Executive Report:
The Secrets to Winning K08 & K23 Awards: Get ‘Protected Time’ to Enhance Your Career
A Note from the Publisher

Thank you for ordering “Executive Report: The Secrets to Winning K08 & K23 Awards: Get ‘Protected Time’ to Enhance Your Career” from the Principal Investigators Association Library.

Dr. Olga Watkins served as co-author of this report. Olga Watkins, PhD, has been running the Clinical Scientist Training Program (supported by an NIH K30 grant) at Baylor College of Medicine for the last ten years. This program is aimed at senior clinical fellows and junior faculty members who are learning to be physician scientists. During the first year of the program, Dr. Watkins teaches junior faculty members how to apply for a K08 or K23 grant. She holds a PhD in experimental psychology.

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We are always on the lookout for interesting topics, researcher needs, and ways we can be of service to you. If you have a success story you would like to share with your colleagues, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would be delighted to hear from you, and I look forward to serving you and your organization with the best advice and information available in the future.

Best Regards,

Leslie Norins, MD, PhD
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Table of Contents

A Note from the Publisher .................................................................................................................. 2
Introduction ..................................................................................................................................... 4
Section I: Determine Your Eligibility – Not Everyone Can (or Should) Apply................................. 5
Section II: Win Over Reviewers with a Stellar Proposal ...................................................................... 8
Section III: What Happens After You Apply ..................................................................................... 18
Appendix A: K08/K23 Application Checklist ...................................................................................... 21
Appendix B: K08/K23 Key Contacts ................................................................................................ 23
Introduction

If you’re looking for grant funding that will provide money for your research and your salary, while giving you some breathing room to do the work you desire, the NIH’s K08 and K23 awards are definitely worth considering. These grants can offer you the funding you need to get results from your research.

Although you can get some research-targeted funding, the K08 and K23 awards are mentored career development awards, not research grants, explains Olga C. Watkins, PhD, assistant professor at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. Primarily, the award programs focus on supporting your development as a scientific investigator in the academic sector.

The K08 grant is the “Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award,” while the K23 is the “Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award.” The main difference between these two grants is that the K23 requires direct interaction with human subjects, while the K08 does not.

Other than a few differences, the K08 and K23 grants are the same. Both are three to five years in duration and provide a $75,000 salary. Essentially, the grants provide “protected time” for you to perform research, Dr. Watkins says. You must receive all other money while receiving the K08/K23 award from non-federal sources.

Usually, you’ll get $25,000 to $50,000 for research development support, which can help to pay for your tuition, books and other fees related to career development. Or the money can help in paying for travel to research meetings or similar trainings, as well as for research expenses like equipment, supplies, tech personnel and statistical/computer support.

The deadlines for the K08/K23 are Feb. 12, June 12 and Oct. 12, with resubmissions due on March 12, July 12 and Nov. 12. When you consider these deadlines, keep your institution’s deadline in mind. Your institutional grant staff will submit the application, so you’ll likely need to provide the materials to them at least one or two weeks beforehand.

Because these grants aren’t research awards, your approach in writing the proposal is quite different from writing an R01 or other type of NIH grant. To greatly increase your chances of getting K08/K23 funding, you can take a few pointers from Dr. Watkins, who teaches junior faculty members how to apply for these grants.

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Section I:

Determine Your Eligibility – Not Everyone Can (or Should) Apply

Aside from the prestige and other obvious benefits of these grants, the process of applying for the K08/K23 awards can also offer tremendous dividends. For example, composing the K08 or K23 proposal gives you an opportunity to hone your ideas, improve your grant writing and organize your thoughts, Dr. Watkins says.

Also, writing the K08/K23 proposal can help to spark creativity and a logical progression of your research, while potentially providing a framework for research articles. Because in many ways writing the K08/K23 proposal is a collaborative process with your grants department, you’re getting a lot of feedback and criticism, which ultimately helps you in becoming a better grant writer and in refining your research methodologies and ideas.

Are You Eligible for the K08/K23?

Before you get down to writing your proposal, however, you need to check your eligibility for the K08/K23. First, you must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. Second, you must not have had any previous large grants. You are not eligible for these grants if you’ve been the PD/PI on a NIH research project like an R01 or program project like a P01, nor if you’ve been previously funded through center grants, FIRST Awards (R29) or other career development K awards.

But if you’ve received smaller grants like an R03, R21, R36 or SBIR/STTR (R41, R42, R43, R44), you’re still eligible for the K08/K23 award.

