

Proposal to Condense NCI CCT K Award Mechanisms

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December, 2014

Why Restructure the K Program?

“The current system is sufficiently complex to discourage applicants...the committee recommends that career development grants (K awards) be maintained but restructured such that fewer mechanisms are established...”

Advancing the Nation’s Health Needs: NIH Research Training Programs.

Committee for Monitoring the Nation’s Needs for Biomedical, Behavioral, and Clinical Research Personnel.

National Research Council (2005)

Training Program Complexity

- NIH has 23 training mechanisms; >80 PAs
- NCI has 15 training & career development mechanisms

Mechanism	NIH	NCI
K	14	9
F	4	4
T	4	1
R	1	1
Fogarty	3	0

Current Structure

	MENTORED Predoc/fellowship	MENTORED/INDEPENDENT		NEWLY INDEPENDENT
		Late fellowship	Non-Tenure Track Faculty	
Basic science	F30/F31/ F32	K99	K99 K08	R00 K22
Patient – oriented research	F30/F31/ F32	K12	K12 K23	K22
Prevention, control, behavioral, population sciences	F30/F31/ F32	K07	K07	K22
Quantitative sciences in cancer		K25	K25	K25

Challenges with Numerous Mechanisms

- **Causes confusion**
- **Discourages applicants**
- **Impedes review & program recommendations**
- **Discourages interdisciplinary training**

Five Recommendations to Reduce Mechanisms

- Merge K23 into K08
- Merge K07 into K99/R00
- Retire K05 and K24
- Retire K25
- Expand Scientific Disciplines Supported by K99/R00 to All Cancer Research Fields

#1 Merge K23 into K08

- Both support physician-scientists
- Separation of basic/translational and clinical research runs counter to encouraging interdisciplinary training
- Widely recognized K08 would expand to all cancer-relevant research for clinical/physician scientists
- Eliminate arbitrary separation in review and program management

Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award (K08)
Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award (K23)

#2 Merge K07 into K99/R00

- K07 tends to support independent researchers, who outcompete postdocs
- Senior applicants can apply for K22, R01 or R03 mechanisms
- Would encourage transition to independence
- K07 does not offer the benefits and recognition of the K99/R00
- Foreign Nationals are not eligible for the K07

Cancer Prevention, Control, Behavioral Sciences, and Population Sciences Career Development Award (K07)

The Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00)

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#3 Retire K05 and K24

- Provide mentoring awards to limited number of researchers
- Diminish message that mentoring should be done by all PIs
- Demand not as great as anticipated
- Low number of applicants
- Not attracting the most prestigious investigators

Established Investigator Award in Cancer Prevention and Control (K05)
Midcareer Award in Patient Research (K24)

#4 Retire K25

- **Specific, emerging scientific areas could be supported by RFAs**
- **Training should be essential component of an RFA**
- **The recently expanded K22 and K99/R00 will support competitive applicants with quantitative training**

Mentored Quantitative Research Career Award (K25)

