To help promising new investigators achieve research independence (i.e., to compete successfully for R01 funding).

Organizing principle: Preparing for the R01 grant application you will submit at the end of the K award

Think about your short-term goals (5 year) and long-term (10 year) goals
Mentored K Awards: Review

• Overall Impact Score
• Scored Review Criteria
  o Candidate
  o Career Development Plan
  o Research Plan
  o Mentor(s), Consultant(s), and Collaborator(s)
  o Environment and Institutional Commitment to the Candidate
10 year goal

What is your R01?

What do you need to learn to apply for R01?

Know where you are going.

Career development, feasibility
The Candidate: Review Criteria

- Quality of the candidate’s academic and clinical record
- Potential to develop as an outstanding independent researcher
- Commitment to a career in scientific research
- Likelihood that the career development plan will contribute substantially to the scientific development of the candidate.
Candidate’s Background

- Suggested length: About 1 page.

- Personal narrative of your professional career. Convey anything that may not arise from your biosketch – who you are, motivation.

- Make sure to convey your passion about a specific focus or goal

- OK to use 1st person (“I”)

- Make this a compelling narrative, not a strict chronological statement

- Doing this well may be the most difficult task in writing a K proposal
Give examples of the opportunities you’ve had to engage in research (basic or clinical) as evidence of your long-standing commitment to research.

Highlight early evidence of productivity (e.g., pursuing a specific question, analyzing data, presenting or publishing your results). Include honors, awards, grants. This is really important.

This must be compelling
Career development plan: Review criteria

- Appropriateness of the content, the phasing, and the proposed duration of the career development plan for achieving scientific independence

- Consistency of the career development plan with the candidate's career goals

- Likelihood that the plan will contribute substantially to the achievement of scientific independence

- Timeline – When are you planning to submit manuscripts? How about the next phase of funding?
Career Development Plan

- Start by stating your long-term career goals and objectives

- Be very specific to name the specific set of skills you need to achieve your short-term and long-term goals.

- Explain why gaining additional training and mentored research experience in these areas will be critical to achieving your short-term and long-term career development goals

- Describe in detail how you will gain this training, such as through specific courses, individualized tutorials, or practical experience gained in someone’s research lab
Career development plans

Tips

• Create a table of the skills you will focus upon.
  o Fill in with mentors, courses, strategies to help you gain these skills
  o Some reviewers ask you to be specific – course name, credit, when
  o Create a time table. Training usually front-loaded

• How will you be evaluated?
• Just as for any research grant, need strong specific aims
• Methods must be very detailed but you have about 6 pages. May have to sacrifice from background a little.
• You don’t need to have experience with every method or technique but if you do not, be supported by mentors
• Reviewers will make allowances for being overly ambitious but there are limits
• If you propose very complex and obviously expensive research, you should have a plan for funding it
• Be careful if you are proposing a clinical trial to be adequately powered. Think through this very carefully.
• It is perfectly fine to propose pilot and feasibility
Evaluation criteria for primary mentor:

- Independent funded researcher
- Appropriateness of mentor’s research qualifications in the area of this application.
- Quality and extent of mentor’s role in providing guidance and advice to candidate.
- Previous experience in fostering the development of more junior researchers, must be documented in letter from mentor.
- History of productivity and support.
- (Adequacy of support for the research project.)
Choose a primary mentor who is a senior investigator with a track-record of funding; your primary mentor should be at OHSU. Include co-mentors who will complement the primary mentor’s strengths.

Each member of your mentor team must play a defined role in your training or research plan. Introduce each with a short paragraph. Mentors outside of OHSU are fine!

If you need many members, maybe call some scientific or technical advisors/collaborators who have a relatively narrow area of responsibility and focus.

How often will you meet with each mentor?

Include an evaluation component that describes how your mentors will assess your progress (e.g., quarterly meetings); include specific milestones during the K award. Include timeline, frequency of mentoring.
The letter from the primary mentor is very important. It should cover the following areas:

- His or her qualifications in the research area proposed by the candidate.
- Previous experience as a research supervisor. Cite examples of mentees and their current outcome.
- The nature and extent of supervision that will occur during the award period.
- What resources, if any, they will make available to you in support of your training and/or research.
- This MUST agree with what you say in the body of the grant.

Hint: The letter from your mentor is about them, not you. They must write it.
The primary mentor’s letter can also “re-frame” any potential weaknesses in the application.

- **Examples:**
  - Productivity of candidate (e.g., publications, grants).
  - Feasibility of conducting research plan with resources of K award.
  - Limited mentoring experience of primary mentor.
  - Limited resources of primary mentor (e.g., no current R01 funding).
  - Co-mentor(s) not at OHSU.
  - Scientific overlap with scholar and primary mentor.
Institutional Commitment to Candidate’s Research Career Development

- Applicant institution’s commitment to the scientific development of the candidate and assurances that the institution intends the candidate to be “an integral part of its research program.”

- Applicant institution’s commitment to protect at least 75% of the candidate’s effort for proposed career development activities.

- Describe the research facilities and educational opportunities of the sponsoring institution (OHSU) that are related to the candidate’s career development training and research plans. Hint: OCTRI

- Do NOT include a comment that “If funded, then the applicant will be appointed to faculty….” No contingencies.
These assurances are stated in a letter from your department chair or division chief. Protected time is the #1 issue.

Note: For fellows, this letter must state that you will be promoted from your current position to a “higher” position (full-time faculty position, assistant professor) during the review period or at the very least, K award period.
0 Responsible conduct of research. Ask for our boilerplate.
   • This is important but is more like a checkbox for the reviewer

0 May need rigor and reproducibility section

0 Inclusion of women, minorities and children in research and Protection of human subjects
   • If there is any question about IRB approval, get some provisional understanding or go through IRB ahead of time

0 Data sharing plan
How can OCTRI help?

- Design Studio
- Clinical Research Development Team
- Grant library
- OCTRI letter of support