

INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS FOR NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION

2015 YOUNG INVESTIGATOR GRANT PROGRAM

OVERVIEW OF NKF RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAM

The intent of the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) is to fund the most meritorious research projects within budgetary constraints. Both basic and clinical research activities will be funded, after careful and balanced peer review by an independent review committee, with an emphasis on the support of high-quality clinical investigation.

During the peer review process, the responsiveness of the individual application to the research agendas of the NKF will be one of the elements used to judge merit and assign ranking for both the clinical and basic research applications. Applicants will be asked on the face sheet of the application to provide a description of the applicability of the application to the research agenda of the NKF, with specific reference to any KDOQI Guideline upon which the research project impacts. (Please see KDOQI Research Recommendations)

It is permissible for an applicant to have a concurrent NIH "K" series award and a Young Investigator Grant from the NKF. The applicant should provide a statement of the budgetary and scientific overlap and relatedness of the two applications. Candidates may apply for a National Kidney Foundation Young Investigator Grant and/or the Satellite Dialysis Clinical Investigator Grant of the National Kidney Foundation. However, only one grant will be awarded to any applicant in this funding cycle.

NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION YOUNG INVESTIGATOR GRANT PROGRAM

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) recognizes that future improvements in the treatment and prevention of kidney disease will rest largely on the accomplishments of individuals now commencing their investigative work. Young investigators are often hampered in their progress by difficulty in obtaining suitable financial support for their research during the formative period of their careers. The National Kidney Foundation has established a Young Investigator Grant Program to help alleviate this problem. The purpose of the Young Investigator Grant Program is to support research in the fields of nephrology, and related disciplines by individuals who have completed fellowship training and who hold junior faculty positions at university-affiliated medical centers in the United States. Further information on the requirements, terms of support and mechanism of application is given below.

ELIGIBILITY

Applications will be considered from individuals who will have completed research training in nephrology, or closely related fields prior to the start of the grant award and who intend to pursue research directly related to these areas. At the time funding begins (July 1, 2015), the applicant must hold a full-time appointment to a faculty position at a university or an equivalent position as a scientist on the staff of a research oriented institution, e.g., National Institutes of Health (NIH) or other research organization, in the United States. Customarily, the appropriate faculty rank is that of Assistant Professor. (In some institutions a title other than Assistant Professor, e.g. Instructor, is used to designate

junior faculty status; individuals at that rank in such institutions are eligible to apply for a Young Investigator Grant.) Qualifications should be documented in the biosketch (limit: four pages).

Young Investigator Grants will be awarded to individuals no later than four years after initial appointment to a faculty (or equivalent) position or after appointment to a staff scientist (or equivalent) position in a research organization. Because of this policy, candidates who received a faculty appointment before July 1, 2011 would not be eligible for this award in this funding cycle. It is the responsibility of the applicant to demonstrate that he/she satisfies the eligibility requirements for a Young Investigator Grant. Eligibility rules will be strictly enforced. Anyone who may not be certain as to his/her eligibility should request an advisory opinion from NKF staff before submitting an application.

Young Investigator Grants are primarily intended to support research by individuals holding M.D. or Ph.D. degrees who are commencing careers on the faculty of medical schools or research institutions. In all cases the applicant's research and career goals must be directed to the study of normal or abnormal kidney function or of diseases of the kidney and urinary tract. Only one investigator in an institution will be supported in any funding cycle by a Young Investigator Grant. Since the NKF research support program is an integral part of the Foundation's overall scientific mission, it is expected that candidates for support pursuant to this funding mechanism participate as dues-paying professional members of the National Kidney Foundation, Inc.

TERMS OF SUPPORT

Initial support for awards commencing July 1, 2015 will be provided for one year in a total amount not to exceed \$20,000. Although funding for a second year of support is not guaranteed, the investigator may request an additional year's funding at \$20,000 per annum as a competitive renewal. Funds provided by a Young Investigator Grant will be administered by the appropriate fiscal department of the investigator's institution. Funds may be used only for equipment, supplies, animals, clinical research costs or other expenses directly related to the conduct of the proposed research. None of the funds may be expended for salary and fringe benefits of the principal investigator. No more than \$500 per year may be used for travel by the investigator to national or international meetings.

Funds for a Young Investigator Grant may not be used for any of the following:

1. Indirect costs or overhead
2. Costs of patient care
3. Constructing or renovating facilities
4. Furniture or office equipment
5. Secretarial services

Any changes in the budget proposed in the original application or in subsequent amendments must be approved in advance by the NKF.

OTHER SUPPORT

If, during the period of support by a Young Investigator Grant, the investigator obtains any type of "R" grant from the National Institutes of Health or a Merit Award from the Veterans Administration, the Young Investigator Grant will be terminated at the start of funding by the other agency. Individuals who have received "K" awards from the NIH are eligible for funding under the NKF Young Investigator Grant

Program. To assist the Young Investigator Grant Committee in implementing this policy, the application should list all research projects (either funded or with funding pending) in which the applicant is participating. The scientific and/or budgetary relationship between the proposed Young Investigator Grant and any other research funding should be explained.

