Overview of NIH Career Development Awards (K mechanism)

Outline

- Agenda for today
- Career Development grants at NCI
- How these grants can help in research careers
- Structure and components of a K grant application
- Other global research opportunities
- Recent NIH guidance
- Resources

Agenda - morning

9:00am – 10:15am Morning Session One

Welcome and Overview
Dr. Sudha Sivaram, Program Director, Center for Global Health, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Rockville, MD, USA

Overview of the NIH Career Development (K) Award Grant Application Process
Dr. Sudha Sivaram, Program Director, Center for Global Health, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Rockville, MD, USA

Lessons from Funded NIH K Awards: Tips for Grant Writing
Dr. Fatou Jallow, Program Director, Center for Global Health, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Rockville, MD, USA

10:15am – 10:30am Break

10:30am – 12pm Morning Session Two

Basics of Grant writing
Dr. J. Andrew Dykens, Associate Professor of Family and Community Medicine, University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA

Preparing for the K08 Application
Dr. Rebecca Luckett, Obstetrician Gynecologist, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA, USA; Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA; Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana

Preparing for the K43 Application
Dr. Rahmat Adetutu Adisa, Professor of Biochemistry, Department of Medical Biochemistry, College of Medicine, University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria

Moderated Panel Discussion
Facilitator: Ms. Mishka Kohli Cira, MPH, Public Health Advisor, Center for Global Health, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Rockville, MD, USA

12pm – 1pm Lunch Break & Discussion [Lunch on your own]

Lunchtime discussion with NIH leaders about charting global cancer research careers
Dr. Satish Gopal, Director, Center for Global Health, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Rockville, MD, USA
Dr. Peter Kilmarx, Acting Director, Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, USA

Agenda - afternoon

1pm – 4pm Afternoon Session

Overview of Afternoon Breakout Discussions
Dr. Fatou Jallow, Program Director, Center for Global Health, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Rockville, MD, USA

Table Facilitators:
Dr. Hawa Camara, Post Doctoral Fellow, Center for Global Health, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Rockville, MD, USA

Dr. J. Andrew Dykens, Associate Professor of Family and Community Medicine, University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA

Dr. Fatou Jallow, Program Director, Center for Global Health, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Rockville, MD, USA

Dr. Sudha Sivaram, Program Director, Center for Global Health, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Rockville, MD, USA

Dr. Jenelle R. Walker, Health Science Administrator, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, USA

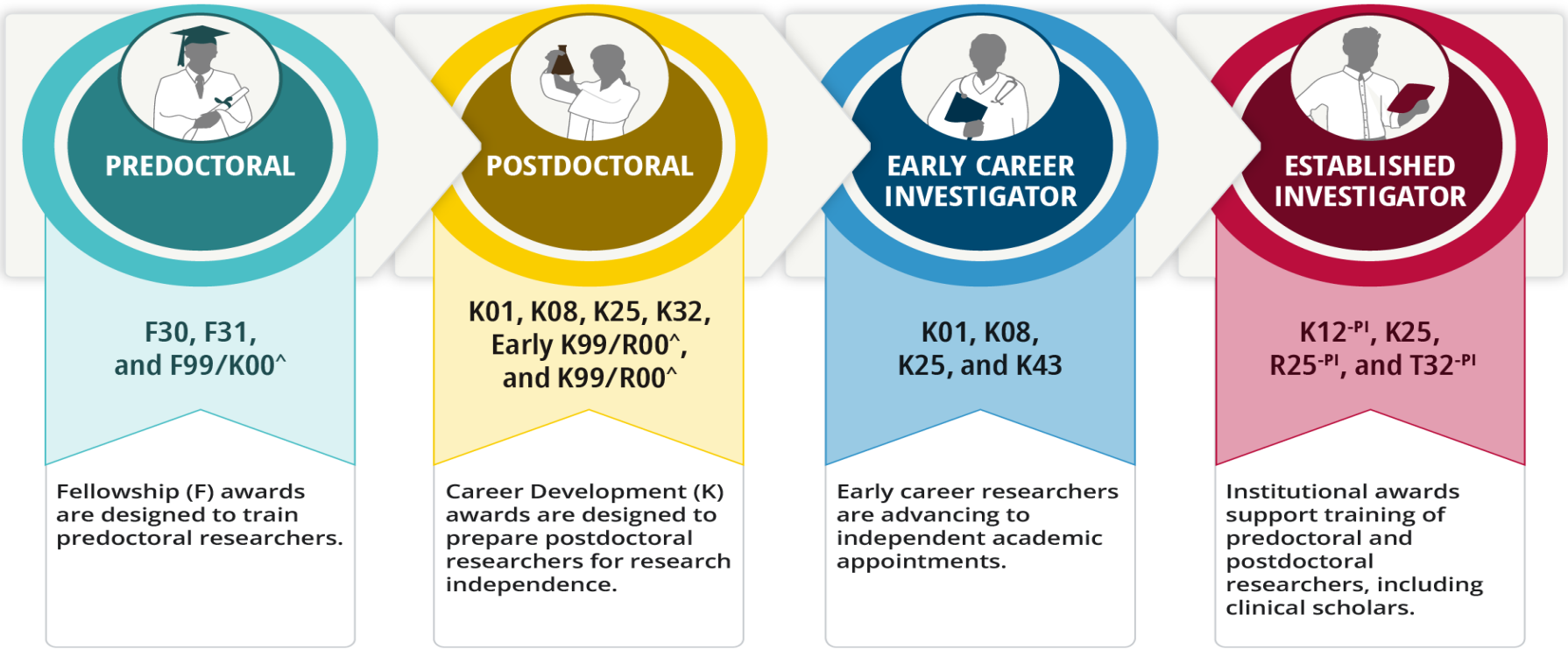
NCI Supports Funding for Training in All Areas of Cancer Research

Fogarty International Center supports various training initiaitves

NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

NCI FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CANCER TRAINING

The career stage indicated is when an applicant is eligible to apply for each award.



