



Students
Career Path Postbaccalaureate Predoctoral
Mentoring Opportunities
Grants Training Prevention
Research Internships Fellowships Clinical
Basic Science Collaboration Postdoctoral Diversity
Data Science Epidemiology Innovation



Funding for the Next Generation of Cancer Researchers: Updates from the NCI

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Chief, Cancer Training Branch, Center for Cancer Training



CABTRAC
October 25, 2021

Outline

1. *Overview of NCI Funding for Cancer Training*
2. *Budget and Funding Outlook*
3. *COVID-19 Flexibilities and Support for Childcare*
4. *Additional Funding Opportunities*
5. *Recent Highlights in Cancer Training Opportunities*
6. *NIH Policies: Early-Stage Investigators and Anti-Harassment*

NCI Extramural Funding for Cancer Training

Cancer Training Branch Center for Cancer Training (CCT)

Awards intended for all cancer researchers

- Institutional Training Grants
- Research Education Grants
- Individual Career Development Awards
- Transition Awards
- Fellowships

Chief: Nas Zahir, PhD
<https://www.cancer.gov/grants-training/training/funding>

Diversity Training Branch Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities

Awards intended for underrepresented minorities and individuals with disabilities

- Research Education Grants
- Individual Career Development Awards
- Transition Awards
- Fellowships
- Research Supplements to Promote Diversity

Acting Chief: Alison Lin, PhD
<https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/crhd/diversity-training/cure>

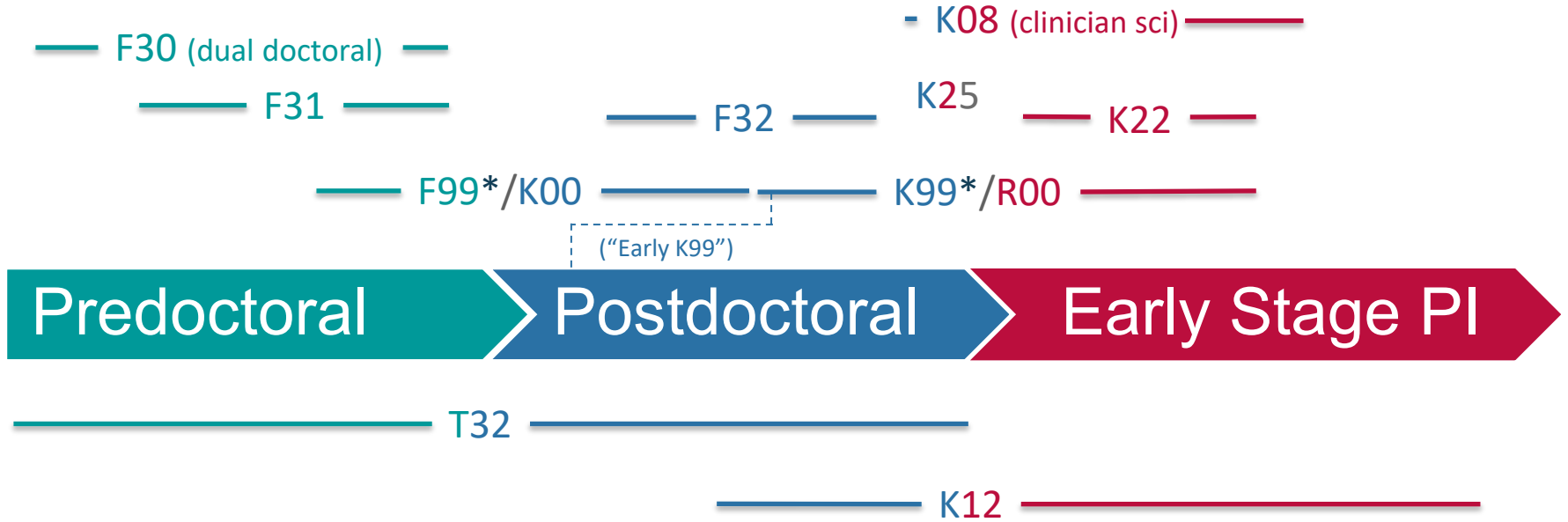
Center for Global Health

Awards intended for mentored training in global cancer research

- Institutional Capacity Building and Mentored Training
- International Research Scientist Development Award