If you’ve received a K12 grant for one year, that’s okay as well, Dr. Watkins states. But keep in mind that if you’ve received a K12 for more than one year, this will reduce the number of years you can get the K08/K23. Your total combined time limit of support by the K12 and K08/K23 is six years. So if you had a K12 for two years, you would be eligible for the K08/K23 for a maximum of only four years, instead of the standard five years.

If you’re seeking the K23 award, you must perform research involving human subjects that might include
studying disease mechanisms, developing new technologies or therapeutic interventions, or conducting clinical trials. The K08, on the other hand, does not require human subjects, but instead involves basic research, behavioral or biomedical research including translational research, as well as any studies into applying basic research discoveries toward human disease prevention, diagnosis and management.

For the K08, you must hold a clinical doctoral degree, such as an MD, DO, DDS, DMD, OD, DC, PharmD, ND or DVM. You are also eligible for the K08 if you have a PhD or other doctoral degree in a clinical discipline, such as clinical psychology, nursing, clinical genetics, speech-language pathology, audiology or rehabilitation, according to the NIH.

For the K23, you must hold a health-professional doctoral degree, such as an MD, DO, DDS, DMD, OD, DC, PharmD, ND, or a doctoral degree in nursing research or practice. If you have a PhD, you’re eligible for the K23 if your degree is in a clinical field and you usually perform clinical duties, the NIH states. To receive the award, you must have already completed your clinical training and subspecialty training, but you can submit an application before you’ve completed clinical training.

Finally, you must have a “full-time” appointment to an academic institution. And you must commit at least 75-percent full-time professional effort to the award program and related career-development activities. The NIH looks at this percentage as “9 person-months.” Any remaining time and effort can go toward teaching, clinical or research pursuits consistent with the award objectives.

Keep the Lines of Communication Open

The best move for preparing to apply for the K08/K23 award is to communicate and network with key NIH staff. Don’t be afraid to talk with a Scientific Review Officer (SRO) prior to submitting your proposal. Email your questions or call an NIH staffer on the phone. You can also network with NIH staff at meetings, conferences or other events.

You’ll want to understand how the NIH works and how your present career situation fits into the K08/K23 award’s focus. You can save yourself a lot of wasted time with just a few email exchanges or questions over the phone. Don’t be intimidated by NIH staff members, because they’re eager to help and can provide you with extremely valuable recommendations on your proposal.
When you're certain that you should indeed apply for the K08/K23 and are ready to get started on your proposal, always keep a few things in the back of your mind. Remember that reviewers might not read everything -- in fact, they might not read your application linearly either. So when you’re writing each section of the proposal, understand that the reviewer may not have read all the sections or the sections in order.

**Why You Shouldn’t Fear Rejection**

Feedback and constructive criticism are a huge part of grant proposal writing, especially for the K08/K23 award. Get as much feedback as possible from as many different people as possible. Use the feedback and revise your proposal as often as you can.

Most important, try to maintain a positive attitude and respond well to criticism, so that you can learn from the feedback and ultimately succeed. Rejections on initial K08/K23 applications aren’t uncommon, so don’t see it as a failure. Keep improving on your writing skills and career development to use the rejection as yet another step toward your goal.
Section II:

Win Over Reviewers with a Stellar Proposal

Above all, in your proposal you must convince reviewers that you will succeed in research, become independent and stay in academia. Everything else is secondary, Dr. Watkins stresses. The NIH doesn’t want to fund K08/K23 awards for people who might try out research for a few years, and then end up becoming a clinician.

You have a 12-page limit for the meat of your K08/K23 proposal. That may not seem like a lot of room for all that you need to pack into your proposal, and it isn’t. So, good organization and concise language are essential.

Write in paragraphs with one main idea per paragraph, indent paragraphs, skip a line between paragraphs and use a standard font type, such as Arial 11pt or 12pt. Remember that the first few paragraphs of each section are the most important, so put your most convincing arguments or information in these paragraphs, Dr. Watkins recommends.

Reviewers don’t have much time to read through your proposal carefully, so make finding the key points easier:

- Provide a Table of Contents;
- Use headings;
- Put headings and key terms in bold; and
- Cross-reference key items when needed.

Make the 30 Lines Count

Your abstract/project summary is perhaps one of the most important parts of your K08/K23 proposal. Not only will the contents of your abstract help to determine which study section your application goes to, but it’s also the only part of your proposal that some reviewers will read.

