

June 8, 2021

*School of Medicine Strategic Plan “Forward Together” Initiative to Support Clinician Scientists on K Awards- FY22 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, the School of Medicine (SOM) initiated a 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. Providing the funds to the department will allow units to grow and support their cohorts of clinician scientists.

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, 2021. Funding does not apply for awards that are in a no cost extension. K awards with a start date after July 1, 2021 may receive support if a Notice of Award (NOA) has been received. Please email the list for your department on the provided spreadsheet to [oor\\_submissions@med.unc.edu](mailto:oor_submissions@med.unc.edu) by **July 8, 2021**.

Please contact email the Office of Research with any questions:  
([OoR\\_Submissions@med.unc.edu](mailto:OoR_Submissions@med.unc.edu)).