Loan Repayment Programs (LRPs)

Key

F = Fellowship
K = Career Development
R = Research
T = Training
^ = NIH intramural postdocs are eligible to apply
-PI = The principal investigator of the application must be an established investigator

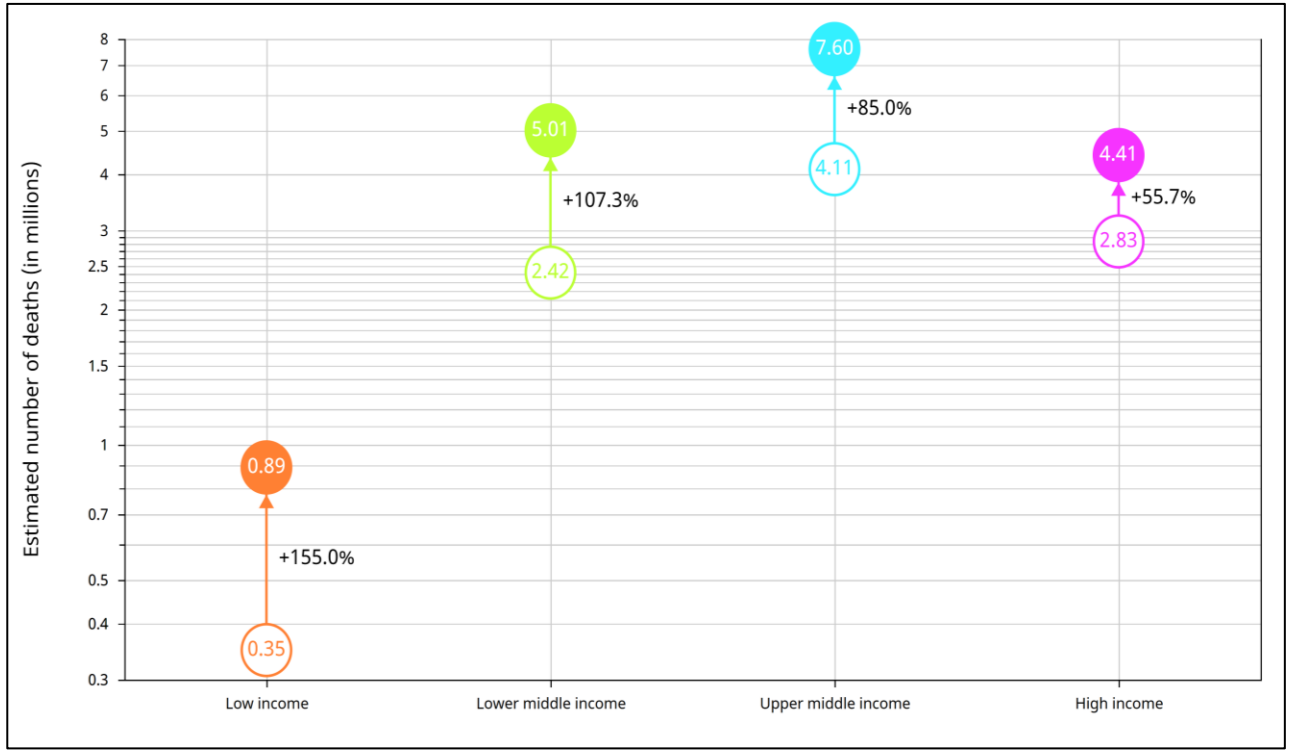
Training is supported across NCI: CCT, CRCHD, CGH

CCR. DCCPS, DCEG, DCP

cancer.gov

Increasing Need for Global Cancer Research Training

- Most cancer deaths worldwide occur in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)
  - 71% in 2022 → 75% in 2050
- Global cancer research training creates opportunities to:
  - Address global burden
  - Generate new knowledge and approaches
  - Inform domestic cancer prevention and care gaps
- Many partnerships exist between LMIC institutions and NCI-designated cancer centers
- Interest is increasing among early career researchers despite dedicated institutional training resources remaining scarce.



Global increases in cancer deaths between 2022 and 2050 by World Bank income classification

NCI Support for Global Cancer Research Training

- Improving Global Research Skills: Fellowship and training programs to strengthen global cancer research expertise
- Supporting Global Research Investigators: Career development awards in global health with NCI, NIH & Fogarty International Center
- Building Research Environments: NCI's Global Training for Research in Cancer (GlobTRC) initiative to build research environments in low-and middle-income countries (LMICs)

Individual Research Career Development Awards (Ks)

Foster advancement of new investigators to research independence

	"Early" K99/R00	"Extended" K99/R00	K01	K08	K25	K43
Mentored vs. Independent	Mentored/ Independent phase	Mentored/ Independent phase	Mentored	Mentored	Mentored	Mentored
Citizenship	U.S. citizens or **non-U.S. citizens**	U.S. citizens or **non-U.S. citizens**	U.S. citizens or permanent residents	U.S. citizens or permanent residents	U.S. citizens or permanent residents	LMIC citizens
Eligibility	≤ 2 years postdoc Institutional nomination required	≤ 6 years postdoc	postdocs and early career stage	postdocs and early career stage clinical scholars	postdoc – established investigator	Masters degree+thesis; Doctorate preferred
Duration	1-2 years K99 1-3 years R00	1-2 years K99 1-3 years R00	3 - 5 years	3 – 5 years	3 – 5 years	3-5 years
Budget	**K99 phase:** Salary: ≤ $100K Fringe benefits R&D: ≤ $30K **R00:** ≤ $249K (total costs)	**K99 phase:** Salary: ≤ $100K Fringe benefits R&D: ≤ $30K **R00:** ≤ $249K (total costs)	Salary: ≤ $100K Fringe benefits R&D: ≤ $50K	Salary: up to legislative cap Fringe benefits R&D: ≤ $50K	Salary: ≤ $100K Fringe benefits R&D: ≤ $50K	Salary: ≤ $100K Per institution R&D: ≤ $40K

Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award (K08)

NCI-specific requirements:

- Intended for postdoctoral and early career-stage (e.g., Assistant Professor or equivalent) clinician-scientists for intensive mentored research and career development activities in cancer research. The application will not be considered for funding if the PD/PI has already been promoted to Associate Professor or an equivalent position at the time of the award.
- Active U.S. clinical license must be included under “Other Attachments”
- Minimum 75% effort required for all specialties, except surgeon-scientists (minimum 50% effort: NOT-CA-21-054)
- No “cumulative support limit” on K12/KL2 and NCI K08
- No restrictions on the number of post degree years

K08 award provides (NCI-specific):

- *Salary:* up to legislative cap + fringe benefits; *R&D funds:* up to $50K/year
- *Duration*: 3 – 5 years

https://www.cancer.gov/grants-training/training/funding/k08

NCI Pathway to Independence Award for Early-Stage Postdoctoral Researchers (K99/R00)

PAR-23-286; PAR-23-287; PAR-23-288

- Postdocs with **less than 2 years of postdoctoral research experience** (as of submission due date); research in **data science, molecular/precision cancer prevention,** or **cancer control science** especially encouraged
  - Extensions of eligibility window may be considered on a case-by-case basis (contact NCI program director)
- Candidate must be nominated by their institution. Institution may nominate up to 4 candidates each due date: one in data science, one in cancer control science, one in molecular/precision cancer prevention, and one in other cancer research.
- U.S. citizenship or permanent residency not required - **Individuals on U.S. visas are eligible to apply and receive the award.**
- Due dates annually on **Feb 14, June 14, Oct 14 (expires 2026)**

https://www.cancer.gov/grants-training/training/funding/early-k99

NCI Pathway to Independence Award (Extended K99/R00)