Because you have just 30 lines of space, you need to keep your abstract simple, straight to the point and compelling. You must engage the reviewer’s interest immediately, Dr. Watkins stresses.
Begin working on your abstract early-on in your application process, and revise it several times before you finalize it. In your abstract, focus on the most essential elements contained in your proposal:

- Your background and career development;
- Research background;
- Specific aims and hypotheses;
- Unique features;
- Methodology;
- Expected results;
- Generalizability;
- Relation to the field; and
- General significance (in plain language).

**What Reviewers are Looking for in Your Proposal**

NIH reviewers have specific criteria that they’re tasked with scrutinizing -- and scoring -- in K08/K23 proposals. These are the key areas that reviewers are looking at:

1. Candidate
2. Career Development Plan
3. Research Plan
4. Training in Responsible Conduct of Research
5. Appropriateness of Mentor, Collaborators, etc.
6. Mentor’s Comments
7. Environment
8. Institutional Commitment to Candidate

Additionally, reviewers will rate your proposal based on other review criteria:

- Protections for Human Subjects
- Inclusion of Women, Minorities and Children
- Vertebrate Animals
• Biohazards
• Resubmission Applications
• Select Agents Research
• Resource Sharing Plans
• Budget and Period of Support

You’ll also need to submit three to five Letters of Reference. You send the referees special forms online, and then they submit them back online as well. The reference letters serve as part of the information reviewers’ use to rate the Candidate criterion.

**Candidate Information: Make Yourself Shine**

Reviewers are looking for two main points for the Candidate criterion: your background, and your career goals and objectives. For your background information, you must include:

• A description of your commitment to an academic career in research, including a description of your professional responsibilities at your institution and elsewhere, and how these responsibilities relate to the proposed activities in your application;
• Evidence of your ability to collaborate with other scientists;
• Prior training you’ve had and how it relates to your objectives and long-term career goals;
• Your research efforts thus far in your career, including your prior research interests, experience and publications;
• Evidence of your potential to develop into an independent investigator; and
• A statement that you’ll commit at least 75-percent time to the K08/K23 program – your mentor or department chair must provide a statement documenting that this percentage of your time will be protected.

Your background should flow well and tell a good, interesting story, Dr. Watkins states. You’ll need to expand on your biosketch here and show plenty of enthusiasm and commitment to your research career path. What inspired you to want to become a scientist?

Then, for your career goals and objectives, you need to describe a “systematic plan” that:
• Shows a logical progression from your prior research and training to the research and career development activities that you’ll perform during the K08/K23 award period;
• Justifies the need for further career development for you to become an independent investigator; and
• Utilizes your institution’s relevant research and educational resources.

From these items, reviewers want you to convince them that you have solid potential to develop as an independent, productive researcher. They want to see that you have a high-quality academic, clinical and research record, as well as proof of your commitment to meeting the program’s objectives, Dr. Watkins explains. The letters of reference from at least three well-established scientists and letters from your mentor/co-mentors must address these review criteria as well.

Also, this is a chance for you to justify the NIH giving you the award, so you should explain why having this protected time and having a mentoring relationship is important to your career. Give specific projections on where you expect to be career-wise in five years. Most of all, don’t be afraid to use your creativity so your proposal will stand out, Dr. Watkins advises.

**Outline Your Career Development Plan**

Additionally, reviewers want you to describe your plans for career development and training activities. You’ll need to work on this plan with your mentor and discuss a timeline for your progress. Specifically, your career development plan should describe:

• How the research aspects of your plan will develop the necessary research skills and knowledge in scientific areas relevant to your career goals;
• Your prior training or plans for future participation in courses like data management, epidemiology, study design, statistics, hypothesis development and drug development, as well as the legal and ethical issues involving human-subject research (if applicable);
• Your professional responsibilities and activities (including other research projects) beyond the 75-percent time commitment to the K08/K23 award, and how they will help further your career progression to become an independent investigator;
• Your goals and plans for training year-by-year during the award period;
• Your structured activities, including courses, workshops and professional activities related to your research;
• How you will distribute your time between your research, research training and course work;
• A plan for regular meetings with your mentor, such as specific statements like you’ll meet every day in the lab or three times per week in the mentor’s office; and
• Plans for evaluating your research and career development progress during the award period.

In your career development plan, ensure that the reviewers will understand how your previous training and research experience are appropriate for the K08/K23 award, as well as how they are appropriate for the scope and goals of the plan itself. Prove that the proposed didactic research activities are appropriate, given their content and duration, Dr. Watkins advises.

