The University’s internal deadline for the limited submission competition for the National Cancer Institute (NCI), The NCI Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Fellow Transition Award (F99/K00) (RFA-CA-16-005) is 1/6/16. If you are interested, please read on for details.


- **Purpose:** The purpose of the NCI Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Fellow Transition Award (F99/K00) is to encourage and retain outstanding graduate students who have demonstrated potential and interest in pursuing careers as independent cancer researchers. The award will facilitate the transition of talented graduate students into successful cancer research postdoctoral appointments, and provide opportunities for career development activities relevant to their long-term career goals of becoming independent cancer researchers.

- **Eligibility:**
  - *Eligible Individuals (Program Director/Principal Investigator):* Any applicant fellow with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research as the Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) is invited to work with his/her sponsor and organization to develop an application for support. Individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups as well as individuals with disabilities are always encouraged to apply for NIH support. Multiple PDs/PIs are not allowed.

  An applicant may be a citizen or a noncitizen national of the United States, have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence (i.e., possess a currently valid Permanent Resident Card USCIS Form I-551, or other legal verification of such status), or be a non-U.S. citizen with a valid U.S. visa. For applications submitted on behalf of non-U.S. citizens with valid U.S. visas, the visa status during each phase of the F99/K00 award must allow the PD/PI to conduct the proposed research at the applicant institution. For the F99 phase of the award, the applicant F99 institution is responsible for determining and documenting, in the F99 application, that the applicant’s visa will allow the applicant to remain in the U.S. to complete the F99 phase of the award. For the K00 phase of the award, the U.S. institution at which the K00 phase of the award will be conducted is responsible for determining and documenting, in the K00 application, that the PD/PI’s visa will allow the PD/PI to remain in the U.S. for the duration of the K00 award.

  The applicant must have a baccalaureate degree and be currently enrolled as a graduate student in the third or fourth year of a mentored PhD or equivalent research degree program (e.g., EngD, DNSc, DrPH, DSW, ScD) in the biomedical, behavioral, or clinical sciences at a domestic institution. The applicant must be at the dissertation research stage of training at the time of award, and must show evidence of high academic performance in the sciences and commitment to a career as an independent cancer research scientist.

  The F99/K00 award may not be used to support studies leading to the MD, DDS, or other clinical, health-professional degree (e.g., DC, DMD, DNP, DO, DPM, DVM, ND, OD, AuD). Students matriculated in a...
dual-degree program (e.g. MD/PhD, DO/PhD, DDS/PhD, or DVM/PhD) are not eligible for the F99/K00 program.

If an applicant begins a postdoctoral position or completes all PhD dissertation requirements before an F99 award is made, neither the F99 award, nor the K00 award, will be issued.

- **Number of Applications:** One application per institution (identified by having a unique DUNS number or NIH IPF number) per due date is allowed.

- **Duration of Support:** Individuals may not exceed the aggregate limit of support shown above in the Award Project Period (see Section II. Award Information).

- **Level of Effort:** F99 awardees are required to pursue their research training on a full-time basis, normally defined as 40 hours per week or as specified by the sponsoring institution in accordance with its own policies.

K00 awardees are required to have a full-time appointment at the applicant institution, and to commit a minimum of 9 person months (or 75% of their full-time appointment at the applicant institution) to their career development and research training. K00 awardees may engage in other duties (e.g., other research, training, clinical and teaching activities) as part of the remaining 25% effort not covered by the award, as long as such duties do not interfere with or detract from the proposed career development program.

- **Sponsor:** Before submitting the application, the applicant must identify an F99 sponsor(s) who will supervise the proposed mentored dissertation research experience. The primary sponsor should be the applicant's primary dissertation research advisor and be committed both to the applicant's research training and to direct supervision of his/her research. The sponsor should have a successful track record of mentoring predoctoral students. Applicants may identify more than one sponsor, i.e., a team of sponsors, if this is deemed advantageous for providing expert advice in all aspects of the research and training program. When there is a sponsor team, one individual must be identified as the primary sponsor who will coordinate the applicant’s training program. The applicant must work with the sponsor(s) in preparing the application.

- **Funds Available & Anticipated Number of Awards:** NCI intends to commit $1.4M in FY 2016 to fund up to 30 awards.

- **Budget & Project Period:** For the F99 phase, award budgets are composed of stipends, tuition and fees, and institutional allowance, as described below. For the K00 phase, award budgets are composed of salaries and fringe benefits, tuition and fees, research and career development support, and indirect costs, as described in the RFA. For the F99/K00 award, individuals may receive up to 6 years combined support for both phases, which includes up to 2 years in the F99 fellowship phase and up to 4 years in the K00 career development phase.

- **Application Details:** Since the University of Miami may only submit one (1) proposal, this opportunity is a limited submission competition. An expert panel will internally review our candidates to determine which application will be submitted for competition by the NCI deadline on February 19, 2016.

To apply, please send the following materials to Karen Lamper at klamper@miami.edu by 1/6/16:

- Title of Proposal
- Your biosketch; listing of courses/grades and achievement and awards
- Letter of Support from your Graduate Program Mentor
- A brief summary of your project (no more than two pages) addressing:
  1. Research Training Plan: The Research Strategy section should be written as an overarching narrative instead of the format specified in the Application Guide. It should address three
themes that demonstrate a logical progression from the applicant's prior research experience to what is proposed for the F99 phase and also the K00 phase of the award:

(A) the hypothesis, goals, approach, and results to date for the dissertation research project,

(B) the research to be done for completion of the dissertation, with research training milestones, and descriptions of the technical and research skills proposed for the F99 phase, and

(C) the research direction to be pursued for postdoctoral studies and how it relates to the PhD research training, including examples of specific technical and career development skills to be acquired in the K00 phase, and the approach to identifying a mentor for the K00 phase.

Please be cognizant that requested information above is required for the reviewers to make an informed decision/ranking regarding your research proposal for consideration as an internal award applicant. Failure to address each numbered sub-heading above can impact the ranking of your proposal.

Note: Biostatistical considerations in the design and analysis of proposed investigations are critical to the procurement of funding and quality of research. The Biostatistics Collaboration and Consulting Core (BCCC), as part of the Research Design and Biostatistics Component of the Miami CTSI, is available to provide support for grant proposal development. This support may be funded by service credits awarded by the Research Design and Biostatistics Component of the Miami CTSI. For more information, please contact Maria Jimenez-Rodriguez at mjrodriguez@biostat.med.miami.edu.