PAR-25-135, PAR-25-313

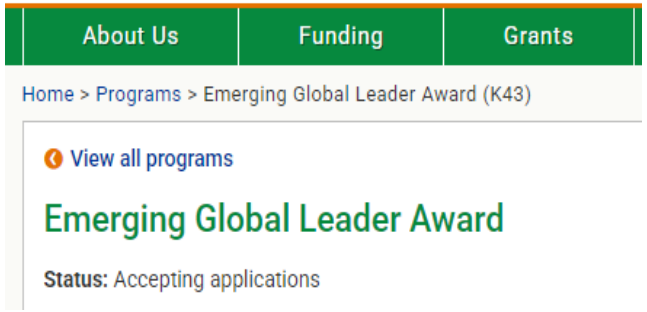
K99 (1-2 yrs): mentored training ➡ R00 (up to 3 yrs): independent scientist

- Postdocs with **less than 6 years of postdoctoral research experience** (as of submission due date)
  - Extensions of eligibility window may be considered on a case-by-case basis (contact NCI program director)
- Individuals on U.S. visas are eligible to apply and receive the award

K99/R00 award provides (NCI-specific):

- **K99 phase**: *Salary:* up to $100,000/year + fringe benefits; *R&D funds:* up to $30,000/year
- **R00 phase**: up to $249,000/year in total costs

Emeging Global Leader Award



- **FIC Emerging Global Leader Award** (K43):
  - Eligibility: LMIC early-stage career researchers
  - Research support and protected time for advanced mentored experience
  - Duration: up to 5 years
    - Intended for postdoctoral and early career-stage (e.g., Assistant Professor or equivalent) clinician-scientists for intensive mentored research and career development activities in cancer research.
- Minimum 75% effort required for all specialties
- No restrictions on the number of post degree years
  - https://www.fic.nih.gov/Programs/Pages/emerging-global-leader.aspx

How can Career Development (K) Awards Help You?

It supports the development of your research career by:

- Identifying you as capable of developing a research project
- Funding research that helps get you where you want to be in 3-5 years
- Develops career and scientific skills through an articulated career development plan

Factors to consider in selecting the right funding opportunity:

Stage in career development

Research focus

Prior research experience including publications

Level of institutional commitment

Needs of the investigator

Effort that can be committed

Citizenship status

Provisions & Requirements:

Provides up to 5 years salary and research support

Mentored K awards require mentors & strong institutional commitment

Specific effort commitment of ≥75% effort / 9 calendar months (except surgeons for K08 ≥50%)

US citizen or permanent resident (except K99/R00)

Letters of recommendation, submitted electronically

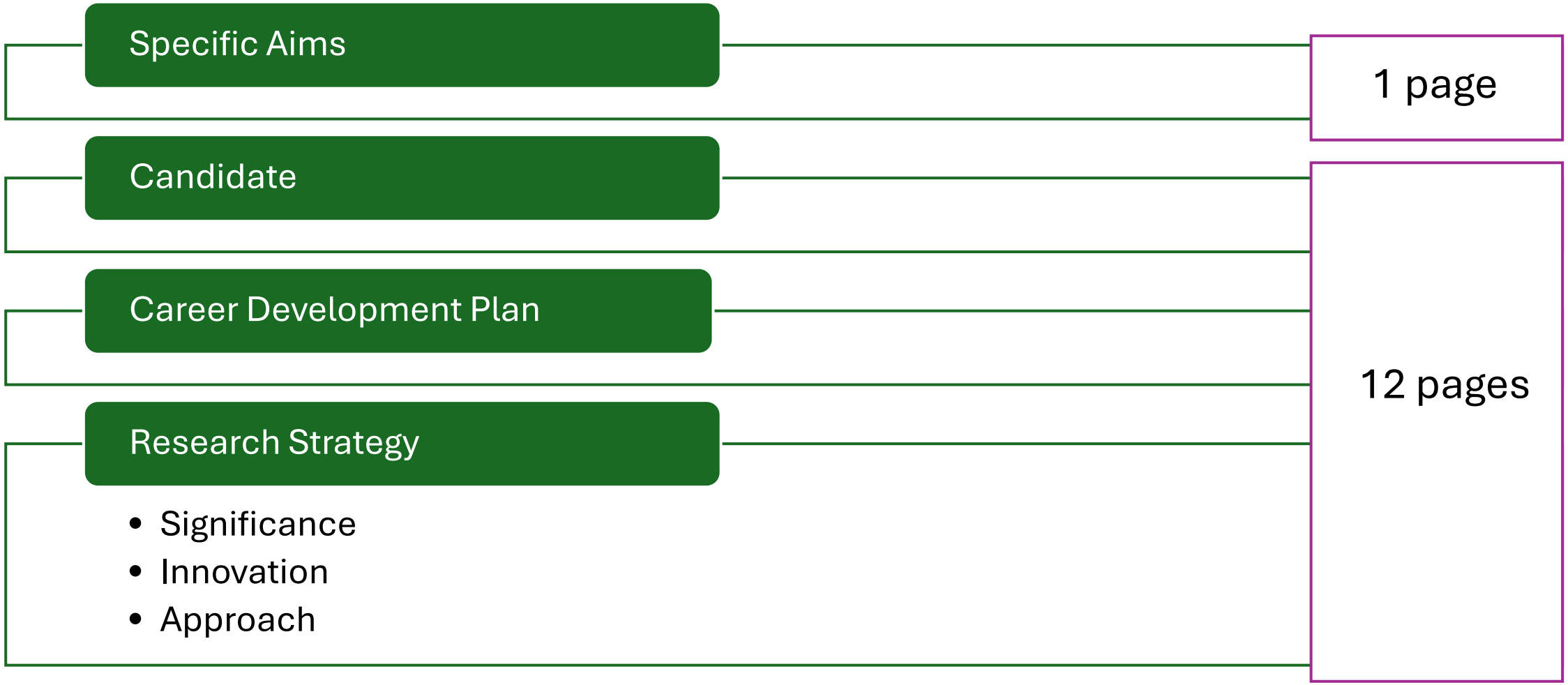
NIH Individual (K) Career Development Applications (Forms I)

Section	Comment	Limits
Project Summary/Abstract	For all activity codes	30 lines of text
Project Narrative	For most activity codes	Three sentences
Introduction to Resubmission and Revision Applications	For all activity codes	1 page
Specific Aims	For all activity codes with a Specific Aims page	1 page
Candidate Information and Goals for Career Development and Research Strategy	Combines these two attachments in one page limit	12 pages
Other sections e.g. letters, mentor statement, environment, institutional commitment etc.	See link below for details	20+ pages

