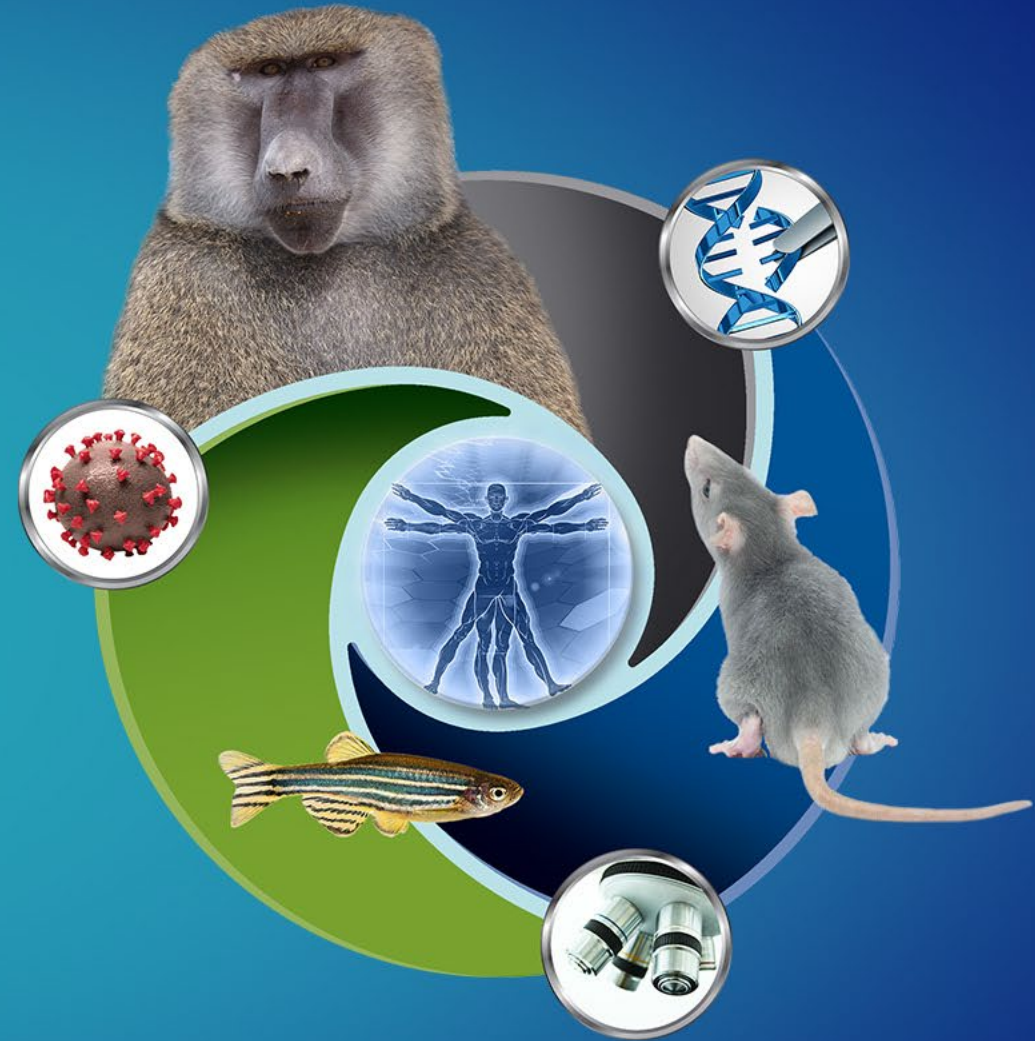


Small Grant Program for ORIP Veterinary Scientist SERCA K01 Recipients (R03)

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National Institutes of Health
Office of Research Infrastructure Programs

Concept Clearance

Concept Clearance: Reissue

Small Grant Program for ORIP Veterinary Scientist Special Emphasis Research Career Award (SERCA) K01 Recipients (R03)

Objective: To facilitate SERCA K01 recipients' transition to independence by increasing fiscal independence; demonstrating additional success in peer review competitions; and generating additional data and publications in support of future R01 or equivalent applications

Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards: Contingent upon NIH appropriations and the submission of meritorious applications

Award Project Period: 2 years

Council Action: Vote for approval of the concept for “Small Grant Program for ORIP Veterinary Scientist SERCA K01 Recipients (R03)”



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Background on ORIP's R03 Program

- **ORIP supports SERCA K01 grants under the Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (Parent K01) for developing veterinary scientists**
 - **These awards provide a mentored research experience that enables veterinarians to become independent investigators in research related to comparative medicine, biomedical research, and translational sciences**
- **R03 grants have been used by NHLBI, NIAID, NIAMS, and NIDDK to competitively supplement career development (K) grants during the last two award years**
- **The intent of these R03 programs is to increase the success rate of new investigators applying for R01 or equivalent grants**



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Background on ORIP's R03 Program (continued)

