

Concept Clearance – Reissue of Limited Competition Small Grant Program for ORIP Veterinary Scientist SERCA K01 Recipients (R03)

[Training veterinary scientists as translational researchers](#) is an important component of [ORIP’s Strategic Plan](#). This R03 Limited Competition program provides ORIP-supported Special Emphasis Research Career Award (SERCA) K01 awardees who have completed the first two years (24 months) of their K01 the opportunity to apply for small grant support. ORIP seeks to enhance the capability of ORIP SERCA K01 awardees to conduct research as they complete their transition to fully independent investigator status. Several NIH Institutes, including NIDDK, NHLBI, NIAMS, and NIAID, have identified the transition from K-grant to R-grant as particularly difficult and deserving of special attention. Each of these Institutes has implemented a limited competition R03 grant to competitively supplement the career development of their K-grant recipients. An analysis of the NIDDK R03 program (covering years 2002 to 2014) was conducted and found that successful R03 applicants have greater success in obtaining R01 grants than do those who do not apply for R03 grants or applied but did not receive R03 grants.

ORIP’s R03 mechanism supports different types of projects, including but not limited to pilot and feasibility studies; secondary analysis of existing data; small, self-contained research projects; development of research methodology, and development of new research technology. The R03 is therefore intended to support research projects that can be achieved in a short period of time with limited resources (\$150,000 over two years) and that provide preliminary data to support a subsequent R01 (or equivalent) application. ORIP anticipates that the benefits of the R03 to the successful applicants will include:

- Increased fiscal independence allowing recipients to pursue research directions independent of the support of their mentor;
- Ability to demonstrate additional success through competition in the peer review process; and
- Generation of additional data and publications in support of future R01 applications.

ORIP received the first round of R03 applications in FY18. Of the 13 K01 awardees who were eligible to apply for the R03, 10 submitted applications. Six awards were made in Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19). In FY19, ORIP received seven applications and, although final funding decisions have not yet been made, at least two awards are anticipated for FY20.

At the end of the fifth year of R03 competitions, ORIP will begin to evaluate the impact of the awards on the career trajectories of those who received them. These data should provide ORIP with a basis to decide whether the R03 program warrants longer term investments.

Considering the need for transition support between the K01 award and the first R01 grant for developing veterinary scientists, ORIP requests the concept clearance from the Council of Councils to continue support for the “Limited Competition Small Grant Program for ORIP Veterinary Scientist SERCA K01 Recipients (R03)”.