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-i/career-forms-i.pdf

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-and-write/page-limits.htm

Structure of a K - Grant Application



https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-and-write/page-limits.htm#car

Address the Review Criteria:

In the funding opportunity Section V. Application Review Information

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

Scored Review Criteria:

- Candidate
- Career Development Plan / Career Goals and Objectives
- Research Plan
- Mentors, Co-Mentors, Consultants, Collaborators
- Environment & Institutional Commitment to the Candidate

Non scorable items (additional review considerations):

- Resource Sharing Plans
- Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)
- Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources
- Biohazards
- Budget & Period of Support
- Vertebrate animals and/or human subject's considerations

NIH Review Process Notes

Before the Review Meeting

Application is assigned to up to 3 reviewers

Assign reviewer gives a score to each criterion

Each reviewer gives an overall impact score

Pre-meeting average overall impact score calculated for each application

At the Review Meeting

Applications are discussed one by one

Each assigned reviewer will talk about their pre-review overall impact score

Pre-meeting average overall impact score calculated for each application

All Reviewers give a final Overall Impact Score after the discussion is complete

An average of these (x10) is the final score of the application

Criterion scores are not discussed or updated!!

All Reviewers give a final Overall Impact Score after the discussion is complete

An average of these (x10) is the final score of the application

Criterion scores are not discussed or updated!!

Discussions with program staff on resubmission

Some Notes and Updates

Biosketch; Data Management Sharing

Foreign Justification required: scientific opportunities; unique talents, special resources

NIH's Implementation of Common Forms for Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support for Due Dates on or after January 25, 2026

Notice Number:
NOT-OD-26-018

Key Dates

Release Date: December 2, 2025

Adjusted Timeline for NIH's Implementation of Common Forms

Notice Number:
NOT-OD-26-033

Key Dates

Release Date: February 04, 2026

Updated NIH Policy on Foreign Subawards

Notice Number:
NOT-OD-25-104

Key Dates

Release Date: May 1, 2025

Advancing NIH's Mission Through a Unified Strategy
August 2025

The NIH will continue to support research collaborations with institutions and scientists outside the U.S. Many critical breakthroughs that improve the health of Americans have resulted from global partnerships, so foreign scientific research collaborations often have clear scientific value.

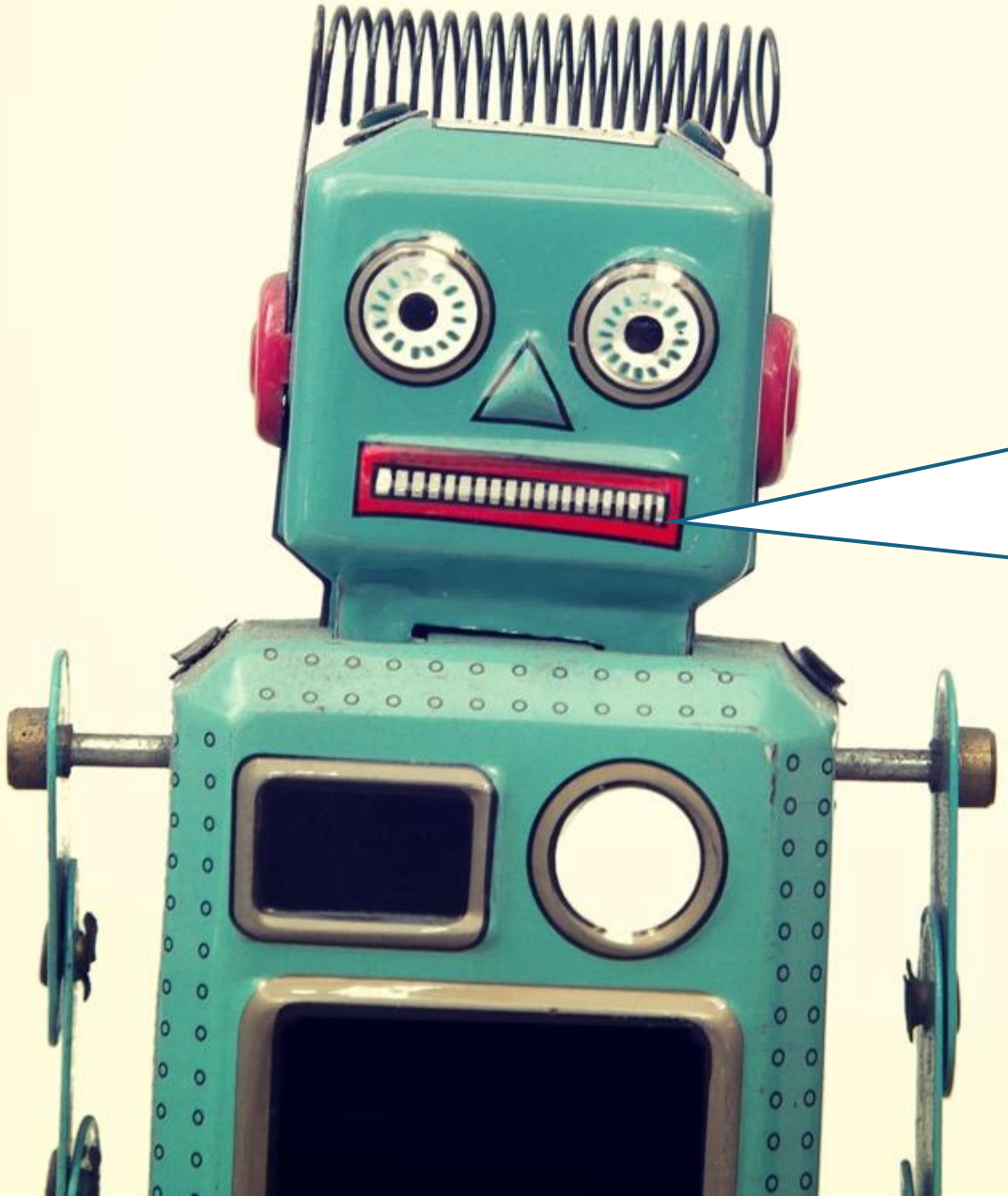
NIH Collaborative International Research Project (Parent PF5 Clinical Trial Optional)

PF5 Collaborative International Research Project

New

- Check for any recent Notices of NIH Policy Changes that may impact application requirements.
- **September 12, 2025** - New Application Structure for NIH-Funded International Collaborations. See Notice NOT-OD-25-155.
- **May 1, 2025** - Implementation of Updated NIH Policy on Foreign Subawards. See Notice NOT-OD-25-104.

PA-26-002



Please update your

ORCID
Connecting research and researchers

Profile!