FORM OF APPLICATION

Completed applications should be submitted electronically - Application available October 1st

Most of the sections of the application do not require explanation. However, the following requirements should be noted:

COVER SHEET

It is the responsibility of applicants to characterize their research as clinical or basic and check the appropriate box on the cover sheet of the application. Please use the following definition from the Nathan Report as a guide. The Nathan Report describes three categories of clinical research: (1) Patient-Oriented Research, defined as research conducted with human subjects (or on material of human origin such as tissues, specimens and cognitive phenomena) for which an investigator (or colleague) directly interacts with human subjects in either an outpatient or inpatient setting. Elements of patient-oriented research activities, as defined, include but are not limited to development of new technologies, mechanisms of human disease, therapeutic interventions and clinical trials. Excluded are in vitro studies that utilize human tissues but do not deal directly with patients. (2) Epidemiologic and Biobehavioral Studies. (3) Outcomes Research and Health Services Research.

DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN'S LETTER OF COMMITMENT

A letter of commitment from the chairman of the applicant's department must be submitted with an application for a Young Investigator Grant. The letter must include the following information:

1. A statement that the applicant, if awarded a Young Investigator Grant, will have at least 40 percent time available to pursue research. The distribution of the balance of the time among other duties (clinical, teaching, etc.) should be specified.
2. A statement of the date and title of the initial appointment of the applicant to a faculty or staff scientist position at the institution. If the appointment is other than an assistant professorship, the letter should state the institution's policy for junior faculty or scientist positions.

DOCUMENTATION OF COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Applicant should provide letter(s) from consultant(s) indicating their willingness to assist in the proposed project and any conditions on such assistance, if applicable.

LAY SUMMARY

A brief (150 words) description of the research that the Young Investigator proposes to undertake should be written as a summary for a lay audience. The summary should include a brief discussion of the

proposed research and an indication of its potential benefits to the patient with kidney disease. Scientific jargon, abbreviations and complex discussions should be avoided.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

The research proposal should be divided into the following parts:

Part A. Specific Aims (limited to one page)

Part B. Significance and background (limited to one page).

Part C. Preliminary studies (limited to one page)

Part D. Experimental design and methods (limited to two pages)

The candidate should explicitly acknowledge limitations in the research design and provide alternative approaches which would be employed should aspects of the research design be unproductive.

Part E. Bibliography

The page limitations for the different parts of the Research Plan are the maximum acceptable. Eleven point proportional font is the smallest print permitted. There must be no more than 60 lines per page. Margins should be greater than or equal to 0.5 in. An application may be denied scientific review if it exceeds required number of pages or permitted type size.

An Appendix may be used for presenting data tabulation, figures, graphs, submitted manuscripts, abstracts and papers. Any Appendix should not contain further descriptive material.

REFERENCES

Three references should be submitted separately from the application on the form provided in the application materials and each reference should be **e-mailed to research@kidney.org by the Friday, February 13, 2015, deadline**. One of these letters should be from the sponsor of the research performed during the applicant's research training. If a reference is submitted by the chairman of the applicant's department, it should be separate from and in addition to the required letter of commitment (see above).

STATEMENT OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND ELIGIBILITY

This form should be completed by the candidate for a Young Investigator Grant. The statement should describe plans for career development and explain how a National Kidney Foundation Young Investigator Grant will help the grantee to take steps towards an independent research career, rather than merely supplement funding from other agencies. The applicant should highlight opportunities to acquire new skills and learn new techniques that the Young Investigator Grant will make possible, such as training in epidemiology and statistics, molecular biology, translation research, and research methodology.

DEADLINE AND PEER REVIEW PROCESS

Applications and all supporting documents for Young Investigator Grants must be submitted electronically on or before **Friday, February 13, 2015**. Applications received after this date will not be considered. Applications will be reviewed by an NKF study section, using outside reviewers, as necessary. Successful applicants will be notified in Spring, 2015 and funds will be made available to them effective July 1, 2015. Because of limited resources, NKF is not able to provide written critiques of applications.

FUNDING AGREEMENT

Successful candidates will be required to execute an agreement that incorporates the terms and conditions of research support from the National Kidney Foundation described in these instructions.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

In carrying out its stewardship for the resources devoted to the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) research program and to provide feedback to the NKF benefactors who make this research program support possible, it is the policy of the NKF that its membership should be kept informed of the research progress of NKF Young Investigators, the status of their careers and the effectiveness of the NKF Young Investigator Grant Program. By accepting a National Kidney Foundation Young Investigator Grant, the investigator and the grantee institution agree to the following reporting requirements:

The Young Investigator will provide a Progress Report written for a lay audience at the end of each year of support.

The Young Investigator agrees to provide a reprint of every publication (including abstracts) resulting from research supported by the NKF, even if published after termination of the grant.

Results of research supported by the National Kidney Foundation may be made available to the public through appropriate scientific channels. All publications will bear the statement:

“The work was supported by a Young Investigator Grant of the National Kidney Foundation.”