Proposal to Condense NCI CCT K Award Mechanisms

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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mechanism</th>
<th>NIH</th>
<th>NCI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fogarty</td>
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</table>
# Current Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic science</th>
<th>Patient – oriented research</th>
<th>Prevention, control, behavioral, population sciences</th>
<th>Quantitative sciences in cancer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Predoc/fellowship</td>
<td>MENTORED</td>
<td>MENTORED/INDEPENDENT</td>
<td>NEWLY INDEPENDENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F30/F31/F32</td>
<td>K99</td>
<td>K08</td>
<td>R00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K12</td>
<td>K22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K07</td>
<td>K23</td>
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<td>K25</td>
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<td>K25</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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)
#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
#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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MENTORED Predoc/Fellowship</th>
<th>MENTORED/INDEPENDENT Late Fellowship/Non-Tenure Track Faculty</th>
<th>NEWLY INDEPENDENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All cancer-relevant science for all applicants</td>
<td>K99</td>
<td>R00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F31/F32</td>
<td>K08</td>
<td>K22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F30/F32</td>
<td>K12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All cancer-relevant science for physician scientists

National Cancer Institute
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.
### Questions?

### Comments?