As of January 25, 2026, the NIH requires all senior/key personnel listed on grant applications to have an ORCID iD linked to their eRA Commons profile and included in the persistent identifier (PID) section of Common Forms (NOT-OD-26-018). This applies to applications, RPPRs, and other submissions.

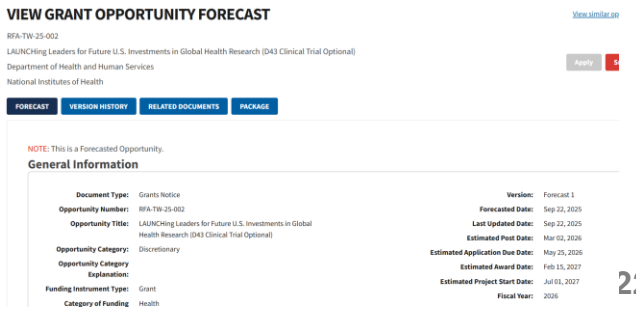
Additional global research training opportunities

Other Extramural Global Research Opportunities

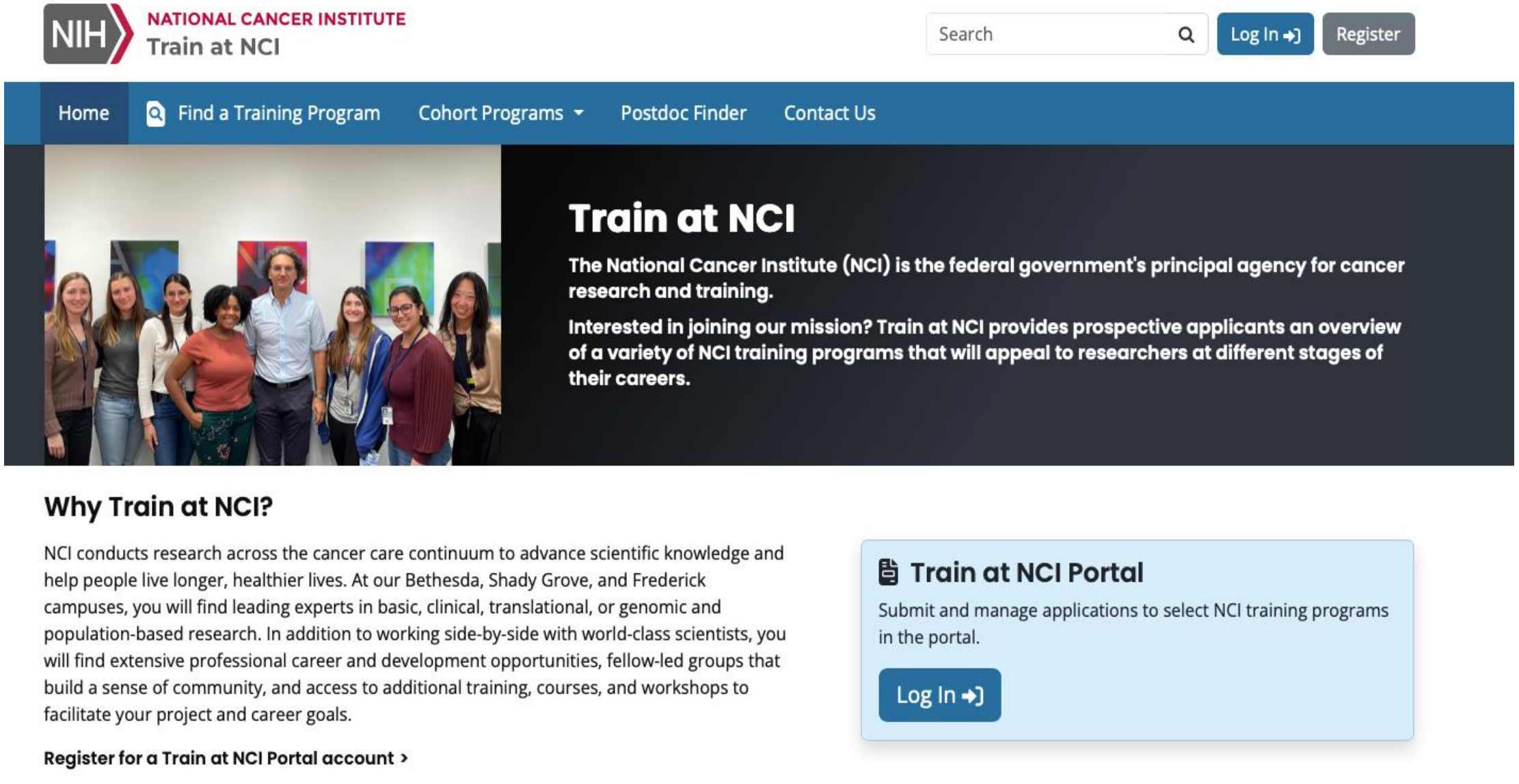
- **Global Oncology Mentored Research Supplements**
  - Eligibility: LMIC-based early-stage career researchers
  - Supports mentored cancer research career development of early-stage LMIC investigators.
  - Duration: one year
  - CGH has funded 28 LMIC-based scientists to date.

- **Support for International, National or Regional Meetings, Conferences and Workshops** (R13):
  - Eligibility: U.S. institutions and organizations, established scientific or professional societies
  - Supports domestic and international conferences, meetings, and workshops
  - Duration: one year
  - CGH has supported 14 R13 awards to date with most participants coming from LMICs.

- **Supplement to Launching the Global Research Scholars Initiative (D43 LAUNCH)**
  - Eligibility: LMIC-based pre- and postdoctoral scholars
  - Support to pre- and postdoctoral scholars from LMICs
  - Duration: one year
  - CGH has supported 19 global research scholars (US and LMIC)to date



Improving Global Research Skills: NCI Intramural Fellowships and Training



For training at NCI, visit https://trainatnci.cancer.gov

Improving Global Research Skills: Fellowships and Training

NIH NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE
Train at NCI

NCI and NIH Cohort Training Programs

Undergraduate and Postbaccalaureate	Graduate Student	Postdoctoral
iCURE: Intramural Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences		
Cancer Research Interns Summer Program		Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program
Cancer Research Postbac Program	NIH Graduate Partnerships Program	NCI Technology Transfer Fellowship

Research Areas

- Cancer Biology Research
- Cancer Genomics Research
- Research on Causes of Cancer
- Cancer Detection and Diagnosis Research
- Cancer Prevention Research
- Cancer Treatment Research
- Public Health Research and Cancer
- Cancer Health Disparities Research
- Research on Childhood Cancers
- Global Cancer Research

