



# Overview of the K Award Funding Mechanisms

*Elements of Successful Career  
Development Award Applications*

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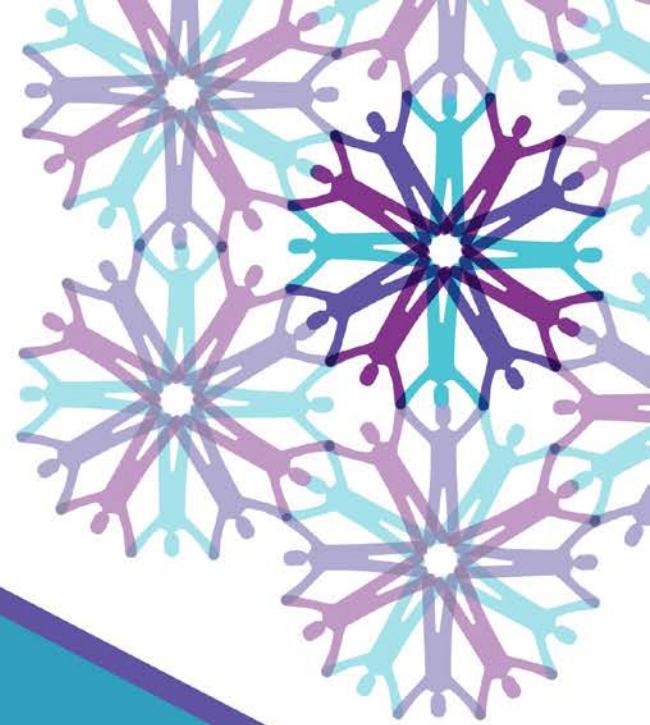
John Ojeifo, MD, PhD, MBA



## Outline

1. *K Award Funding Mechanisms*
2. *Elements of Successful K Award Applications*

# Career Development (K) Award Funding Mechanisms



# K Awards FOAs



- K01: NCI Mentored Research Scientist Development Award to Promote Diversity:  
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-16-401.html> (PAR-16-401)
  
- K08: NCI Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award to Promote Diversity:  
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-16-400.html> (PAR-16-400)
  - Combined previous K23 and K08 (Clinical, Translational, and Patient-Oriented Research)
  - Salary up to \$185k per year; R&D support up to \$50k per year
  
- K22: NCI Transition Career Development Award to Promote Diversity:  
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-17-069.html> (PAR-17-069)
  - Investigators in faculty positions are not eligible

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# Objectives of the K Award Mechanisms



- Provide protected time for research for 3–5 years
- Support training and career development activities to enhance research capabilities under the guidance of an experienced mentor, or sponsor.

# Eligibility Criteria for K Award Mechanisms

## Academic/Career Level of Trainee:



## Diversity of Applicants:

Individuals of  
Different  
Race/Ethnicity

Individuals with  
Disability

Individuals from  
Disadvantaged  
Background

US Citizens or Permanent Residents

## Additional Eligibility Criteria:

K01, K08, K22\*

### Academic/Career Stage of Trainee:

- Candidates applying for a K01 or a K08 award must have completed at least two, but usually not more than five years of postdoctoral training at the time of submitting or resubmitting a K01 or K08 application
  
- \* Candidates applying for a K22 award must have completed at least two, but usually not more than eight years of postdoctoral training at the time of submitting or resubmitting a K22 application
  
- \*Investigators in faculty positions are not eligible to apply for a K 22 award

# K Award Mechanisms

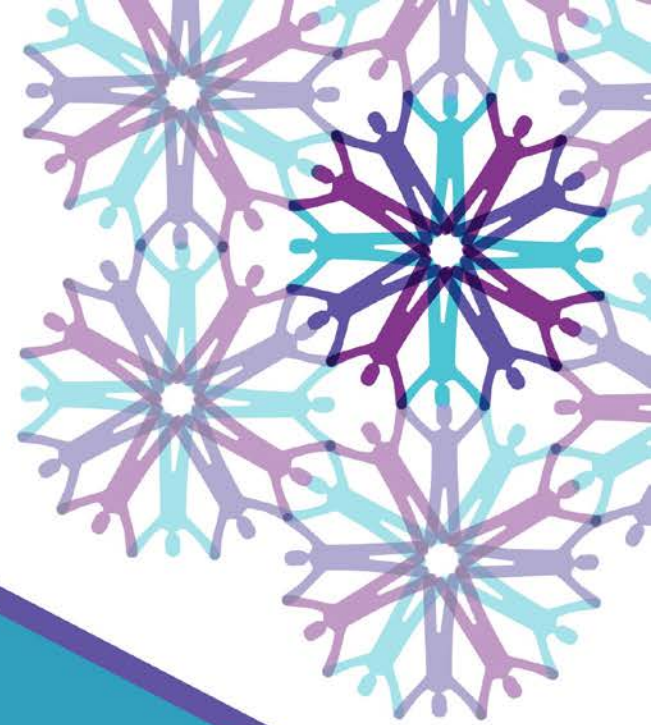
**Due Dates:** February 12, June 12, & October 12

