

## **Review Criteria for K Awards**

### Candidate

- Quality of candidate's academic and clinical record.
- Potential to develop as an independent researcher.
- Commitment to a research career.

### Career Development Plan

- 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 previous training and career goals.
- Likelihood that the plan will contribute substantially to the achievement of scientific independence.
- Quality of the proposed training in the responsible conduct of research.

Research Plan. Reviewers recognize the applicants will have variable amounts of previous research experience. Those with limited research experience are less likely to be able to prepare a research plan with the breadth and depth of that submitted by a more experienced investigator. All applications must include a fundamentally sound research plan but reviewers will consider the applicant's prior research experience in judging the level of detail provided.

- Scientific and technical merit of the research question, design, and methodology.
- Relevance of the proposed research to the candidate's career objectives.
- Appropriateness of the research plan to the stage of research development and as a vehicle for developing the research skills described in the career development plan.
- Adequacy of the plan's attention to children, gender, and minority issues when human subjects are involved.

### Mentor/Co-Mentors

- Appropriateness of mentor's research qualifications in the area of this application.
- Quality and extent of mentor's proposed role in providing guidance and advice to the candidate.
- Previous experience in fostering the development of researchers.
- History of research productivity.
- Adequacy of support for the proposed research project.

### Environmental and Institutional Commitment

- Adequacy of research facilities and training opportunities.
- Quality and relevance of the environment for scientific and professional development of the candidate.
- Applicant institution's commitment to the scientific development of the candidate and assurances that the institute intends the candidate to be an integral part of its research program.
- Applicant institution's commitment to the appropriate balance of research and clinical responsibilities including the level of 75 percent effort proposed by the candidate.