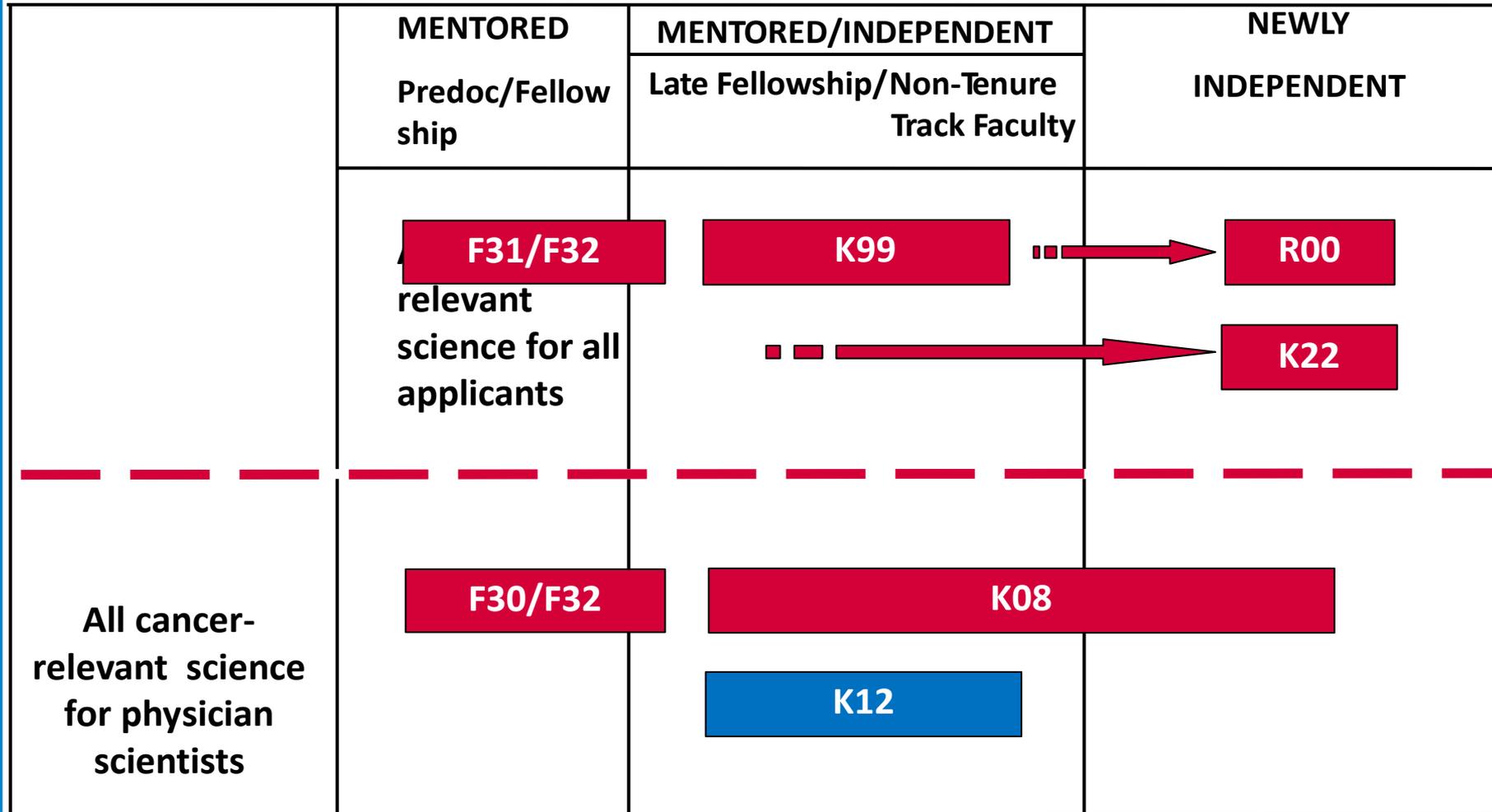
National Cancer Institute

#5 Expand Scientific Disciplines Supported by K99/R00 to All Cancer Research Fields

- Establish clear focus for promoting transition to independence for applicants with no more than 4 yrs postdoctoral experience
- K22 (more postdoctoral experience) already supports all areas of cancer research

The Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00)

Proposed New Structure



Next Steps?

- ✓ Solicit feedback from NCI Program Staff
- ✓ Obtain approval of concept from NCI SPL
- ✓ Solicit feedback from the extramural community
- ✓ Solicit feedback from NCI and NIH training contacts (TAC, etc.)
- Work with NIH on policy and procedure issues
- Develop a final recommendation, including a timeline for implementation, for NCI SPL and NCAB approval

Timeline

- Merger of the K23 and K08 requires a Notice to the Guide and can proceed at NCI's discretion
- The research disciplines supported by the K99/R00 will begin in January of 2015.
The most recent K07 FOA will expire in 2018.
- The K05 can be retired immediately and the K24 will require a Notice to the Guide at NCI's discretion.
- The K25 can be retired with a Notice to the Guide at NCI's discretion.

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Questions?

Comments?

	MENTORED Predoc/Fellowship	MENTORED/INDEPENDENT		NEWLY INDEPENDENT
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All cancer-relevant science for all applicants	F31/F32	K99		R00 K22
All cancer-relevant science for physician scientists	F30/F32		K08 K12	



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