase (mentored K award) = 4 years
 - Higher salary than F32 stipend + \$3,000 for research expenses

NCI “Early K99/R00”

- NCI Pathway to Independence Award for Outstanding **Early Stage** Postdoctoral Researchers (K99/R00)
- Eligible candidates: Postdoctoral fellows with **less than 2 years** of postdoctoral research experience who do not require an extended period of mentored postdoctoral training to achieve independence, especially those in **data science** or **cancer control**
- An institution may nominate up to 3 candidates, one each in data science, cancer control science, and other sciences
- Pilot program, now starting its 2nd year
 - Application due date: **February 26, 2020**

NCI Awardee Skills Development Consortium (NASDC)

- Rationale: NCI supports ~ 1,500 early career stage PIs through “K,” R00, R21, and first R01-equivalent awards
 - These PIs are at a critical career juncture: must compete for additional grants and teach, mentor, manage a lab
 - Requires skills not acquired during grad school or postdoc
- NASDC will support short courses to help these PIs establish and maintain independent cancer research careers
 - Professional skills courses
 - Research/clinical skills courses

NASDC Funding

- 2 companion Cooperative Agreement RFAs (one receipt date)
 - UE5 to support up to five R25-like awards for Short Courses
 - Each UE5 award to offer 1 course in Year 1, 2 courses in Years 2 & 3
 - U24 to support one Coordinating Center to perform centralized logistics and evaluation functions
- Total funds set aside: \$2.5 M per year
- Earliest project start date: Winter 2020 (FY 2020 funds)

Take-Home Message

NCI supports a variety of training awards. The best program for you will depend on

- Your need for additional mentoring and/or training
- Your career trajectory and readiness for independence

Contact the Program Officer *early* to identify the right training award for you and to confirm your eligibility



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