

Sponsor/Title: National Institutes of Health (NIH) - NCI Pathway to Independence Award for Early-Stage Postdoctoral Researchers (K99/R00 - Independent Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

External Link: <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/350943>

Funding Opportunity Number: PAR-23-286

Submission Limitation per Institution: Up to a combined total of four (4) applications (one in Cancer Data Science, one in Cancer Control Science, one in Molecular/Precision Cancer Prevention, and one in Other Cancer Research).

Notre Dame Limited Submissions Listing:

<https://research.nd.edu/our-services/funding-opportunities/faculty/limited-submissions-program/>

Internal Expression of Interest Deadline: 2026-04-20

Sponsor Application Deadline: 2026-06-15

Focus: The objective of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Pathway to Independence Award for Early-Stage Postdoctoral Researchers (K99/R00) is to help postdoctoral researchers complete needed, mentored training and transition in a timely manner to independent tenure-track (or equivalent) faculty positions. The K99/R00 award is intended to foster the development of a creative, independent research program that will be competitive for subsequent independent funding and help advance the NCI mission.

This program is designed for postdoctoral fellows with research and/or clinical doctoral degrees who do not require extended periods of mentored research training beyond their original doctoral degrees before transitioning to research independence, which is common for those working in cancer control, cancer prevention and cancer data sciences, as defined in Section III. 3. Additional Information on Eligibility. Therefore, researchers from these disciplines are particularly encouraged to work with their institutions to apply.

The initial (K99) phase will support up to 2 years of mentored postdoctoral research training and career development. The second (R00) phase will provide up to 3 years of independent research support, which is contingent on satisfactory progress during the K99 phase and an approved, independent tenure-track (or equivalent) faculty position. The two award phases are intended to be continuous in time. Therefore, although exceptions may be possible in limited circumstances, R00 awards will generally only be made to those applicants' K99 PDs/PIs who accept independent, tenure-track (or equivalent) faculty positions by the end of the K99 award period.

Eligibility: This K99/R00 award is intended to support individuals who require no more than 2 additional years of mentored research training and career development (K99 phase) before transitioning to the independent stage (R00 phase) of the program. The K99/R00 award will provide up to 5 years of support in two phases. Please see the funding announcements for further information on eligibility.

Note: *Candidates for this NOFO are strongly encouraged to obtain confirmation of their eligibility from NCI before seeking institutional nomination. It is incumbent upon the candidate to provide evidence that all eligibility criteria have been met.*

Internal Application Requirements: Upload the following information to the Google Form at <https://forms.gle/UX1PtL5mrzDUt8sa6> by the internal deadline:

- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- Project Title
- Institutional Mentor Name
- Confirmation of Eligibility -- See below -- Includes Elements One and Two
- Designated Scientific Areas - See below
- NIH Biosketch

Questions: Contact Notre Dame Research Limited Submissions at limited@nd.edu.

Unless otherwise noted, all internal applications are due by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on the internal expression of interest deadline.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

Eligible Individuals (Program Director/Principal Investigator)

Candidates for this NOFO are strongly encouraged to obtain confirmation of their eligibility from NCI before seeking institutional nomination. It is incumbent upon the candidate to provide evidence that all eligibility criteria have been met.

Confirmation of Eligibility - Includes Elements One and Two - Complete the questions directly on the Google Form.

- Element One: Select either Option A or B based on your responses. Ensure that your answers comprehensively address each eligibility item outlined in the NOFO.
 - Option A
 - I have attempted to contact NCI to determine my eligibility.
 - Date of attempted contact
 - NCI official contacted (name and title)
 - Option B
 - NCI has confirmed my eligibility
 - Date of confirmation
 - NCI confirming official (name and title)
- Element Two: Describe your eligibility relative to each element of eligibility described in the NOFO. There is no page limit for this portion of your internal application. Upload to the Google Form.

Scientific Areas

- Cancer Data Science:** For the purposes of this K99/R00 award, cancer data science is defined as an interdisciplinary field of inquiry in which quantitative and analytical approaches, processes, and systems are both developed and used to extract knowledge and insights from increasingly large and/or complex sets of data. This includes cancer-focused data integration and visualization, systems biology, artificial intelligence, machine learning, informatics, genomics, precision oncology, and developing analytics for epidemiological or biostatistical studies.

- B. **Cancer Control Science:** For the purposes of this K99/R00 award, cancer control science is defined as basic and applied research in the behavioral, social, and population sciences to create or enhance interventions that, independently or in combination with biomedical approaches reduce cancer risk, incidence, morbidity, and mortality, and improve quality of life. This includes research in epidemiology, behavioral sciences, health services, surveillance, cancer survivorship, and healthcare policy.
- C. **Molecular/Precision Cancer Prevention:** For the purpose of this K99/R00 award, early translational research in cancer prevention is defined as basic research to understand mechanisms of cancer formation, development and progression of cancer precursors, and to translate basic biological knowledge into novel human interventions and human-centered adaption of current interventions with the potential to reduce cancer risk, incidence, and mortality, and improve quality of life. This includes but is not limited to research in molecular and systems biology, diagnostics, vaccine and drug development, pharmacology, and biomedical engineering.
- D. **Other Cancer Research:** For the purposes of this K99/R00 award, "Other Cancer Research" includes all scientific fields supported by the NCI that are not included in (A), (B) or (C). Applicants proposing research in (D) "Other Cancer Research" may apply only if it is reasonable to expect their candidates to transition to independence with an abbreviated period of mentored research training beyond their original doctoral degrees."