Program Director: Sudha Sivaram, DrPH, MPH
<https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/cgh/research-training>

CCT Support for Training at Different Career Stages



LRP F33 R25 K18 K38

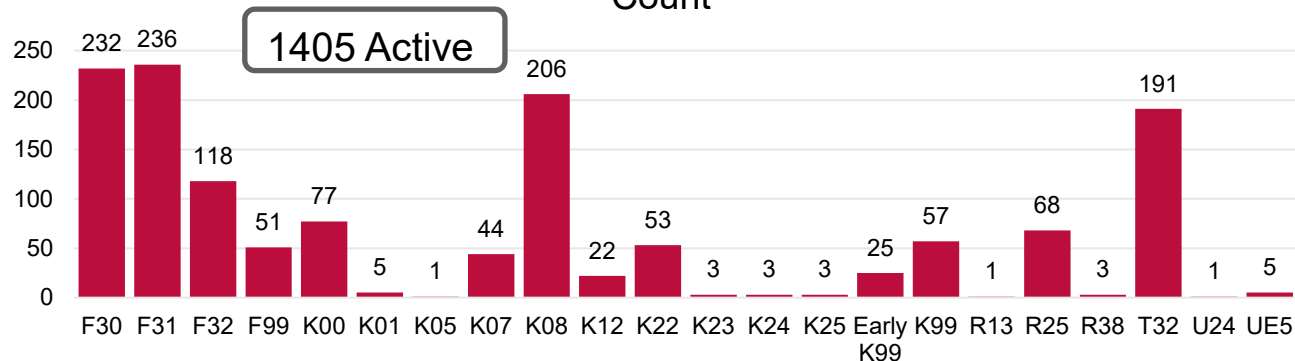
*Open to Applicants with U.S. Visas

<https://www.cancer.gov/grants-training/training/funding>

Budget and Funding Outlook

CTB Portfolio Snapshot – Oct 2021

Count

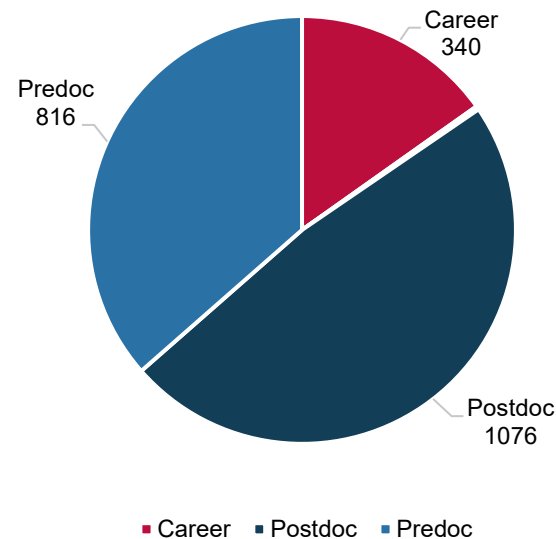


Funds (\$M)



Career Stages of Trainees

(numbers fluctuate continuously)



>1,000 R25 participants
~200 LRP awardees (\$13M)

Funding Rates – 5 Year Average (2016-20)

| Program | # of Applications/yr | # of Awards/yr | Success Rate |
|---------|----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| F30 | 153 | 63 | 41% |
| F31 | 311 | 76 | 25% |
| F32 | 216 | 49 | 23% |
| F33* | 1 | 1 | 100% |
| F99 | 75 | 28 | 37% |
| K08 | 104 | 36 | 34% |
| K99 | 192 | 37 | 20% |
| K22 | 96 | 16 | 14% |
| K12 | 7 | 4 | 65% |
| R25 | 27 | 11 | 43% |
| T32 | 68 | 36 | 53% |
| U24* | 3 | 1 | 33% |
| UE4* | 16 | 5 | 31% |

<https://report.nih.gov/funding/nih-budget-and-spending-data-past-fiscal-years/success-rates>

NIH Operates Under a Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year 2022

- In previous years while under continuing resolution, non-competing training awards have been funded at the committed level and not reduced
- For now, the NRSA stipend levels and salary limitation will remain at FY21 levels
- Some new awards may be delayed
- Initial paylines are very conservative with potential for expansion later in FY2022



