

# ORIP

OFFICE OF RESEARCH  
INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS

Division of Comparative Medicine



**Concept Clearance**

**Limited Competition: Small Grant Program for ORIP**

**Veterinary Scientist SERCA K01 Recipients (R03)**

Stephanie Murphy, V.M.D., Ph.D.  
Director, Division of Comparative Medicine



**NIH** National Institutes of Health  
Office of Research Infrastructure Programs

# Background

- ORIP supports *Special Emphasis Research Career Award (SERCA) K01* grants 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 NIDDK since 2002 and more recently by NHLBI and NIAMS to competitively supplement career development (K) grants during the last 2 years of the award.
- Intent of the R03 supplement program is to increase the success rate of new investigators applying for R01 grants.
- Analysis of the NIDDK R03 program from 2002 to 2014 suggests greater success in obtaining R01 grants for those K awardees that received an R03 grant.

# Purpose

- NIH has an interest in developing and expanding a physician-scientist workforce that includes veterinary scientists.
  - Biomedical Research Workforce Working Group Report (June 2012).
  - Physician-Scientist Workforce Working Group Report (June 2014).
- ORIP Strategic Plan: “...*identify and address challenges and opportunities for veterinary scientists to acquire the skills needed to participate in biomedical research.*”
- Participants at a 2015 workshop convened by ORIP identified the need for transition support between K01 and the first R01 grant for developing veterinary scientists.
- ORIP seeks to enhance the ability of its SERCA K01 recipients to conduct research as they transition to becoming independent researchers by developing its own R03 supplement program.

# Type of Projects

- The proposed R03 program initiative is intended to support research projects that:
  - Can be carried out in a short period of time with limited resources.
  - May provide preliminary data to support a subsequent R01 or equivalent application.
- Projects to be supported include:
  - Pilot and feasibility studies.
  - Secondary analysis of existing data.
  - Small, self contained research projects.
  - Development of research methodology.
  - Development of new research technology.

# Features of the R03 Program

- Restricted, limited competition for current ORIP veterinary scientist SERCA K01 recipients.
  - Eligible if in the third to fourth year of SERCA K01 award.
  - Ineligible if veterinary scientist SERCA K01 awardees has successfully competed for an R01 or equivalent grant.
- Budget of up to \$150K (direct costs) for two years.
- Anticipate 9 to 12 eligible veterinary scientist SERCA K01 applicants each year.
- Expect/anticipate to fund 3 to 4 proposals each year.
- ORIP will conduct an evaluation at the end of the fifth year of the program's existence.

# Concept Clearance

*Develop a limited competition, small grant program for ORIP veterinary scientist SERCA K01 recipients (R03).*