K99/R00 NCI Early-Stage Funding Opportunity

The University of Colorado Denver has the opportunity to nominate up to 4 candidates for the NCI’s K99/R00 funding opportunity. Please review this full email for information on how to apply.

One nomination is allowed in each of the following areas of research:

(A) **Data Science:** 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:** 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:** 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 research in molecular and systems biology, diagnostics, vaccine and drug development, pharmacology, and biomedical engineering.

(C) **Other Sciences:** Includes all scientific fields supported by NCI that are not included in (A), (B) or (C). Applicants proposing research in (D) "Other Sciences" may apply only if it is reasonable to expect them to transition to independence with an abbreviated period of mentored research training beyond their original doctoral degrees. Postdoctoral fellows in other areas of NCI-supported research who require additional postdoctoral training are encouraged to apply to the NIH Parent K99/R00 program.

K99/R00 candidates must have no more than 2 years of postdoctoral research experience as of the application due date and must be in mentored, postdoctoral training positions. The K99/R00 award is intended for individuals who require no more than 2 additional years of mentored research training and career development (K99 phase) before transitioning to the independent stage (R00 phase) of the program. Consequently, the strongest applicants will require, and will propose, a well-conceived plan for 1–2 years of substantive mentored research training and career development that will help them become competitive candidates for tenure-track faculty positions and prepare them to launch robust, independent research programs.

**Interested candidates must meet all ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA outlined in the RFA:**

NOTE: Candidates for this NOFO are strongly encouraged to obtain confirmation of their eligibility from NCI before seeking institutional nomination. It is incumbent upon the candidate to provide evidence that all eligibility criteria have been met.

If you would like to be considered for this opportunity, please prepare the following documents in the order outlined below and submit them as a single PDF to https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/6fcb712850a64ff6b94f832fc78413df by 11:59pm, Sunday, December 10th:

1) Title page listing
   a. The title for the research project
   b. The name, position, department/division and email address for the candidate
   c. The name, rank, department/division and email address of the candidate’s mentor

2) One (1) page Specific Aims for your proposed research project

3) A draft of the Candidate Information and Goals for Career Development - no more than 3 pages covering the following sections:

   Candidate’s Background
   o Describe the candidate’s commitment to a career in a biomedical, behavioral, or clinical research field relevant to the mission of NCI.
   o Describe the candidate’s potential to develop into a successful, independent investigator.

   Career Goals and Objectives
   o Describe the candidate’s current and long-term research and career objectives.
   o Present a scientific history that: (1) shows a logical progression from the candidate’s prior research and training experiences to the training and research experiences proposed for the mentored phase of the award (K99) and subsequently to the independent phase of the award (R00); and (2) justifies the need for further mentored career development to become an independent research investigator.
   o If currently supported by an institutional training grant or individual fellowship award (such as provided through the Ruth L. Kirschstein NRSA program), describe the candidate’s current research training or fellowship program.
   o Describe how the candidate plans to separate scientifically from his/her mentor and advance to research independence.

   Candidate’s Plan for Career Development During Award Period
   o A systematic plan should be presented for obtaining the biomedical, behavioral, or clinical science background, research experience, and career development activities
necessary to launch the stated independent research career. Describe current activities and how they relate to the candidate’s career development plans and career goals. Describe proposed activities, e.g., those that will lead to new and/or enhanced research skills and knowledge, as well as related skills such as grant-writing, communication, leadership, and laboratory management. The career development plan must be specifically tailored to meet the needs of the candidate and the goal of achieving independence as a researcher.

- Describe how the skills and knowledge obtained during the mentored phase will enhance research productivity and facilitate the development of new approaches and directions for investigation. Describe how the career development plan will promote the candidate’s success and transition to scientific independence. Candidates must justify the need for the award, particularly the mentored (K99) phase, and must provide a convincing case that the proposed period of support (1-2 years as a mentored candidate followed by up to 3 years as an independent scientist) will substantially enhance his/her career and/or will allow the pursuit of a novel or promising approach to a particular research problem. Candidates should make clear why additional mentored research training and career development are critical before transitioning to research independence and pursuit of the proposed independent phase research.

- The candidate must describe a plan, including a timeline with milestones, for evaluation of his/her progress during the mentored phase and for the transition to the independent phase.

4) Draft Institutional Nomination Letter (2 page limit | unsigned | key areas of focus for the internal nomination process are underlined and in bold font)

The institutional nomination letter must be written and signed by the head of the candidate’s postdoctoral department or program. The letter must identify one of the three scientific areas listed in Section III.3. Additional Information on Eligibility as the candidate’s proposed research area of expertise and must affirm that the candidate is the institution’s sole nominee in this scientific area for the specified application due date. The nomination letter should also describe the institutional commitment to supporting the candidate’s search for a tenure-track or equivalent position. It should affirm the candidate’s near-readiness to transition to independence and describe the main factors that identify the nominee as likely to obtain a tenure-track or equivalent research position at an early career stage; for example, distinctive attributes of the candidate’s career to date and/or the successful transition to independence of other early-stage postdocs from the candidate’s scientific area, affiliated department or program, or the laboratory of the primary mentor.

5) Biographical sketches for the candidate and the primary mentor.

Combine the above information into a single pdf document in the order outline above and submit the pdf at later than 11:59pm on Sunday, December 10th.
• NCI Pathway to Independence Award for Early-Stage Postdoctoral Researchers (K99/R00 - Independent Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
  (PAR-23-286)
  National Cancer Institute

• NCI Pathway to Independence Award for Early-Stage Postdoctoral Researchers (K99/R00 - Independent Clinical Trial Required)
  (PAR-23-287)
  National Cancer Institute

• NCI Pathway to Independence Award for Early-Stage Postdoctoral Researchers (K99/R00 - Independent Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required)
  (PAR-23-288)
  National Cancer Institute