Weill Cornell Medicine
K Early Career Award Training (KECAT) Program

Application Deadline: Monday, June 24

Program description:

The objective of the Weill Cornell Medicine K Early Career Award Training (KECAT) Program is to provide grant writing training in preparation for career development (K-award) applications. The program is designed for early career investigators who are planning to apply for a NIH K-series grant or equivalent foundation career development award, and will run over a 9-month period from September 2024 to May 2025. Over the course of the program, participants will attend a series of lectures on grantsmanship and receive hands on training through discussion of previous applications. While in the program, participants will be expected to develop all components of their research proposal and will receive feedback from faculty reviewers. The timing of this program is ideally suited to those who are planning to submit a K award application in June 2025. Applicants who are considering earlier deadlines in 2025 may participate, but they should be aware that their KECAT program may be truncated to match the timing of their submissions.

Eligibility

- Applicants must hold a PhD, MD, MD-PhD or equivalent doctoral degree and seek additional research training under the supervision of a sponsor or sponsors with the intent of embarking on an independent research career.
- Applicants must be full-time Fellows, Postdoctoral Associates, Instructors, or Assistant Professors at Weill Cornell Medicine. Faculty members with appointments at the Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Houston Methodist Hospital, and WCM-Qatar are not eligible to apply. HSS faculty may apply to audit program lectures.
- The applicant's career goals must be aligned with submission of an application for an NIH K01, K08, K12, K22, K23, K25, or K99 award, DOD/AHA/ACS career award, or equivalent foundation career development award in **2025**.
- Eligibility for the KECAT Program requires the applicant meet all the criteria mandated by NIH to apply for the award. Current NIH policies require that, by the time of the K award, candidates for the K01, K08, K12, K22, K23 or K25 must be U.S. citizens, non-citizen U.S. nationals, or have been lawfully admitted for residence. Refer to NIH guidelines for the additional information.

Application

1. NIH Biosketch (up to 5 pages, following NIH instructions for formatting)
2. Specific Aims Page (1 page)
3. Candidate career goals and objectives (1 page)
4. Candidate's timeline for K submission (1 page)
5. Letter of Support from Faculty Mentor
   a. Describe the primary mentor's research qualifications and previous experience as a research supervisor.
6. Letter of Support from Division Chief and/or Department Chair
   a. This letter should explicitly state that the candidate has at least 10% protected time to attend monthly meetings and fully participate in the program. Other topics should include 1) a brief description of the candidate's research plan; 2) a career development plan; 3) the level of enthusiasm for the candidate's likelihood for career success.

Application deadline and submission

- Completed applications are due on **June 24, 2024** to facultydevelopment@med.cornell.edu as a single pdf file using the naming convention KECAT 2024_LAST NAME

Additional Information

- KECAT scholars are expected to attend all program sessions:

Date	Topic
September 4, 2024, 1-3pm	- Introduction to K-Awards (Lecture/Workshop)
September 17, 2024, 12-2pm	- Specific Aims Page (Lecture/Workshop)
October 2, 2024, 1-3pm	- Significance & Innovation (Lecture/Workshop)
October 16, 2024, 1-3pm	- The Research Strategy (Lecture/Workshop)
October 30, 2024, 1-3pm	- The Candidate Section (Lecture/Workshop)
November 2024 – May 2025	- Individual Review Meetings (Specific Aims, Significance & Innovation, Research Strategy and Candidate Section)

For questions: please contact Amna Aslam at ama4015@med.cornell.edu