

T32 Summary Statement 101

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Subcommittee F True Confessions



The Low-Down on Subcommittee F Part 1

1. Basic Science T32s are a small part of what is reviewed.
2. Subcommittee F is a motley crew.

What is the group dynamic like?

How do population scientists and clinicians view a basic science T32?

Is that view different from "us"?

How/Should this impact the writing of a T32 application?

The Low-Down on Subcommittee F Part 2

1. T32 Program Plan is 25 pages.
2. There are 8 sets of Tables, some with an A, B, C
3. "Average" assignment: 5-6 applications (311-1376 pages)

Do reviewers really read everything and look at every table?
(C'mon...be honest)

In any case,

what are the most important parts of the application?

what about those tables?

How/Should this impact the writing of a T32 application?

How do I make sure I don't annoy the reviewers?

Recent Changes

Recent Change # 1

3 POSTDOCS:1 PREDOC

Recent Change # 1

~~3 POSTDOCS:1 PREDOC~~

Recent Change # 2

4. Budget (Direct cost)

- New program may request up to 6 trainee slots.
- May request changes in types of trainee slots, i.e., may convert postdoctoral slots to predoctoral slots and vice versa.
- May not request more than 8 trainee slots in any budget year at the time of competitive renewal; a program with more than 11 current trainee slots may request a stepwise reduction.
- Applicants requesting \$500,000 or more in direct costs in any year must contact a Program Director at least 6 weeks before submitting the application and follow the policy on the Acceptance for Review.

How many slots should I request?

How many postdocs versus predocs?

For predoctoral students, are there any guidelines for how competitive the slots should be, such as # applicants for each funded T32 slot?

Overlap

1. NCI T32 training program must be cancer focused, and innovative. May support predoctoral only, postdoctoral only, or combined predoctoral and postdoctoral training. For new programs NCI will give funding priority to programs that do not overlap substantially with existing programs at the applicant institution.

What does “overlap substantially” mean?

If there are other T32s at my institution, what can I do?

With the reduction in total slot numbers, there will be more applications and then more T32s?

Training Faculty

PROGRAM CONTACT: Susan Lim 240-276-5630 llms@mail.nih.gov	SUMMARY STATEMENT (Privileged Communication)	Release Date: 11/04/2014
Principal Investigator AARONSON, STUART A MD		Application Number: 2 T32 CA078207-16A1
Applicant Organization: ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI		
Review Group: NCI-F Subcommittee F - Institutional Training and Education Institutional Training and Education		
Meeting Date: 10/20/2014	RFAPA: PA14-015	
Council: JAN 2016	POC: W9TR	
SRG Action: Impact Score: 30		
Next Steps: Visit http://grants.nih.gov/grants/next_steps.htm		
Human Subjects: 10-No human subjects involved		
Animal Subjects: 10-No live vertebrate animals involved for competing appl.		

Project Year	Direct Costs Requested	Estimated Total Cost
16	611,328	653,267
17	649,539	694,119
18	707,772	756,350
19	784,894	817,393
20	780,446	812,639
TOTAL	3,493,978	3,733,788

ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET NOTE: The budget shown is the requested budget and has not been adjusted to reflect any recommendations made by reviewers. If an award is planned, the costs will be calculated by Institute grants management staff based on the recommendations outlined below in the COMMITTEE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS section.

Weaknesses

- There is no indication of how the program handles junior faculty who will have little or no training experience.

Should there be a mentorship program for junior faculty?

What about senior faculty?

Why would there be a mentor listed on Table 4 that does not have any grant support?

We have a faculty member with a 3-year award that is \$149,001 direct costs - can he be a primary mentor (I'm assuming no)

What are the criteria for being on the Training Faculty (aside from the obvious R01 funding issue)?

Should there be a mechanism to remove faculty from the Program?

Applicant Pool

We have several faculty who are relatively new to our institution. Should we count trainees who worked with these faculty mentors at a previous institution (Tables 2, 5A, 8C)?

How many "representative" prior graduate students should be included in Table 5A?

When describing the applicant pool, is this restricted to graduate students in the labs of mentors on the currently submitted grant, or the whole program?

Postdoc Applicant Pool

PROGRAM CONTACT: Susan Lim
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SUMMARY STATEMENT
 (Privileged Communication)

Release Date: 11/06/2014

Application Number: 2 T32 CA079207-16A1

Principal Investigator
 AARONSON, STUART A MD

Applicant Organization: ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI
 Review Group: NCI-F
 Subcommittee F - Institutional Training and Education
 Institutional Training and Education

Meeting Date: 10/29/2014
 PEA/P4: PA14015

Next Steps: Visit http://grants.nih.gov/grants/next_steps.htm

Human Subjects: 10-No human subjects involved
 Animal Subjects: 10-No live vertebrate animals involved for competing appl.

Project Year	Direct Costs Requested	Estimated Total Cost
16	611,328	653,287
17	649,538	694,119
18	707,772	756,350
19	764,884	817,393
20	760,446	812,638
TOTAL	3,493,978	3,733,788

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Weaknesses

This T32 receives a total of 5 postdoctoral slots but only received a total of 31 different applicants and 11 of these were supported. The pool may be too small to justify 5 postdoctoral slots.

What is my postdoc pool:

- current postdocs with current training faculty?
- postdoc applicants to current training faculty?
- those who specifically apply to the T32 Training Program?

Institutional Support

What do institutions typically cover? Is there an expected/reasonable dollar amount for institutional support?

Enhancing Diversity: All Talk No Action

Principal Investigator
AARONSON, STUART A MD

Subcommittee F - Institutional Training and Education
Council: JAN 2015
Requested Start: 10/01/2015
Project Title: Training Program in Cancer Biology

Animal Subjects: 10-No live vertebrate animals involved for competing appl.