Research focus, Salary and Maximum Duration of Award

K Type	Mentored or Non-Mentored	Research Focus	Max Salary	Max R&D Support	Duration
<b>K01</b>	Mentored	All	\$100k	\$30k	3-5 years
<b>K22</b>	Non-Mentored			\$50k	3 years
<b>K08</b>	Mentored	Clinical, Translational & Patient-Oriented Research	\$185k	\$50k	3-5 years







# Elements of Successful K Award Applications

# Elements of Successful K Award Applications

- Strong:
  - Candidate
  - Research Plan
  - Career Development Plan/Career Goals & Objectives
  - Mentor(s), Consultant(s), Collaborator(s)
  - Environment and Institutional Commitment to the Candidate

# Elements of Successful K Award Applications: Candidate

- Strong candidates have:
  - Excellent education, academic training, & experience in the area of proposed research
  - Well prepared Biosketch
  - Clear career goals
  - Highly productive (good publication record)
  - Strong reference letters

- Strong:
  - ✓ ***Candidate***
    - Research Plan
    - Career Development Plan/Career Goals & Objectives
    - Mentor(s), Consultant(s), Collaborator(s)
    - Environment and Institutional Commitment to the Candidate

# Elements of Successful K Award Applications: Research Plan

- Strong research plans:
  - Are well-written with a good training vehicle to establish PI's niche & portable
  - Have a sound research strategy (highly significant, innovative, solid research approach, design, & feasible)
    - Includes the scientific and technical merits of the scientific question, including the experimental design, expected outcomes, and methodology used to address the hypothesis
  - Reasonable timeframe is proposed
  - Research plan vetted by mentors & well-aligned with PI's career Goals

- Strong:
  - Candidate
  - ✓ ***Research Plan***
    - Career Development Plan/Career Goals & Objectives
    - Mentor(s), Consultant(s), Collaborator(s)
    - Environment and Institutional Commitment to the Candidate

# Elements of Successful K Award Applications: Research Plan (Cont.)

## ■ Address:

- Scientific Premise of Proposed Research
- Rigor of Experimental Design
- Consideration of Sex and Other Relevant Biological Variables
- Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources

<https://www.nih.gov/research-training/rigor-reproducibility>

- Strong:
  - Candidate
  - ✓ ***Research Plan***
  - Career Development Plan/Career Goals & Objectives
  - Mentor(s), Consultant(s), Collaborator(s)
  - Environment and Institutional Commitment to the Candidate

# Elements of Successful K Award Applications: Career Development Plan (CDP)

- Strong CDPs are well-written and:
  - Provide a timeline for research and non-research activities that enhance research training
    - e.g., courses, workshops, techniques, scientific meetings, presentations, etc.
  - Document prior & future trainings in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) suitable for the applicant's career stage

- Strong:
  - Candidate
  - Research Plan
  - ✓ ***Career Development Plan/Career Goals & Objectives***
  - Mentor(s), Consultant(s), Collaborator(s)
  - Environment and Institutional Commitment to the Candidate

# Elements of Successful K Award Applications: Mentor(s), Consultant(s), Collaborator(s)

- Strong mentor(s), consultant(s), collaborator(s) and advisory committee (if any) are well qualified and have:
  - Good track record of funding and publication
  - Considerable K grantee mentoring experience
  - Strong statements for the applicant
  - Matched expertise & strong track record of mentoring ESIs

- Strong:
  - Candidate
  - Research Plan
  - Career Development Plan/Career Goals & Objectives
  - ✓ ***Mentor(s), Consultant(s), Collaborator(s)***
  - Environment and Institutional Commitment to the Candidate

# Elements of Successful K Award Applications: Environment & Institutional Commitment to the Candidate

- A strong Environment & Institutional Commitment section should include:
  - Outstanding supportive research environment
  - Strong institutional commitment to the candidate with guaranteed minimum of 75% commitment to candidate's effort devoted to research
  - Adequacy of research facilities and training opportunities, including capable faculty
  - Assurance that institution intends for the candidate to be an integral part of its research program
  - Eligibility letter provided by the institution

- Strong:
  - Candidate
  - Research Plan
  - Career Development Plan/Career Goals & Objectives
  - Mentor(s), Consultant(s), Collaborator(s)
- ✓ ***Environment and Institutional Commitment to the Candidate***



# K Award Workshop Agenda: Guidance & Tips

- Candidate Biosketch *John Ojeifo, MD, PhD*
- Research Plan *Abigail Soyombo, PhD, MBA*
- Career Development Plan *Anil Wali, PhD*
- Mentors/Co-Mentors/Institutional Environment *Abigail Soyombo, PhD, MBA*



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[cancer.gov/crchd](https://cancer.gov/crchd)

# What Do We Look for in a Career Development Application?

Applicant	Career Development & Mentoring Plan	Research plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Excellent training &amp; research experience</li><li>• Highly productive (good publication record)</li><li>• Clear career <b>goals</b></li><li>• <b>Eligibility letter</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Well-written career development plan</li><li>• Matched expertise &amp; strong mentoring track record of mentor(s)</li><li>• Strong reference letters</li><li>• Strong environment &amp; institutional support</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Good training vehicle to establish applicant's niche &amp; portable</li><li>• Sound approach (appropriate research design and feasible)</li><li>• Well written with good alignment with applicant's career goals</li></ul>