

K12 PROGRAMS

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NHLBI Research Career Development Programs in Vascular Medicine (K12s)

***Consider a new career in vascular
medicine! Don't miss this opportunity!***

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) has recently funded seven K12 centers in the U.S. to offer comprehensive clinical research training for physicians wanting to specialize in vascular medicine, an evolving discipline devoted to clinical evaluation and management of individuals with arterial, venous and lymphatic diseases. Beyond clinical training, this program is designed to prepare clinicians for academic leadership roles as mentors and clinical researchers in vascular medicine. By 2012, five to six candidates will have been fully trained at each institution.

This NHLBI initiative was undertaken with the idea that *vascular medicine* will shortly become a bona fide specialty addressing an ever increasing population of patients. Training its new leaders in hypothesis-based research and systematic clinical assessment will help ensure a solid foundation for this emerging specialty and thereby advance the public health.



CORE CLINICAL TRAINING

One year will be devoted to multi-disciplinary clinical training consisting of various inpatient and outpatient rotations. Areas of concentration will include:

- Vascular diagnostic laboratory
- Imaging of the vasculature
- Thrombosis and hemostasis
- Wound care
- Vascular pathology
- Stroke management
- Vascular surgery

DIDACTIC TRAINING IN CLINICAL RESEARCH

Coursework may vary somewhat across the programs, but is likely to include the following:

- Epidemiology
- Clinical trial design
- Biostatistics
- Clinical research ethics
- Protection of human subjects
- Responsible conduct of research
- Leadership, mentorship and management skills
- Manuscript writing
- Scientific presentation skills
- Regulatory compliance

MENTORED RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Candidates will have a primary mentor and one or more secondary mentors to guide their career development. Substantive participation in a research project is required for at least 2 years. The candidate, with help from the mentors, K12 program director, and Advisory Committee, will be responsible for designing and conducting the research project. Examples of research projects include, but are not limited to:

- Role of statins in functional capacity of claudicants
- Strategies to spare lymphatics from damage during surgery or radiation
- Approaches for improving long-term vascular access
- Strategies to ameliorate chronic venous insufficiency
- Role of pharmacologic interventions in plaque volume and composition

- Interventions to slow aneurysm growth
- Identification of biomarkers for vascular diseases
- Genomics, proteomics of vascular diseases
- Approaches for better wound care in patients with ischemic skin ulceration

LEVEL OF CANDIDATE'S FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The K12 will provide salary plus fringe benefits for 3 years, provided in three 12-month appointments. Limited funds may also be provided for the following types of expenses:

- research expenses, such as supplies, equipment and technical personnel;
- tuition, fees and books related to career development;
- travel to research meetings, training, and NHLBI-sponsored annual grantees' meetings; and
- statistical services including personnel and computer time.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

K12 vascular medicine candidates must currently be physicians with an M.D. or D.O. degree and must have completed their residency training. Candidates will vary in their level of training (e.g., fellows or junior faculty) and their specialty (e.g., internal medicine, vascular surgery, cardiology, radiology, hematology, etc.).

Candidates must be: citizens or non-citizen nationals of the United States, or must be lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence (i.e., in possession of a currently valid Alien Registration Receipt Card I-155 or other legal verification of such status). Individuals on temporary visas are not eligible.

The candidate must **not** be or have been a Principal Investigator on an R01 or R21 award or on a component project of a Program Project (P01), Center grant (P50, P60, or U54), mentored career development (K-series) grant, or other equivalent research grant award. Candidates may have had support on a NRSA grant (F or T) or NIH small grant (R03).

TIME AND EFFORT COMMITMENT

The period of training is three years. At least 75% of the candidate's full-time professional effort must be devoted to the K12 Program and the remainder devoted to clinical and teaching pursuits consonant with the objectives of the award.

JOINT K12 PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

There will be opportunities for interactions among the candidates and Program Directors (PDs) through yearly meetings held at the NIH in Bethesda, MD. Candidates will also be encouraged to present their research findings at international scientific meetings.

AFTER K12 PROGRAM TRAINING

The long-term programmatic goal for the K12 program is for candidates to develop the skills necessary to become leaders in vascular medicine and compete independently for research support. If further mentored research support is needed before applying for an R01 or equivalent grant, K12 graduates are eligible to apply for an NIH "K" award for up to 3 more years.

CERTIFICATION IN VASCULAR MEDICINE

The Society for Vascular Medicine held the first annual board examination in vascular medicine in September, 2006.

LEARN MORE ABOUT NIH AND NHLBI CAREER AWARDS AND OTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

NIH website

<http://grants.nih.gov/training/>

NHLBI website

<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/funding/training/index.htm>