Global Cancer Research

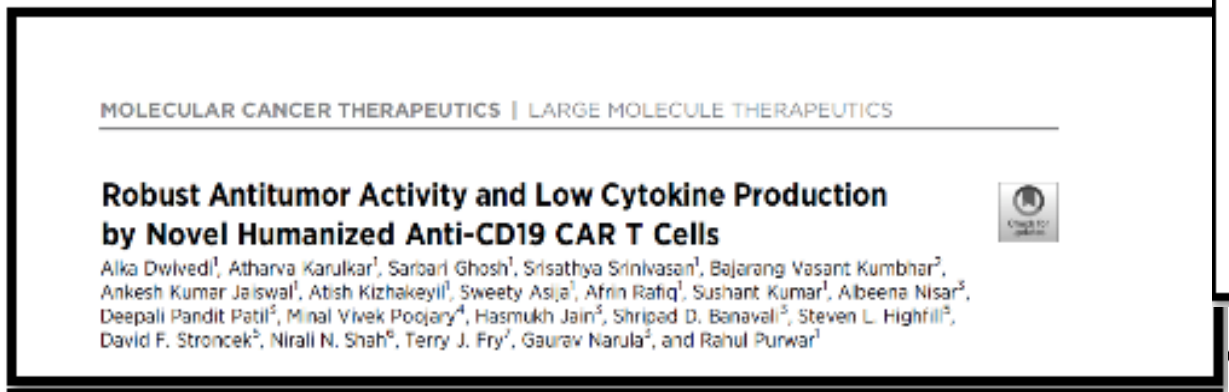
NCI is confronting the global burden of cancer by creating sustainable international partnerships, supporting programs that address global gaps in research and scientific training, and disseminating information and best practices that drive improvements in cancer research and cancer control.

Read more on Cancer.gov >

Improving Global Research Skills: Fellowships and Training

Short-Term Scientist Exchange Program:

- Supports postdoc researchers and clinician–scientists from LMICs in conducting collaborative research at NCI labs with established NCI investigators;
- Duration: up to six months.


MOLECULAR CANCER THERAPEUTICS | LARGE MOLECULE THERAPEUTICS

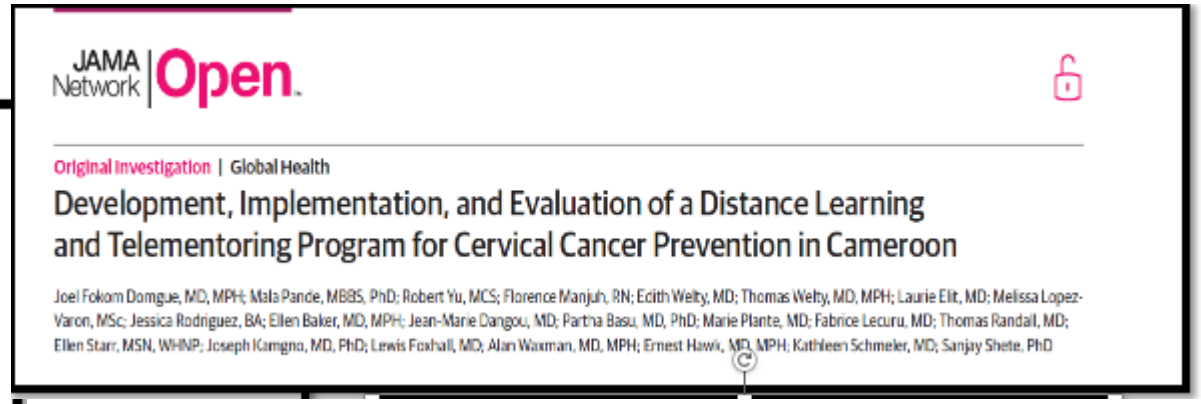
Robust Antitumor Activity and Low Cytokine Production by Novel Humanized Anti-CD19 CAR T Cells

Alka Dwivedi[1], Atharva Karulkar[1], Saroari Ghosh[1], Srisathya Srinivasan[1], Bajarang Vasant Kumbhar[2], Ankesh Kumar Jaiswal[1], Atish Kizhakeyil[1], Sweety Asija[1], Afrin Rafiq[1], Sushant Kumar[1], Albeena Nisar[3], Deepali Pandit Patil[3], Minal Vivek Poojary[4], Hasmukh Jain[5], Shripad D. Banavali[5], Steven L. Highfill[3], David F. Stroncek[3], Nirali N. Shah[6], Terry J. Fry[7], Gaurav Narula[2], and Rahul Purwar[1]


Ministry of Science & Technology

Department of Biotechnology supported First CAR-T cell therapy conducted at ACTREC, Tata Hospital in Mumbai

DBT/BIRAC-NBM Supported Phase I/II Clinical Trials


JAMA Network | Open

Original Investigation | Global Health

Development, Implementation, and Evaluation of a Distance Learning and Telementoring Program for Cervical Cancer Prevention in Cameroon

Joel Fokom Domgue, MD, MPH; Mala Pande, MBBS, PhD; Robert Yu, MCS; Florence Manjuh, RN; Ecith Welty, MD; Thomas Welty, MD, MPH; Laurie Elit, MD; Melissa Lopez-Varon, MSc; Jessica Rodriguez, BA; Ellen Baker, MD, MPH; Jean-Marie Dangou, MD; Partha Basu, MD, PhD; Marie Plante, MD; Fabrice Lecuru, MD; Thomas Randall, MD; Ellen Starr, MSN, WHNP; Joseph Kamgno, MD, PhD; Lewis Foxhall, MD; Alan Waxman, MD, MPH; Ernest Hawk, MD, MPH; Kathleen Schmeler, MD; Sanjay Shete, PhD


ARTICLE

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-18186-1 OPEN

The genomic landscape of Mongolian hepatocellular carcinoma

Julián Candia[1,8], Enkhjargal Bayarsaikhan[2,8], Mayank Tandon[3,8], Anuradha Budhu[1,4], Marshonna Forgues[1], Ukhagva-Ochir Tovuu[2], Undarmaa Tudev[5], Justin Lack[3], Ann Chao[6], Jigjidsuren Chinburen[7] & Xin Wei Wang[1,4]✉

For program details and updates, visit CGH website:
https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/cgh/global-research-training/fellowships

Improving Global Research Skills: Fellowships and Training

Cancer Research Training Award Fellowship

- Allows postbaccalaureate U.S. citizens or permanent residents to work at CGH
- Duration: up to one year
- For program details and updates, visit CGH website https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/cgh/global-research-training/fellowships

Summer Internship Program (through NIH)