COVID-19 Flexibilities and Support for Childcare

NCI Support for Early Career Scientists Impacted by COVID-19

- [NOT-OD-21-052](#): Requesting Extensions for Early Career Scientists Whose Career Trajectories Have Been Significantly Impacted by COVID-19
 - Eligible Candidates: Active NCI-Funded Awardees
 - FY21: Cancer Training Branch funded 14 extensions totaling \$770K
- [NOT-OD-21-106](#): Temporary Extension of Eligibility for the NIH K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award During the COVID-19 Pandemic
 - Individuals whose final due date eligibility based on a 48-month eligibility window was either the June/July 2021 or October/November 2021 will have a 2 cycle extension of eligibility (to February/March 2022 and June/July, 2022, respectively).
 - Multiple extensions for events occurring during the same time period are not permitted.

Childcare Costs

Supplemental funding for Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) individual fellows to support family-friendly work environments for the NIH supported workforce

- NRSA Individual Fellowship Awards Childcare Cost Supplements: [NOT-OD-21-074](#)
 - Eligible Candidates: Active NIH-Funded NRSA Fellowship Awardees
 - Applications are accepted on a rolling basis
 - Supplement budget is \$2,500 annually
 - FY21: CTB Funded 14 applications totaling \$35K

Childcare Costs

Announcement of childcare costs for Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Institutional Research Training Awards [NOT-OD-21-177](#)

- Annual \$2,500 will be provided per each full-time predoctoral or postdoctoral NRSA trainee appointment slot at the time the new, renewal, or continuation award is made.
- For active awards, NIH anticipates beginning to award the additional \$2,500 in childcare costs per trainee slot at the time of the next continuation award starting in Fiscal Year 2022.
- New applicants do not need to request these funds at the time of application.
- Reporting for continuing applications: In Section G.1 of the RPPR, recipients must upload a PDF named “Childcare_Costs.pdf”, specifying the number of trainees who used childcare costs in the reporting period. System enhancements are forthcoming that will incorporate reporting via xTrain.



Recent Highlights in Cancer Training Opportunities

Recent Highlights in Cancer Training Opportunities

- NCI Awardee Skills Development Consortium ([NASDC](#)): Research Education Short Courses (UE5) – registration for Spring 2022 courses will open in November
 - Mentoring, leadership, and research on cancer health disparities (Univ Utah)
 - Academic career skills: leadership, collaboration, and resilience (DFCI/MGH)
 - The cell and gene therapy toolkit for junior faculty (UPenn/CHOP)
 - Immuno-oncology for the translational researcher (MSKCC)
- NCI rejoined [K25](#) FOAs mentored award for investigators with quantitative scientific and engineering backgrounds
- Reissued the NCI [K22](#) FOAs transition career development award for those ready to move to independent academic faculty positions
- Renewal of [F99/K00](#) FOA predoc to postdoc fellow transition award: deadline Nov 18, 2021

Cancer Training Refinements

- [T32](#) (The Ruth L. Kirschstein NRSA Institutional Research Training Grant) postdoc : predoc 3:1 ratio removed
- [K12](#) (Paul Calabresi Career Development Award for Clinical Oncology) enhanced with support for an annual meeting for the Mentor & Scholar community
- [K08](#) (Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award) effort requirement of 75% reduced for surgeon scientists to at least 50% effort

Cancer Training Branch Participation in NIH Notices of Special Interest (NOSI)

- Administrative Supplements to Participate in the NCI Early-stage Surgeon Scientist Program (ESSP) -- [NOT-CA-21-100](#) pilot program for Cancer Centers and centers for Comprehensive Partnerships to Advance Cancer Health Equity. Applications due December 8, 2021 for 1st of 3 cohorts.
- Dietary Effects on Nutrient Sensing Pathways in Tumor Etiology and Prevention ([NOT-CA-21-121](#): K08-diversity, K22-diversity, parent K99/R00)
- Understanding the Effects of Cancer and Cancer Treatment on Aging Trajectories and Aging Outcomes ([NOT-CA-21-031](#): K01, K08, K23, parent K99/R00, and more)

*Note: NCI supports all areas of cancer research and participation in NOSIs is intended to signal interest in specific research areas but does **not** imply additional funds have been allocated.*

Nascent Ideas of Potential Special Interest Research Areas for Institutional Cancer Training Grants

