

The K99/R00

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NIH Intramural

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- Details of the mechanism
- Review issues
- Miscellaneous but important
- Some statistics

Details of the K99/R00 mechanism

K99/R00

Must have less than 5 yrs. postdoc. res. experience

- 2 years K99 (mentored)
 - 75% effort required
 - \$90,000 total cost, up to \$50,000 salary
 - Some exceptions related to salary
- 3 years R00 (independent)
 - must have tenure track or equivalent position
 - must get appropriate startup package
 - 75% effort on research required
 - \$249,000 total cost

K99/R00

K99 phase (mentored)

- IC-specific salary differences
- IC-specific research expense differences
- IC-specific duration differences

R00 phase (independent)

- IC-specific duration differences
- Administrative review – undoubtedly IC differences

In the program announcement, there's a web table listing all of the IC-specific information.

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/contacts/pa-07-297_contacts.htm

K99 Fundamentals

- Open to U.S. and Non-U.S. Citizens
- Both phases must be done in the U.S.
- For NINDS, must do at least 1 full year in K99 phase – varies by IC
- Can submit amended application, but must be within 5 year rule
- Must be in mentored position to apply

K99/R00 review issues

K99 Review

- Done differently at each IC
- Looking for the “Duck”
- Best to describe thoughtful path to goal
- Need strong mentor, strong career plan, exciting research, plan to launch independence
- Must be realistic candidate for tenure-track within 2 years

K99 Review – what's important?

- EVERYTHING! - read the PA!!!
- Most important – you are looking to impress the reviewers
- As in all grants, you want a perfect specific aims page
- Need strong, appropriate mentors
Mentors help you. If they aren't helping you write this grant application...

K99 Review – what's important?

- You need crisp, clear, interesting hypotheses
- Your experiments should test your hypotheses
- You need to discuss what you'll do if things don't go according to plan – what can go wrong and what will you do about it?
- Your document should be pleasing to read
 - ▶ Large enough font, reasonable margins, space between paragraphs, paragraph headings

K99 Review – what's important?

- The PA says you need a plan to evaluate progress. If you want to score well...
- You need a strong publication record – this isn't measured in number of pubs, although numbers are a good thing
- You need a good career plan
- Your research must be significant (interesting)
- Be realistic, not 'overambitious'

K99 Review – what's important?

- Will you be a future leader in your field?
- Is it realistic to expect you to get a tenure-track job within 2 years of receiving this award?

Miscellaneous but important

Evaluate yourself honestly (not what you wish, but what is)

When you look around you, at NIH and at meetings, are you one of the best postdocs you know?

When you read your grant, do you think the leader in your field would be impressed?

- If not, keep writing.
- You must get rid of your ego and be honest with regard to your writing

Some Statistics

K99/R00 NINDS

| Applications | # Apps. | Awards | % Success |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| FY2007 | 75 | 14 | 19 |
| FY2008 (2) | 57 | 10 | 18 |
| Total | 132 | 24 | 18 |
| | | | |
| Applicants | | | |
| MD | 4 | 1 | 25 |
| MD/PHD | 9 | 1 | 11 |
| PhD | 104 | 22 | 21 |
| Other | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 120 | 24 | 20 |

Intramural

7

3

43

K99/R00 NIH-wide FY2007

| | # Applications | # Awarded | % Success |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| MD | 38 | 6 | 16 |
| MD-PhD | 61 | 12 | 20 |
| PhD | 874 | 159 | 18 |
| Other | 45 | 6 | 13 |
| Total | 1,018 | 183 | 18 |
| | | | |
| Male | 505 | 93 | 18 |
| Female | 318 | 62 | 19 |
| Unknown | 195 | 28 | 14 |
| | | | |
| Citizen | 403 | 81 | 20 |
| Non-resident | 64 | 13 | 20 |
| Resident | 114 | 22 | 19 |
| Unknown | 437 | 67 | 15 |

Intramural K99 applications (FY07, 08[1])

| IC | # apps. |
|-------|---------|
| NIEHS | 12 |
| NCI | 9 |
| NHGRI | 6 |
| NICHD | 6 |
| NHLBI | 5 |
| NIMH | 5 |
| NIA | 3 |
| NIDCD | 3 |
| NINDS | 3 |

| IC | # apps. |
|-------|---------|
| NIAID | 2 |
| NIDCR | 1 |
| NIDDK | 1 |
| NEI | 0 |
| NIAAA | 0 |
| NIAMS | 0 |
| NIDA | 0 |
| NINR | 0 |
| NIBIB | 0 |

23/56 apps submitted to non-home IC

K99/R00 NIH-wide FY07, 08[1]

Intramural success rate = 12.5% (7/56)

How to fix:

Intramural screening?

More mentor involvement?

Improve writing skills?

Improve experimental design skills?

IM Postdocs not preparing for exit?

Please feel free to contact me with any
questions about the K99 at NINDS
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Contact the appropriate person at the
IC of interest
(listed in PA web table)