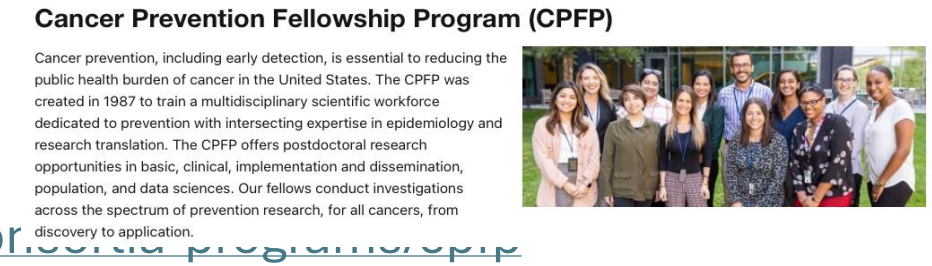
- Allows high-school graduates, undergraduate students, undergraduate degree holders, and early graduate school students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents to work at CGH
- Duration: up to 10 weeks
- For program details visit NIH training website https://www.training.nih.gov/research-training/pb/sip/#how-to-apply

Improving Global Research Skills: Fellowships and Training

Fellowship Opportunities in collaboration with partners**: under Development in 2026**

Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program (CPFP) – expanding eligibility to post-docs from LMICs:

- Will support early-career postdoc researchers from LMICs to spend up to 4 years at NCI in mentored cancer research training
- For program description and updates, visit the CPFP website https://www.prevention.cancer.gov/research-areas/networks-consortia-programs/cpfp

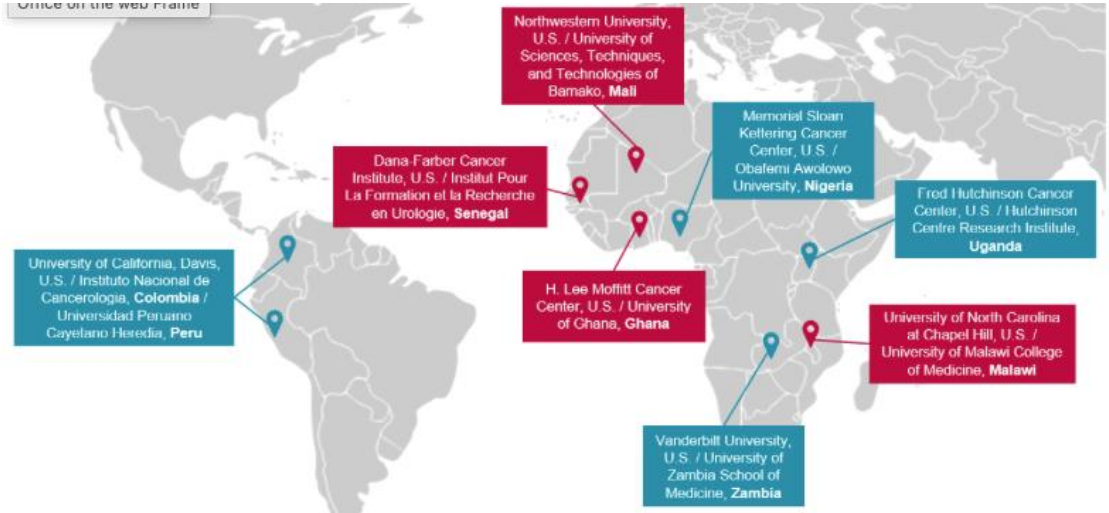


UICC technical fellowships – supporting candidates from LMICs and the US to pursue cancer research knowledge exchange and training:

- Will support researchers, clinicians, advocates, and policymakers in undertaking up to 2-month cancer research exchange opportunities
- For fellowship description and updates, visit the UICC website https://www.uicc.org/what-we-do/member-benefits/learning-and-develc fellowships)

Building Research Environments: NCI's Global Training for Research in Cancer – D43 (GlobTRC)

- First sustained NCI **institutional** global research training program
- Used D43 International Research Training Grant mechanism designed to **support research training led by US-based, cancer-research institutions** working in collaboration with LMIC institutions
- Training programs build on **pre-existing training infrastructure and research collaborations** and leverage these resources to expand the global cancer research workforce both in the US and in LMICs.
- First phase: 2 receipt dates with 8 awards