- Should NCI consider areas of special interest for T32 training programs that combine multiple disciplines?
 - Prior areas have included cancer nanotechnology (NOT-CA-14-035)
 - Upcoming cancer-focused areas could include*
 - Computational sciences including artificial intelligence, machine learning, deep learning
 - Cancer evolution and evolutionary theory
 - Bridging physical science and engineering in cancer
 - Cancer and economics
 - (*ideas welcome*)

*** Note: these are examples of topics that could be emphasized and there is no current commitment that the NCI will do so**

Additional Funding Opportunities

Supplements within the CURE: Diversity and Re-Entry



- Provide additional funding to currently active NIH grants (parent grants, excluding T32) to support research experiences of trainees ([PA-21-071](#))
- Parent grant must have **at least two years** of active status at the time of supplement application
- Application receipt: **Oct 1 – Dec 1** and **Feb 1 – Mar 30**
- A **bridge** for underrepresented candidates to progress to the next academic/career level
- Diversity Supplements: <http://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/crchd/diversity-training/cure/DSGuidelines>
- Re-entry Supplements: <http://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/crchd/diversity-training/cure/ReEntryGuidelines>

The NIH Loan Repayment Program Helps Pay Back Education Loans

- Eligible Candidates: Researchers conducting cancer-focused studies in clinical translation, pediatric cancer, cancer health disparities, epidemiology, population sciences, and prevention.
- Online Application Period: 9/1-11/18, 2021
- Award is up to \$50,000 per year and renewable as long as applicant continues to meet eligibility criteria and has eligible educational debt
- FY21: NCI funded ~208 applications. Success rate: ~69%
- NCI LRP Liaison (contact)
 - Mark Damico, PhD mark.damico@nih.gov





NIH Policy Updates:
-- *Early-Stage Investigator*
-- *Anti-Harassment*

NIH Early-Stage Investigator (ESI)



An NIH ESI is a New Investigator who has completed their terminal degree or medical residency (or the equivalent and whichever date is later) **within the past ten years** and has not yet been awarded a substantial, competing NIH research grant

- NCI Established Investigator R01 Payline (FY21): 11th percentile
- NCI ESI R01 Payline (FY21): **16th percentile**

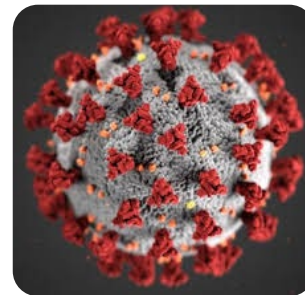
NIH ESI definition: <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/early-stage/index.htm>

NIH ESI policy: <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/early-investigators/list-smaller-grants.htm>

NCI funding policy: <https://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/grantspolicies/finalfundltr.htm>

Has your research productivity been impacted by COVID-19 during your ESI period?

- Submit a request for an extension to your NIH ESI status. Describe the nature of the disruption to your research in the request.
- NIH will consider requests to extend the ESI status period for reasons that can include the following, as determined on a case-by-case basis at the sole discretion of NIH.
 - Medical concerns
 - Disability
 - Family care responsibilities
 - Natural disasters
 - Active duty military service
- Submit an ESI Extension Request using link found in the Education section of the PI's Personal Profile in [eRA Commons](#).



NIH Anti-Harassment Policy – Current Actions



The 2018 [National Academies report on sexual harassment of women in science](#) found that “*federal agencies may be perpetuating the problem of sexual harassment.*” The NIH Director stated concern that NIH has been part of the problem. Thus, the NIH is working on:

- **Demonstrating accountability and transparency**
 - A clear message to institutions that NIH funds and researchers who lead the research that sexual harassment is unacceptable.
- **Clarifying expectations** for institutions and investigators to ensure safe workplace
 - Read more on the 6/14/2019 “[Open Mike](#)” blog
- Providing **clear channels of communication** to the NIH
 - For concerns related to harassment affecting NIH-funded research, a confidential email can be sent to: GranteeHarassment@od.nih.gov or call (301) 480-6701 or use the confidential webform: <https://public.era.nih.gov/shape/public/notificationForm.era>

Thank you for your attention

Email: nas.zahir@nih.gov

Twitter: @nas_zahir | @nci_bogler



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See our website for more information on funding mechanisms and our contact information

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