Alternatives to the K: Subspecialty-Specific Career Development Awards
K Alternatives

- Foundations and Professional Societies with young investigator grant programs
  - Searle and Pew Scholars programs
  - American Heart Association
  - American Liver Foundation
  - Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
  - National Kidney Foundation
  - American Gastroenterological Association
  - NASPghan Foundation
  - Lawson Wilkins Pediatric Endocrine Society
  - Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society
  - Society of Critical Care Medicine
K Alternatives

• Emphasize basic or clinical research training and career development
• May offer “Fellow to Faculty” transition awards with up to 6 years of support
• Often include special grant programs targeting pediatrics or specific diseases
• Often partner with industry and other organizations/foundations
• Vary widely in amount and duration of support, but many are competitive with NIH K Award funding
• Application process often very similar to that of the NIH K award
Eligibility

• Most targeted to applicants less than 3 to 5 years into first faculty position
• MD or MD, PhD
• Many also target PhD applicants as well
• Citizenship and visa status
• Most also offer student, fellowship and pre- and post-doctoral awards as well
Advantages

• Focused on research career development
• Limited to your subspecialty and area of research interest
• May apply simultaneously with K award, but usually must relinquish one if both overlap and are funded
• More opportunity to become familiar to reviewers in a subspecialty organization
Review Criteria

- Often very similar to that of the NIH K Award
  - Applicant
    - Eligibility
    - Training
    - Potential to become independent investigator
  - Mentor and Environment
  - Career Development Plan
  - Institutional Support
  - Research Plan
    - Significance
    - Approach
    - Innovation
  - Potential for project to lead to an independent research career
Examples: NASPGHAN Foundation

- Abbott Nutrition Advanced Fellowship Training in Pediatric Nutrition
- George Ferry Young Investigator Development Award
- Nestlé Nutrition Research Young Investigator Development Award
- Mid-Level Career Development Award
- AstraZeneca Research Award for Disorders of the Upper GI Tract
- CPNP Nutrition Research Grant
- Innovations in Clinical Care Grant
Examples: American Heart Association

- Grants offered by National Office and seven regional affiliates
- Pre- and postdoctoral fellowships
- Career Development Grant
  - Mentored research training grant
  - Faculty appointment by the time of award activation
  - May concurrently hold an NIH K award, if there is no budgetary overlap (except K99/R00)
  - No more than five years since the first faculty/staff appointment
  - Wide latitude for citizenship/visa requirements
  - Funding for 3 years at $77,000 per year, including 10% institutional indirect costs
Non-Subspecialty Career Development

Searle Scholars Program
2-Stage Limited Submission
(Internal UTHSC competition followed by UT system-wide competition)
Tenure-Track Assistant Professors only

Overview:
- The Searle Scholars Program awards grants to selected academic and research institutions to support the independent research of outstanding early-career scientists who have recently been appointed as tenure-track assistant professors. Searle is primarily interested in the potential of applicants to make innovative and high-impact contributions to research over an extended period of time.

Grant Level:
- Grants are set at $300,000 for a three-year term, with $100,000 payable in the first year and equal sums payable in the second and third years, subject to the receipt of acceptable progress reports.
- Generally, fifteen (15) new awards are funded annually.

Eligibility and Guidelines:
- Applicants must have begun their first appointment as an independent investigator in a tenure track assistant professor position on or after July 1, 2019.
- The appointment must be their first tenure-track position (or its nearest equivalent).
- Applicants are expected to be pursuing independent research careers in biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, immunology, neuroscience, pharmacology, and related areas in chemistry, medicine, and the biological sciences.
- The Searle Scholars Program does not ordinarily support purely clinical research but has supported research programs that include both clinical and basic components.
- Potential applicants who are unsure if their research is appropriate for the Program are encouraged to examine the research interests of former Scholars.
- The Searle Scholars Program does not place any restrictions on funding from other sources of support. The award is meant to supplement other funding received by an investigator.
- Basic biological scientists who hold only an M.D. degree are eligible as long as they are researchers and not purely clinicians. Additionally, their research must contain basic science components.
- Applicants who were nominated for awards in the previous competition year but were not awarded can apply if they still meet the eligibility criteria.
- See eligibility requirements at https://www.searlescholars.net/competition/eligibility
Non-Subspecialty Career Development

- Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences
  - Science relevant to the advancement of human health
  - Creative and pioneering approaches to basic, translational, and applied biomedical research
  - Does not fund clinical trials research
  - Funding from the NIH, other government sources, and project grants from non-profit associations does not pose a conflict
  - Selection based on candidate’s performance and notable past accomplishments, including honors, awards and publications
  - For 2020 Award
    - Assistant Professor level as of 9/10/20
    - Not appointed Asst. Prof. prior to 6/15/17
    - $75K per year for 4 years, 80% research effort
    - One candidate per institution
    - Complete application due 9/10/20
UTHSC E-Blasts

• UTHSC Office of Research
• Regular campus faculty e-mail blast (Lisa Youngentob, lyoungen@uthsc.edu)
• Focus on funding opportunities from all federal, private and corporate/corporate sponsored foundations, funds, charitable trusts, alliances, corporate giving programs, and other private grantmaking organizations
Le Bonheur Junior Faculty Grants

• Eligibility
  – Members of the LBCH medical staff and investigators in the Children’s Foundation Research Institute
  – Junior faculty members (less than 5 years out of training)
  – Require primary mentor and research career development plan

• Peer reviewed

• The amount of the award limited to one year of funding. Grants may be competitively renewed twice, for a total of three years of funding

• Funding up to $25,000 per year to support development of research programs

• Applications due **April 30, 2021** with a starting date of July 1, 2021
Other Opportunities

• Many of these organizations provide programs at national meetings as well as throughout the year for junior faculty
  – Mentoring workshops
  – Symposia on grant writing, manuscript preparation, study design, biostatistics, etc.
  – Single topic research conferences
  – Many provide funds for travel
SPR Junior Section Membership

The Society for Pediatric Research Junior Section introduces fellows and early career faculty to SPR and provides career-building resources and educational opportunities.

Junior Section members are part of the SPR Member physician-scientist network and work with SPR Members to develop as researchers and to prepare for full SPR Active Member status.

Benefits of SPR Jr. Section Membership include:
- Dues: Complimentary.
- Coaching: For grant applications & research methods.
- Grants: SPR Physician Scientist Bridging to Success grant application eligibility.
- Networking: To support transition to faculty & SPR Active Member status.
- Education: Regional & national SPR programs.
- Recognition: Extensive awards program and travel grants.
- Impact: Through SPR advocacy for child health research funding.

Eligibility:
- Fellows currently enrolled in academic fellowship or postdoctoral program related to pediatrics or child health.
- Faculty up to six years post-fellowship. Please share this announcement with your institution’s fellowship department or others that may be interested.
SPR Junior Section Membership

About the Junior Section
The Society for Pediatric Research Junior Section introduces fellows and early career faculty members to SPR by providing a variety of resources and educational opportunities. The goal is to promote networking within pediatrics and continue the development of scientists, as well as to foster transition to a career in pediatric science and eligibility for SPR Active Member status.

- Aids fellows in transition from fellowship to faculty through a variety of programs including:
  - **SPR Young Investigator Coaching Program**, which provides career development guidance and mentoring.
  - SPR K-Club grant-writing course, which provides intensive, hands-on support for early career stage investigators.
  - **SPR Physician Scientist Award: Bridging to Success** grant, which provides critical financial support as researchers transition to independent researcher status.
- Supports transition to **SPR Active Member** status.
- Professional networking key to achieving independent researcher status.
- Opportunities for participation in regional/national **SPR programs**.
- Recognition through an extensive **awards program and travel grants**.
- Opportunities to **advocate** for child health research funding.
- Dues-free professional society membership.
CFRI Access

• Director of Research, PCRU/IRB/Regulatory Core
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• Scientific Editor
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• Universal Contact
  – Dennis Black (dblack@uthsc.edu)

• CFRI website: https://www.lebonheur.org/research/
## Reminder Important Dates

### New K Series Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cycle 1</th>
<th>Cycle 2</th>
<th>Cycle 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Due Date</strong></td>
<td>February 12</td>
<td>June 12</td>
<td>October 12</td>
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<td><strong>Due in ORA</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Merit Review</strong></td>
<td>June-July</td>
<td>Oct-Nov</td>
<td>Feb-Mar</td>
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<td><strong>Advisory Council</strong></td>
<td>Aug/Oct</td>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>May</td>
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<td><strong>Earliest Start Date</strong></td>
<td>Sept/Dec</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>July</td>
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Thank You!

Questions?