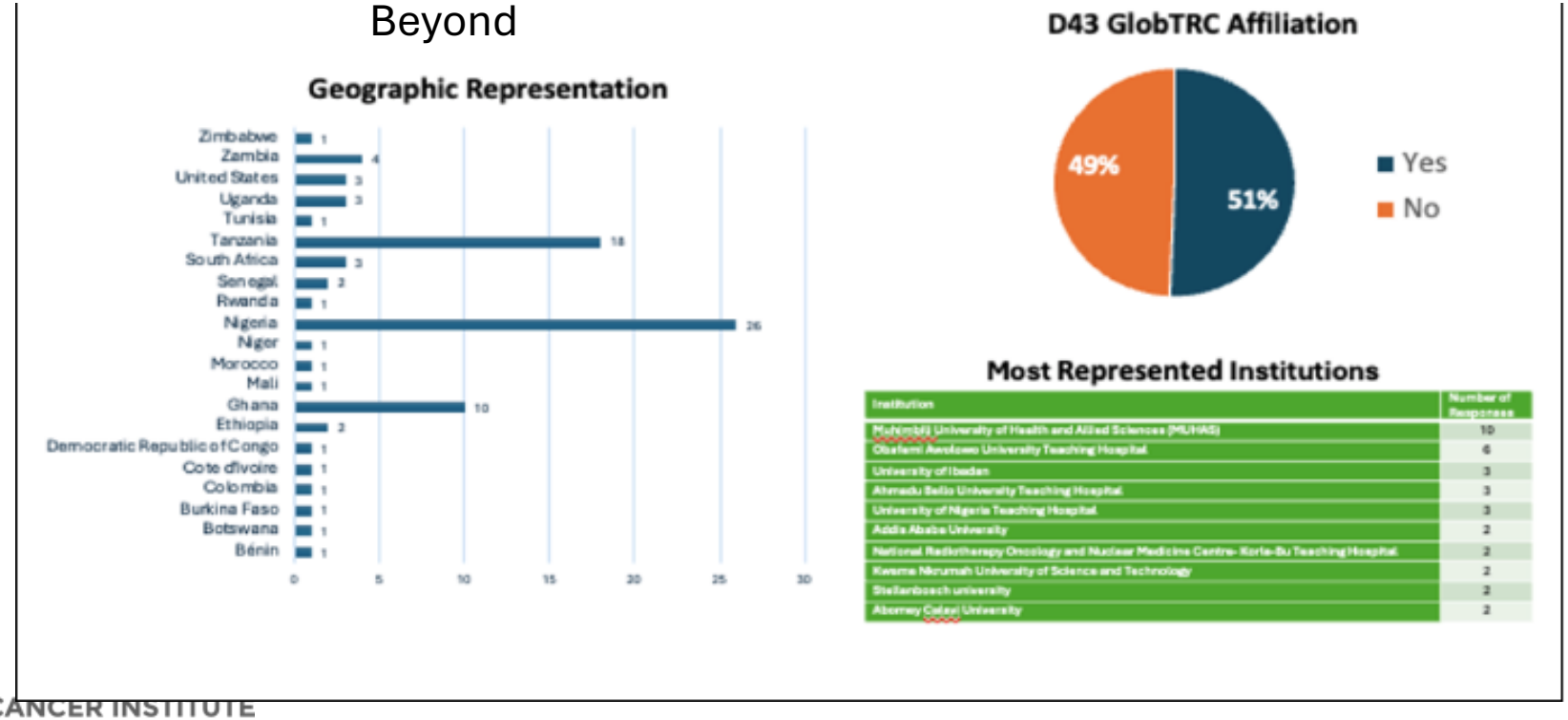
D43 GlobTRC Award Sites 2021-2026

Nigerian Cancer Research Training Program: Trainees and PIs

Building Research Environments: D43 (GlobTRC) Community of Practice

- Designed to foster learning, resource sharing, and mentorship among early-career investigators
- Enables continued collaboration and knowledge exchange beyond individual awards
- Strengthens and expands institutional linkages between US and LMIC institutions

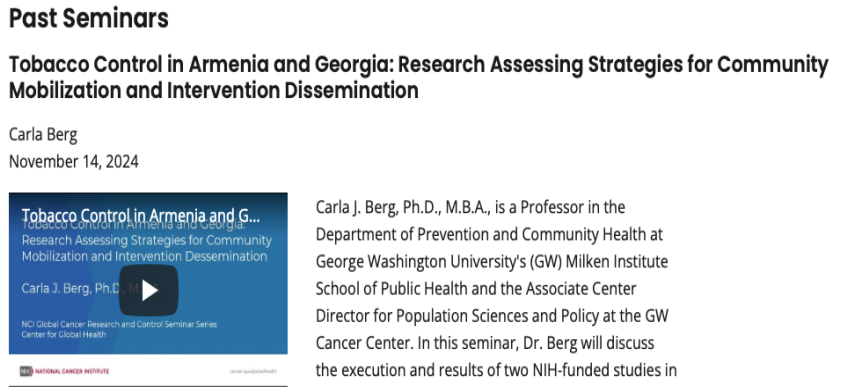
D43 GlobTRC Community of Practice and Beyond



Training Resources

Knowledge Exchange and Learning Opportunities

- CGH hosts the NCI Center for Global Cancer Research and Control Seminar Series to showcase impactful work to address cancer worldwide
  https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/cgh/events/global-cancer-seminar-series#upcoming-seminars



- CGH hosts the Annual Symposium for Global Cancer Research (ASGCR) for the global oncology community to exchange information and identify potentia
  https://events.cancer.gov/cgh/asgcr
  - Starts with an Early Career Investigator Day, a pre-symposium workshop for early career scientists, interested in a career in global cancer research
  - 2026 ASGCR is planned for September 15-17.

14th Annual Symposium on Global Cancer Research

Call For Submissions Now Open!

September 15-17, 2026 | 9:00 - 12:00 PM ET | Virtual Event

Simultaneous interpretation will be offered in French, Spanish, & Portuguese

An opportunity for global researchers to...

- Share science-based initiatives that reduce the burden of cancer in low resource settings
- Exchange information and identify areas for collaboration

#ASGCR26

Training Resources

- CGH collates a lists of seminars, trainings, and resources to support research and training in cancer research: https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/cgh/global-research-training

Training Resources

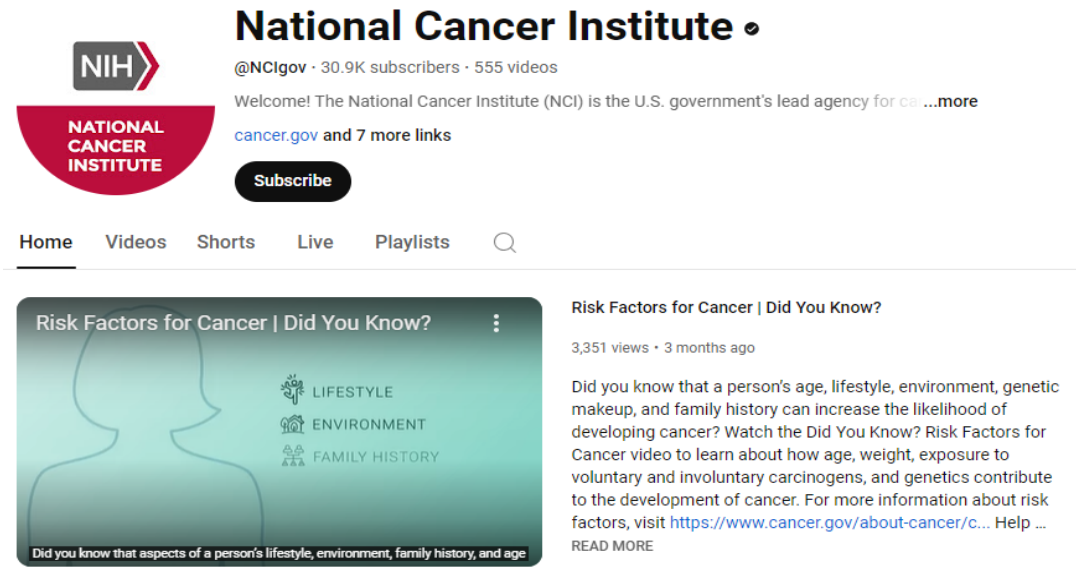
A list of training resources in cancer research across NIH is noted below. These training options, delivered mostly through virtual format, are free-of-charge and open to domestic and international researchers and health professionals of various career levels. These include web-based lectures and seminars and virtual learning courses and workshops.

- **Lecture/Seminar**: No registration required. Asynchronous: Learn at your own pace.
- **Course/Workshop**: Registration may be required depending on the schedule.
- **Resource/Tool**: Exposure assessment tools, statistical tools, and survey instruments.

While this is not an exhaustive list, it may be a useful resource and reference, especially for those starting their careers in cancer research.

Training Title	Area/Discipline	Career/Educational Level	Training Delivery	Training Format
NCI Center for Global Health Global Cancer Research and Control Seminar Series	Various Topics in Global Cancer Research	Health professionals, researchers, graduate and medical school trainees	Online	Lecture/Seminar
Overcoming the Undruggable Nature of the Most Common Human Oncogene K-Ras. NIH Director's Lecture Series	Cancer Biology and Genetics	Health professionals, researchers, graduate and medical school trainees	Online	Lecture/Seminar

- NCI hosts a YouTube channel with lectures and videos on cancer topics: https://www.youtube.com/ncigov



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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM *YOU*!

Interested in global cancer research and control funding and training opportunities, engagement activities, and more?

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