- Established in fiscal year 2017 (FY17) and has continued to evolve under ORIP's oversight
- Enhances the ability of ORIP SERCA K01 awardees to conduct research as they transition to becoming independent researchers through ORIP's own R03 program
- Aligns with ORIP's mission to support *“research training opportunities for veterinary scientists”*
- Since 6/5/2017, three notices of funding opportunity (NOFOs) have been issued:
 - [PAR-17-301](#) (6/5/2017 to 5/8/2020)
 - [PAR-21-090](#) (11/30/2020 to 5/5/2023)
 - [PAR-23-127](#) (3/10/2023 to 5/8/2026)
- The current NOFO, [PAR-23-127](#), has three receipt deadlines each year, whereas previous NOFOs ([PAR-17-301](#) and [PAR-21-090](#)) had an annual receipt deadline, allowing SERCA K01 awardees more flexibility for preparing and submitting applications



Purpose

- ***ORIP Strategic Plan 2021–2025— Strategy 3.1***
 - Promoting “innovative approaches to training and developing the careers of veterinarians working in biomedical research”
 - Investing “in training and mentorship innovations for the development of veterinary scientists as independent researchers and collaborative team scientists”
 - Supporting “career development and training that prepares graduate veterinarians to pursue research that fills major gaps in biomedical and biobehavioral science and expands knowledge in emerging areas critical to human health”
- **R03 program provides access to research support that allows early stage veterinary scientists to:**
 - Pursue unique research directions independent of the funding support of their mentors
 - Facilitate their transition to independence
 - Increase their competitiveness for R01 or equivalent awards



Types of Projects

- **The R03 program is intended to support research projects that:**
 - Can be carried out in a short period of time (2 years) with limited levels of funding and resources
 - May provide preliminary data to support a subsequent R01 or equivalent application
- **Projects to be supported include the following:**
 - Pilot and feasibility studies
 - Secondary analyses of existing data
 - Small, self-contained research projects
 - Development of research methodology
 - Development of new research technology



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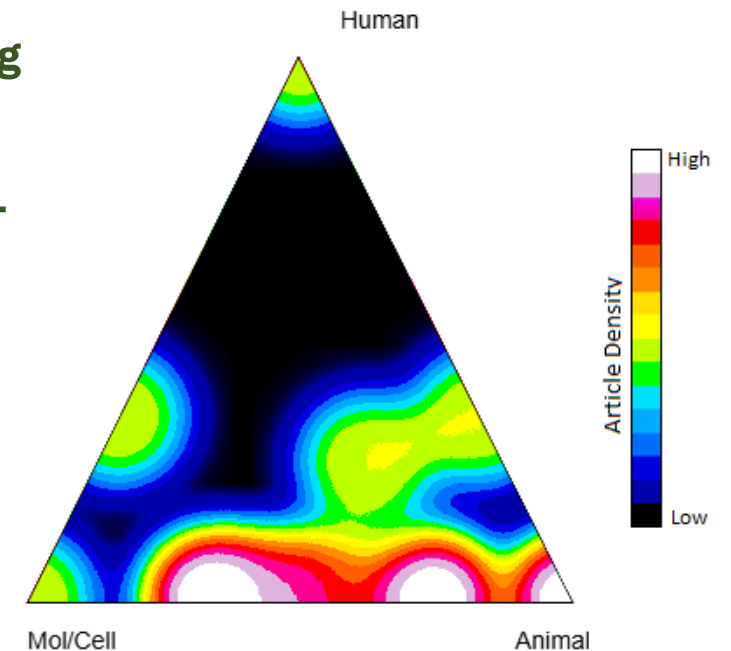
Features of the R03 Program

- **Restricted, limited competition for current ORIP veterinary scientist SERCA K01 awardees**
 - **Eligible after completion of the first 2 years (24 months) of the SERCA K01 award**
 - **Ineligible if the SERCA K01 awardee has already successfully competed for an R01 or equivalent grant**
- **SERCA K01 award must be active (not in a no-cost extension) at the time of submission**
- **ORIP SERCA K01 awardees may receive funding for only one R03 grant award**
- **Budget of up to \$150K (direct costs) for 2 years**



Program Progress

- First NOFO (PAR-17-301) was released in FY17, followed by receipt of the first round of applications eligible for submission in FY18
- Thirteen R03 awards were made from FY19 to FY24 from among 42 applications submitted from FY18 to FY24 (31% award rate)
- Three grantees subsequently competed successfully for NIH R01 funding
- Seven grantees have R01 applications under consideration for FY25
- Eight grantees have advanced to become Assistant or Associate Professors
- R03 grantees have generated 16 publications, 15 of which are senior author publications
- In terms of translation, publications cluster primarily between animal-oriented research and molecular/cellular research



Council Action

***Vote for approval of the concept for the
“Small Grant Program for ORIP Veterinary
Scientist SERCA K01 Recipients (R03)”***



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