Project Year	Direct Costs Requested	Total Cost
6		653,297
7		694,119
18	747,772	756,350
19	764,894	817,393
20	760,446	812,639
TOTAL	3,483,978	3,733,798

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Weaknesses

The number of URM appointees is still too small. One of the 7 of 45 appointees is considered diversity as a first generation coming from Cambodia. While there is excellent prose about URM recruitment and retention there has been very little improvement. In the last 5 years very few predoctoral or postdoctoral trainees are URM. In the last review, an extra postdoc was provided exclusively for a URM. Much more work in being proactive for URM recruitment and retention is needed.

If the URM numbers are low, how much can good writing compensate?
Is it good to be introspective and acknowledge the problem?
Should "excuses" be made? If so, what is an acceptable "excuse"?

The F Problem

Weaknesses

- The training program does not appear to require trainees to submit F-type individual training grant applications.

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(Privileged Communication) Release Date: 11/04/2014

PROGRAM CONTACT:
Susan Lim
240-276-5630
lims@mail.nih.gov

Application Number: 2 T32 CA078207-16A1

Principal Investigator
AARONSON, STUART A MD
Applicant Organization: ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI
Review Group: NCI-F
Subcommittee F - Institutional Training and Education
Institutional Training and Education

Meeting Date: 10/20/2014 RFA/PA: PA14-015
Funding Opportunity Number: 10101015
Assigned Staff: 10101015

Project Title: Training Program in Cancer Biology
SRG Action: Impact Score: 30
Next Steps: Visit http://grants.nih.gov/grants/next_steps.htm
Human Subjects: 10-No human subjects involved
Animal Subjects: 10-No live vertebrate animals involved for competing appl.

Project Year	Direct Costs Requested	Estimated Total Cost
16	811,328	853,287
17	849,538	694,119
18	707,772	756,350
19	764,894	817,393
20	760,446	812,639
TOTAL	3,493,978	3,733,788

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Should all trainees apply for F awards?
Should this be a requirement?

If a trainee is on a T32, will that influence the ability to get an F award?
(since the F study section will consider them too advanced?)

Distinguishing T32 Trainees From Everybody Else

Weaknesses

- There appears to be no formal instruction for postdoctoral trainees.

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Principal Investigator
AARONSON, STUART A MD

Applicant Organization: ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI

Review Group: NCI-F
Subcommittee F - Institutional Training and Education
Institutional Training and Education

Meeting Date: 10/20/2014 RFA/PA: PA14-015
Start Date: JAN 2015 W9TR

SRG Action: Impact Score: 30
Next Steps: Visit http://grants.nih.gov/grants/next_steps.htm
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Should there be a curriculum for postdocs?
Should it be required?

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(Privileged Communication) Release Date: 11/04/2014

Application Number: 2 T32 CA078207-16A1

Principal Investigator
AARONSON, STUART A MD
Subcommittee F - Institutional Training and Education
Review Group: NCI-F
Meeting Date: 10/20/2014
Council: JAN 2015
Requested Start: 04/01/2015

RFA/PA: PA14-015
PCC: W9TR

Project Title: Training Program in Cancer Biology
SRG Action: Impact Score: 30
Next Steps: Visit http://grants.nih.gov/grants/next_steps.htm
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Weaknesses

- There is not a clear or unique cancer theme for this training program from the list of preceptors. Thus, this program does not distinguish itself as to having a special cancer focused niche.

Weaknesses

- Basic approach is not particularly innovative, in that there is no distinct or unique approach to training.

Is there a need for T32 specific activities?

What are considered positive ways of demonstrating value added?
T32-sponsored symposia/seminars, other opportunities?

SUMMARY STATEMENT
(Privileged Communication) Release Date: 11/06/2014

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Susan Lim
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slms@mail.nih.gov

Application Number: 2 T32 CA078207-16A1

Principal Investigator
AARONSON, STUART A MD
Applicant Organization: ICAHII SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI
Review Group: NCI-F
Subcommittee F - Institutional Training and Education
Institutional Training and Education

Meeting Date: 10/20/2014 RFA/PA: PA14-015
Council: JAN 2015 PCC: WSTR
Requested Start: 04/01/2015

Project Title: Training Program in Cancer Biology
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Weaknesses

- The program lacks a formalized mechanism for introducing trainees to the challenges faced by clinicians treating cancer patients.

Is there a need for clinical exposure?
Should there be clinical opportunities in the T32 Program?

Program Assessment and Evaluation

Weaknesses

- It is unclear what the role of the IAB and EAB are in the program.

RESUME AND SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

...the application would have been strengthened by specific recommendations of the IAB and EAB with follow-up actions based upon those recommendations.

Weaknesses

- Assessment of progress is up to the director and the mentors. There is no independent evaluation.

PROGRAM CONTACT: Susan Lim
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Applicant Organization: ICAHII SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI

RESUME AND SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

...the application would have been strengthened by specific recommendations of the IAB and EAB with follow-up actions based upon those recommendations.

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Fiscal Year	Direct Costs	Indirect Costs
16	611,328	653,287
17	649,538	694,119
18	707,772	756,350
19	764,894	817,393
20	760,446	812,629
TOTAL	3,493,978	3,733,768

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Is there a requirement for advisory boards?

Both internal and external?

If so, how should their role(s) be documented in the application?

BEST THING EVER
(to enhance your T32 application)

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Ad hoc on Subcommittee F

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Ad hoc on Subcommittee F

It helps **YOU** 'cause you learn a lot

It helps **US** 'cause you ensure the review is fair

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(to enhance your T32 application)

Ad hoc on Subcommittee F