Keep in mind that your course work should gradually decrease over the years of the award period. You shouldn’t try to integrate too much course work, but instead strive to find a realistic balance. Also, describe what changes might occur to any clinical and/or administrative commitments you have, if you get the award, and how the award’s protected time is necessary.

**Show Off Your Mentors, Consultants, Collaborators & Contributors**

For the K08/K23 award, you must name a primary mentor who will work hand-in-hand with you for the program. You can have co-mentors, if needed. The mentor you choose should:

• Be an accomplished investigator in your proposed research area;
• Have previous experience and a track record of success in training and fostering the development of independent investigators;
• Have sufficient research support to cover the costs of your proposed project that exceed the award funding; and
• Have previous research productivity and peer-reviewed support for patient-oriented research.

Your application must include a letter from your mentor that provides his/her:

• Qualifications and prior experience as a research supervisor;
• Plan for mentoring you during the award period, which should adequately address the review criteria, your potential, your strengths and your areas for improvement;
• Ideas for developmental activities, such as any available seminars, meetings and other resources;
• Plan for monitoring and evaluating your research, publications and career development progress toward becoming an independent investigator; and
• Agreement to provide annual evaluations of your progress in the award’s annual progress report.

Your mentor will also need to explain how the award will enhance your career, as well as details of what your mentor is willing to offer in terms of time, facilities, resources and staff commitments. Your mentor should describe how you will effectively balance your teaching load, clinical responsibilities and administrative tasks with your research time.

If you have multiple co-mentors, each one must provide similar information for the application. Co-mentors also need to describe how they will coordinate your mentoring.

If you have consultants or collaborators, each one must provide a signed statement of their participation in the proposed project and describe their specific roles, according to the NIH. You’ll also need to provide documentation of their expertise in the proposed research area. You don’t, however, need to provide biosketches of collaborators/consultants.

**Institutional Environment: How to Show Strong Commitment**

In the “Environment and Institutional Commitment to the Candidate” component of your proposal, reviewers want to see that your institution will support all facets of your work and career development, if you were awarded the K08/K23 grant. The NIH breaks this component into two main points: the description of your institutional environment and the institutional commitment to your research career development.

The NIH wants you to address this component in a commitment letter from your institution, usually from a department chair. Your department chair might ask you to write a draft of this letter.

To describe the institutional environment, show that your institution has:

• A documented, strong and well-established research and career development program related to your research area (include names of key faculty, as well as any journal clubs, courses, seminars/presentations and
other opportunities for intellectual interactions at your institution);
- A high-quality research environment with key faculty members and other investigators who can collaborate productively with you;
- An institutional research environment that's particularly suited for developing your research career and pursuing your proposed research plan;
- The resources and facilities (office and lab space, equipment, access to clinical populations, etc.) available to you, as well as any resources within a General Clinical Research Center or Clinical and Translational Science Award;
- A strong commitment to your career development and to meeting the K08/K23 award’s requirements;
- Release time for research, including any actions to relieve your teaching load, clinical responsibilities, work on committees and other work;
- Appropriate time and support readily available for any proposed mentors and other staff necessary to the career development plan; and
- Plans for you to become an integral part of its research program, including your appointment as full-time faculty (not contingent on the K08/K23 award).

Your department chair’s letter should make clear that the institution is committed to at least 75 percent of your effort being devoted to the award activities, with the remaining time devoted to appropriate clinical, administrative and teaching responsibilities, Dr. Watkins notes. Also, convince the reviewers that your institutional environment is particularly high-quality for scientific and professional development of investigators.

**Set the Stage for Your Proposed Research**

When you come to describing your proposed research project in the K08/K23 proposal, you’ll want to give some background and significance. Keep your descriptions brief, but include review literature and any preliminary studies you’ve conducted.

Include your own work and select others’ work carefully when you’re providing review literature. If there are any contradictions, be sure to address them in your proposal. Also, evaluate the existing data with a critical eye. Show the reviewers that you have a good grasp on what’s already been done, what the gaps are, how your research fits into this and the importance of your research, Dr. Watkins advises.
Describe any preliminary studies you’ve conducted to show reviewers that you already have experience in this research area. If you have preliminary studies or published studies, discuss them in the application to prove that you’re competent to carry out the project.

Your research plan needs to also feature your Specific Aims with your research project’s broad objectives. Describe clearly and concisely what you want to accomplish specifically. Your aims should be realistic and must lead to “hypothesis-driven experiments,” Dr. Watkins says. So think about what you want to accomplish in the next five years, take away half of the goals, and you’re probably being realistic.

