



Request for Proposals

NCI Pathway to Independence Award for Outstanding Early-Stage Postdoctoral Researchers (K99/R00)

Internal Applications due Friday, December 15, 2023

PURPOSE

The purpose of the NCI Pathway to Independence Award for Early-Stage Postdoctoral Researchers (K99/R00) program is to increase and maintain a strong cohort of new and talented, NCI-supported, independent investigators. **This program is designed for postdoctoral fellows with research and/or clinical doctoral degrees who do not require an extended period of mentored research training beyond their doctoral degrees.** The objective of this award is to facilitate a timely transition of these fellows from their mentored, postdoctoral research positions to independent tenure-track (or equivalent) faculty positions. The program will provide independent NCI research support during this transition to help awardees to launch competitive, independent research careers. Researchers in the scientific areas of cancer control, cancer prevention and cancer data sciences are especially encouraged to work with their institutions to apply.

Three Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFO's) have been released. [PAR-23-286](#) is designed specifically for candidates proposing research that does *not* involve leading an independent clinical trial, a clinical trial feasibility study, or an ancillary clinical trial. Under this NOFO candidates are permitted to propose a research experience in a clinical trial led by a mentor or co-mentor. NOFO [PAR-23-287](#) is for candidates proposing research that includes a clinical trial and [PAR-23-288](#) is for basic experimental studies with humans that fall within the NIH definition of a clinical trial.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

- Postdocs with no more than 2 years of postdoctoral research experience at the time of the application due date
- **U.S. citizenship or permanent residency not required** - Individuals on visas are eligible to apply
- **Candidate must be nominated by an institution**

Individuals are NOT eligible if they:

- Have currently or previously held an independent research faculty or tenure-track faculty position, or its equivalent, in academia, industry or elsewhere; or
- Have more than 2 years of related postdoctoral research training at the time of initial application or resubmission; or
- Have been an independent PD/PI on NIH research grants (e.g. R01, R03, R21), NIH career development awards (e.g., K01, K07, K08, K23, K25), or other peer-reviewed NIH or non-NIH research grants over \$100,000 direct costs per year, or Project Leaders on sub-projects of program project (P01) or center (P50) grants or the equivalent.

SUBMISSION LIMITATION

Emory University may submit 4 applications for this program. Each application must be in a different scientific area.

Scientific Areas

- (A) *Cancer Data Science*: For the purposes of this K99/R00 award, cancer data science is defined as an interdisciplinary field of inquiry in which quantitative and analytical approaches, processes, and systems are both developed and used to extract knowledge and insights from increasingly large and/or complex sets of data. This includes cancer-focused data integration and visualization, systems biology, artificial intelligence, machine learning, informatics, genomics, precision oncology, and developing analytics for epidemiological or biostatistical studies.
- (B) *Cancer Control Science*: For the purposes of this K99/R00 award, cancer control science is defined as basic and applied research in the behavioral, social, and population sciences to create or enhance interventions that, independently or in combination with biomedical approaches reduce cancer risk, incidence, morbidity, and mortality, and improve quality of life. This includes research

in epidemiology, behavioral sciences, health services, surveillance, cancer survivorship, and healthcare policy.

- (C) *Molecular/Precision Cancer Prevention*: For the purpose of this K99/R00 award, early translational research in cancer prevention is defined as basic research to understand mechanisms of cancer formation, development and progression of cancer precursors, and to translate basic biological knowledge into novel human interventions and human-centered adaption of current interventions with the potential to reduce cancer risk, incidence, and mortality, and improve quality of life. This includes but is not limited to research in molecular and systems biology, diagnostics, vaccine and drug development, pharmacology, and biomedical engineering.
- (D) *Other Cancer Research*: For the purposes of this K99/R00 award, "Other Cancer Research" includes all scientific fields supported by the NCI that are not included in (A), (B) or (C). Applicants proposing research in (D) "Other Cancer Research" may apply only if it is reasonable to expect their candidates to transition to independence with an abbreviated period of mentored research training beyond their original doctoral degrees."

INTERNAL COMPETITION GUIDELINES

Winship Cancer Institute will be handling the internal nomination process. Anyone wishing to be considered to apply for this award should send the following materials, compiled into a single PDF, as an email attachment to Winship Education and Training (WinshipEduTraining@emory.edu) by Friday, December 15th, 2023.

1. An NIH NRSA style [Biosketch](#) (Please make sure to use form that was revised May 2023)
2. Specific Aims (Please make sure to follow the K99/R00 format; 1 page maximum)
3. A letter of nomination from your sponsor/mentor

IMPORTANT DATES

Winship Internal Application Due Date:	11:59 PM EST on Friday, December 15, 2023
Announcement of Nominee(s) Selection:	Monday, January 8, 2024
NCI Application Due Date:	5:00 PM EST on Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Please direct any questions you have regarding this funding opportunity to Lawrence Boise via email at lboise@emory.edu.