

August 26, 2020

School of Medicine Strategic Plan “Forward Together” Initiative to Support Clinician Scientists on K Awards- FY21 Call for Submissions

Clinician scientists are critical to ensuring the effective translation of discoveries from the bench to the bedside. The first step towards a successful clinical research career is often a mentored career development award from the NIH (K award), which requires that the applicant devote a minimum of 75% effort for the research project. Clinical departments must provide clinical coverage to release research time for the recipients of these awards. The Dean’s office recognizes that clinical obligations can limit the ability of departments to expand their support for early career physician scientists engaged in research.

In an effort to bolster the engagement of junior clinician scientists in research, last year the School of Medicine (SOM) initiated a new program intended to help address this problem and expand the cohort of clinician scientists who are engaged in scientific research. On an annual basis over the course of the strategic plan, the Office of Research (OoR) will allocate \$15,000/year for up to 3 years to the department of each K awardee that holds an active externally funded K01, K08, K22, K23, K24, K26 or K99 grant from NIH, to help offset clinical departmental obligations for these clinician scientists. This program is intended for clinician scientists with an MD or MD/PhD who are engaged in scientific research. However, PhDs with significant clinical and patient-facing obligations who have external K grants and are engaged in scientific research, may also be eligible.

To apply for funding, clinical departments should submit the names and degrees of current K awardees in their departments for K awards active as of July 1, 2020. Please email the list for your department on the provided spreadsheet to oor_submissions@med.unc.edu by September 21, 2020.

Please contact Jennifer Brennan in the Office of Research with any questions: (OoR_Submissions@med.unc.edu).