State your hypotheses clearly, and make sure it’s testable and has a yes or no answer. Then, ensure that all your proposed experiments test the stated hypotheses.

**Make Your Research Plan Integral to Your Career Development**

Although much of the proposal’s focus is on the career development aspects, you do still need to present a research plan for your proposed project. Your research strategy should show that the project is consistent with your level of research development and career objectives.

So your plan description should include not only the quality of your research, but also the significance, novelty, creativity and approach. Reviewers will also look for proof that you have the ability to carry out the research project.

With these factors in mind, your research plan should include:

- The level of significance and technical merit of your proposed research project’s question, design and methodology;
- Why the research question is worth answering, and why your proposed research is important to the field;
- Its relevance to your research career objectives;
- Adequate plans for Data and Safety Monitoring of clinical trials (if applicable);
- Its relationship to your mentor’s research; and
- How it’s appropriate, relevant and useful in developing or enhancing your research skills.
Additionally, you’ll need to describe your overall experimental design and specific methods to test your hypotheses. You must discuss controls, potential problems and complications, your timetable, and data collection, analysis and interpretation. If you need help, get advice from a biostatistician at your institution. Mainly, reviewers will look for:

- Study design;
- Data analysis plans; and
- Sample size calculations.

**Prepare for Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research**

You must include a plan for continuing instruction and training on the responsible conduct of research (RCR). State in your proposal the last date of instruction, and then propose plans for continuing instruction via independent scholarly activities, individualized instruction and your mentor. These might include lectures, course work and real-time discussion groups.

Your mentor’s letter should describe his/her role in your RCR training as well. Keep in mind that your RCR training plans must meet the minimum requirement of eight contact hours of instruction every four years. Your plans also need to address five instructional components:

1. Format;
2. Subject matter;
3. Faculty participation;
4. Duration of instruction; and
5. Frequency of instruction.

**Tell How You’ll Protect Human Subjects**

If your research involves human subjects, you must include in your proposal information about who your subjects are and how you’ll protect them. Detail the characteristics of your human subjects, including their population demographics, your criteria for inclusion/exclusion, your consent procedures, and your inclusion of any women, minorities and children.
Most of all, you need to describe the potential risks to the human subjects and how you’ll mitigate or minimize those risks. Also include your methods for recruiting subjects and the potential benefits of your research to both the subjects and the greater community.

The NIH’s standard review criteria for protection of human subjects are: risk to subjects; adequacy of protection against risks; potential benefits to the subjects and others; importance of the knowledge to be gained; and data and safety monitoring for clinical trials.

**What to Include in Your Biosketches**

The K08/K23 application requires biographical sketches for you (the candidate), your mentor and any key personnel. Each biosketch needs to include a Personal Statement, as well as:

- Each degree with month and year earned;
- Any non-degree education;
- Professional certifications;
- Research and professional experience;
- All employment following BS, including military service,
  - internships, residencies, fellowships, etc.;
- Honors (academic and professional);
- Publications (list chronologically – no more than 15); and
- Research support. ■
Section III:

What Happens After You Apply

Your K08/K23 proposal will pass through several pairs of hands during the review process. Typically, reviewers are busy, accomplished clinical researchers who have a lot of broad scientific knowledge. They probably do not have much in-depth knowledge or experience in your specific research area, however. All the more reason to keep your application focused, concise and clear, as well as to avoid jargon or abbreviations.

So when you submit your application, where does it go? Here are the steps of the NIH review process for K08/K23 proposals:

1) The Center for Scientific Review (CSR) receives your application;
2) The CSR assigns it to the appropriate Institute/Center, based on your Cover Letter, Abstract, Title, Aims and Hypotheses;
3) The Institute’s Scientific Review Officer (SRO) becomes the sole contact between the application and reviewers, and recruits members for the Review Group (20 members);
4) The SRO reviews your application for any problems;
5) The SRO assigns primary and secondary reviewers;
6) The primary reviewer leads the discussion and assigns a score to your application;
7) The secondary reviewer discusses the application and assigns a score;
8) All other study section participants score your application (all scores from primary, secondary and other reviewers carry equal weight); and then
9) The primary reviewer provides a written critique and the SRO writes a Summary Statement of Reviews.

