

# NJ ACTS Translational Scientist Junior Faculty Scholar Program (KL2) Proposal Guidance and Requirements

## I. Candidate Information and Goals for Career Development (2 pages)

### *Candidate's Background*

- Describe the candidate's commitment to a health-related research career. Describe all the candidate's professional responsibilities in the grantee institution and elsewhere and describe their relationship to the proposed activities on the career award.
- Describe prior training and how it relates to the objectives and long-term career plans of the candidate.
- Describe the candidate's research efforts to this point in his/her research career, including any publications, prior research interests and experience.
- Provide evidence of the candidate's potential to develop into an independent investigator.

### *Career Goals and Objectives*

- Describe a systematic plan: (1) that shows a logical progression from prior research and training experiences to the research and career development experiences that will occur during the career award period and then to independent investigator status; and (2) that justifies the need for further career development to become an independent investigator.
- Provide a strong justification for the need of additional mentoring, commensurate with the candidate's length of prior training. Describe the reasons for the need of additional new research training and mentoring given the amount of prior research training and experience of the candidate. Explain how additional research training and career development through a KL2 award would significantly affect the career trajectory of the candidate to research independence. Provide a justification for the duration of support requested within the context of overall career development and plans for research independence.

### *Candidate's Plan for Career Development/Training Activities During Award Period*

- Describe the professional responsibilities/activities including other research projects beyond the minimum required **80% full-time professional effort** to the career award. Explain how these responsibilities/activities will help ensure career progression to achieve independence as an investigator.

## II. Research Strategy (5 pages)

- A research project that is consistent with the candidate's level of research development and objectives of his/her career development plan must be provided. The research

description should demonstrate the quality of the candidate's research thus far and also the novelty, significance, creativity and approach, as well as the ability of the candidate to carry out the research.

- The application must also describe the relationship between the mentor's research and the candidate's proposed research plan.
- Research Strategy should be organized in three sections:
  - Significance
  - Innovation
  - Approach

### III. Plans and Statements of Mentor and Co-mentor(s)

- The candidate must name a primary mentor who, together with the candidate, is responsible for the planning, directing, monitoring, and executing the proposed program. The candidate may also nominate co-mentors as appropriate to the goals of the program.
- The mentor will be a member of the NJ ACTS Academy of Mentors but does not need to be from the scholars' home institution (e.g., if research is conducted at an NJ ACTS partner institution). Scholars should include a co-mentor from their home institution. For assistance with identifying a potential lab or mentor at Princeton University, please contact Bianca Freda at email: [biancaf@princeton.edu](mailto:biancaf@princeton.edu). \*For consideration to become a member of the Academy of Mentors send your Curriculum Vitae, NIH Biosketch including other support and List of Trainees/NIH-Table 8C to Tracey Sharp at Email: [kl2njacts@rbhs.rutgers.edu](mailto:kl2njacts@rbhs.rutgers.edu).
- The application must include a statement from the mentor providing: 1) information on his/her research qualifications and previous experience as a research supervisor; 2) a plan that describes the nature of the supervision and mentoring that will occur during the proposed award period; 3) a plan for career progression for the candidate to move from the mentored stage of his/her career to independent research investigator status during the project period of the award; and 4) a plan for monitoring the candidate's research, publications, and progression towards independence.
- The mentor must agree to provide bi-annual evaluations of the candidate's progress as required by the KL2 Executive Committee and the annual progress report.
- If the applicant is proposing to gain experience in a clinical trial as part of his or her research career development (not as lead investigator), the mentor or a member of the mentoring team must include a statement to document leadership of the clinical trial, and appropriate expertise to guide the applicant in any proposed clinical trials research experience.

*\* Primary Mentors in the Academy of Mentors are selected on the basis of the following criteria: a) alignment with the training mission; b) demonstrated excellence in investigation with an active research program in translational or clinical research; c) passion for contributing to the development of the next generation of clinical/translational scientist; d) past record of successful translational research; and e) research focus relevant to the study of scientific aspects of human diseases. Advisors are chosen based on either their clinical expertise and*

*experience in training physicians and scientists or based on the methodological or technical expertise.*

#### **IV. Letters of Support from Collaborators, Contributors and Consultants (if applicable)**

- Signed statements must be provided by all collaborators and/or consultants confirming their participation in the project and describing their specific roles. Collaborators and consultants do not need to provide their biographical sketches unless also listed as senior/key personnel. However, information should be provided clearly documenting the appropriate expertise in the proposed areas of consulting/collaboration. Collaborators/consultants are generally not directly involved in the development of the career of the candidate as an independent investigator.

#### **V. Institutional Commitment to the Candidate's Research Career Development**

- The sponsoring institution must provide a statement of commitment to the candidate's development into a productive, independent investigator and to meeting the requirements of this award. It should be clear that the institutional commitment to the candidate is not contingent upon receipt of this career award.
- Provide assurances that the candidate will be able to devote the required effort to activities under this award. The remaining effort should be devoted to activities related to the development of the candidate's career as an independent scientist.
- Provide assurances that the candidate will have access to appropriate office and laboratory space, equipment, and other resources and facilities (including access to clinical and/or other research populations) to carry out the proposed research plan.
- Provide assurance that appropriate time and support will be available for any proposed mentor(s) and/or other staff consistent with the career development plan.
- Salary support will follow NIH guidelines and not exceed \$110,000/yr. Provide a letter from Department Chair to include a commitment for additional salary support.

#### **VI. Regulatory Requirements (as applicable)**

- Human Subjects, Data Safety Monitoring, Women and Minorities, Children
- Animals
- Select Agents
- Consortium/Contractual Arrangements
- Resource Sharing
- Authentication

#### **VII. Letters of Reference (3)**

- Referees are required to send letters of reference directly to the Program Administrator, Tracey Sharp at Email: [kl2njacts@rbhs.rutgers.edu](mailto:kl2njacts@rbhs.rutgers.edu) by the application deadline.

#### **VIII. NIH Biosketch**

- Include (1) candidate biosketch as well as (2) primary mentor biosketch including other support.