The CSR assigns 70 to 100 proposals to each study section. SROs are able to streamline this process and cut down on the bulk of applications by cutting out “noncompetitive applications” that fall below the 50th percentile in scoring.
Understand Your Impact Scores for Potential Outcomes

Your Impact Score is 1 to 9, and they break down as follows:

- **1 Exceptional** -- Exceptionally strong; no weaknesses
- **2 Outstanding** -- Extremely strong; negligible weaknesses
- **3 Excellent** -- Very strong; only some minor weaknesses
- **4 Very Good** -- Strong; numerous minor weaknesses
- **5 Good** -- Strong; at least one moderate weakness
- **6 Satisfactory** -- Some strengths; some moderate weaknesses
- **7 Fair** -- Some strengths; at least one major weakness
- **8 Marginal** -- A few strengths; a few major weaknesses
- **9 Poor** -- Very few strengths; numerous major weaknesses

Your overall impact score comes from calculating the mean score from all reviewers impact scores, and then multiplying the mean by 10. The SRO reports your overall impact score (10 to 90) on the Summary Statement.

If you receive a low impact score, one of the possible outcomes is “NRFC,” which stands for “Not Recommended for Further Consideration,” Dr. Watkins says. You don’t want this outcome. Proposals that receive an NRFC generally:

- Lack significant and substantial merit;
- Do not adequately protect human subjects from research risks; and/or
- Present serious ethical problems in the use of vertebrate animals, biohazards and/or select agents.

Take Special Care with Resubmissions

When you get your application back, carefully review the Summary Statement and all the comments from the reviewers. Your success the second time around will hinge on how thoroughly and clearly you incorporate all the comments and criticisms into your resubmission.

If you receive criticisms, address each one -- especially in the Summary Statement -- and determine whether
the problems that reviewers raised are solvable, Dr. Watkins says. For example, if the reviewers say that you need more preliminary data, go ahead and do the experiments if you can.

Again, ask for lots of feedback on your resubmission. Make sure you’ve answered all the questions from the reviewers.
Appendix A: K08/K23 Application Checklist

- Project summary/abstract (no more than 30 lines)
- Project narrative with relevance to public health in lay language (one or two sentences)
- Bibliography of references cited
- Facilities and other resources
- Equipment available now
- PI biosketch - no more than 15 publications (4 pages max)
- PI current and pending support (part of biosketch)
- Senior key personnel biosketches in alphabetically order
- Budget justification
- Candidate background (1 page)
- Career goals and objectives (3/4 page)
- Career development (1 1/2 pages)
- Training in the responsible conduct of research (3/4 page)
- Statements by mentor, co-mentors, consultants, contributors (letters of support)
- Institutional environment
- Institutional commitment -- letter from Department Chair
- Specific Aims (1 page max)
- Research Strategy (7 1/2 pages)
- Protection of human subjects
- Inclusion of women, children and minorities
- Targeted/planned enrollment
- Vertebrate animals (if applicable)
- Letters of Reference (3 to 5)
- Cover letter
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Section</th>
<th>Page Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Resubmission/Revision</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Aims</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candidate’s Background, Career Goals and Objectives, and Career Development/Training Activities During Award Period</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Strategy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statements by Mentor, Co-Mentors, Consultants, Contributors</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of Institutional Environment</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Commitment to Candidate’s Research Career Development</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biographical Sketch</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## Appendix B: K08/K23 Key Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NIH Institute/Center</th>
<th>K23</th>
<th>K08</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Cancer Institute (NCI)</td>
<td>Susan E. Lim, Ph.D. (301) 496-8580 <a href="mailto:lims@mail.nih.gov">lims@mail.nih.gov</a></td>
<td>Barbara J. Liesenfeld (301) 496-3265 <a href="mailto:liesenfb@mail.nih.gov">liesenfb@mail.nih.gov</a></td>
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<td>National Eye Institute (NEI)</td>
<td>Neeraj Agarwal, Ph.D. (301) 451-2020 <a href="mailto:agarwalnee@mail.nih.gov">agarwalnee@mail.nih.gov</a></td>
<td>William W. Darby (301) 451-2020 <a href="mailto:wwd@nei.nih.gov">wwd@nei.nih.gov</a></td>
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<td>National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)</td>
<td>Ann Rothgeb (301) 435-0202 <a href="mailto:RothgebA@nhlbi.nih.gov">RothgebA@nhlbi.nih.gov</a></td>
<td>Mark Wilkison (301) 435-0184 <a href="mailto:wilkisonm@nhlbi.nih.gov">wilkisonm@nhlbi.nih.gov</a></td>
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<td>National Institute on Aging (NIA)</td>
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