



National Institute of
Diabetes and Digestive
and Kidney Diseases

PAR-23-248

Institutional Network Award for Promoting Kidney, Urologic, and Hematologic Research Training (U2C-TL1)

Tracy Rankin, Ph.D., M.P.H. and Christine Maric-Bilkan, Ph.D.

Next application due date: 11/15/23



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and Kidney Diseases

Housekeeping

- Please feel free to use the “Chat” function ask questions throughout the webinar. We will address questions at the end of the presentation, time permitting.
- Please read the full NOFO carefully: PAR-23-248

FAQ Document



Pre-application Webinar for Institutional Network Award for Research Training

Sept. 19, 2023

Event Details Agenda

Pre-meeting Resources

- [First Pre-application Webinar for PAR-20-220, June 16, 2020](#)
- [Second Pre-application Webinar for PAR-20-220, June 20, 2022](#)

[FAQ from Pre-application Webinars \(PDF, 161 KB\)](#)

- After the webinar, this document will be updated to reflect new questions the community poses. This document may be updated subsequently without additional notice.

Meeting Objectives

- Provide programmatic information about the Notice of Funding Opportunity.
- Highlight updates and changes from previously issued PAR-20-220.
- Provide information about the application review process.
- Answer questions submitted by prospective applicants.

Register Now

Register by Sept. 18, 2023

Location

Webinar

The link to join the webinar will be distributed via email prior to the date of the event.

Contacts

Program Contacts

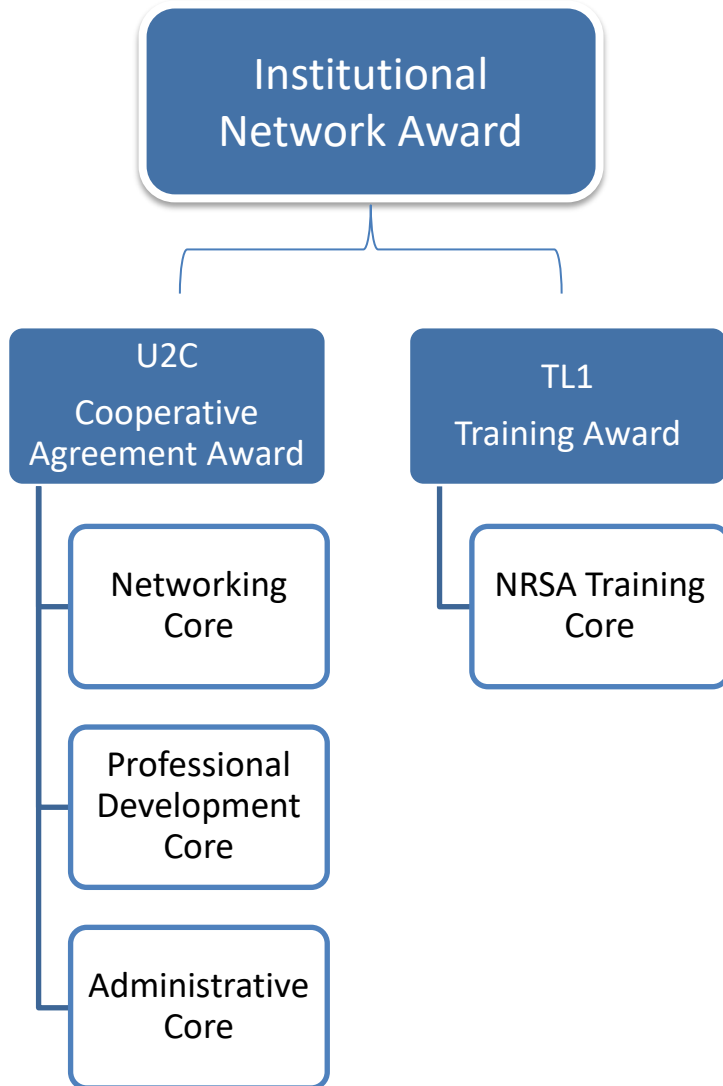
Tracy Rankin, Ph.D.

NIDDK

T: 301-592-4748

- Answers to “Frequently Asked Questions” are posted to the webinar website.
- This document will be updated to address additional questions/answers covered during this webinar.

Institutional Network Award (U2C – TL1)



Program Goal: To cultivate a highly integrated **community** of people and innovative **resources** to propel K,U, *and* H training and research

- Increased **networking** and **outreach**
- Enhanced **career preparation**
- Build a national **community** of interdisciplinary trainees

Trainees should be able to use their skills to publish in the scientific literature, compete for additional research support, and be prepared to successfully navigate the next steps towards a scientific research career.

Where are U2C – TL1s currently funded?



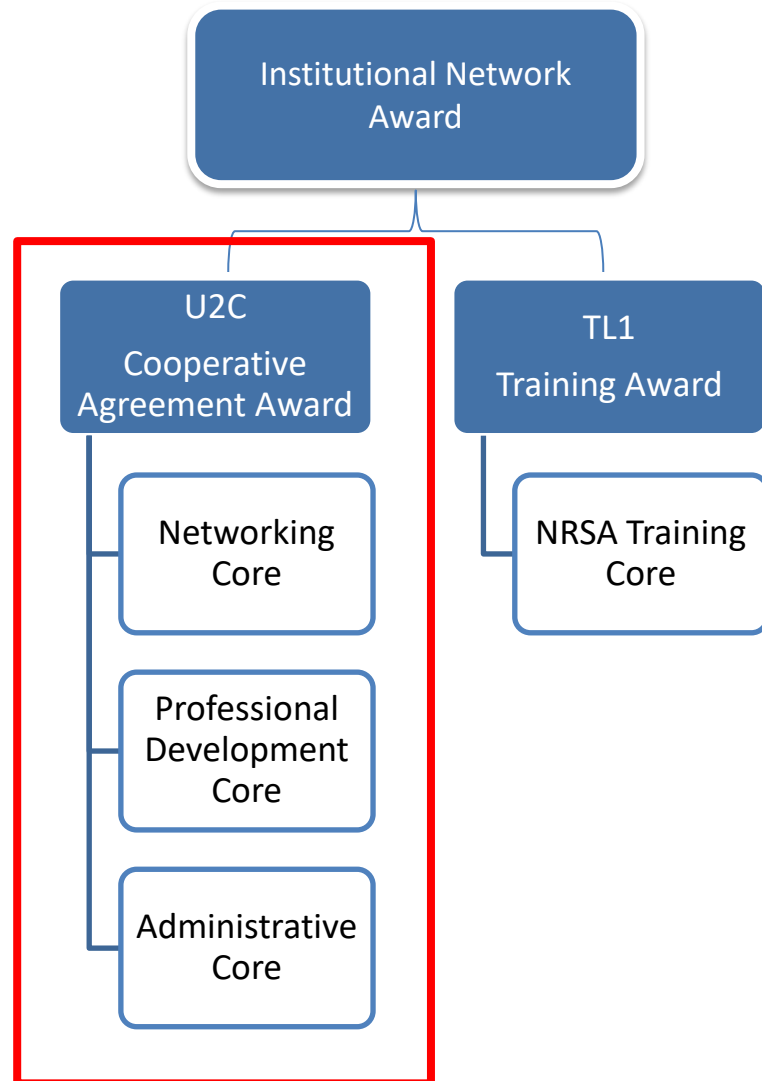
Currently Active Sites:

- Chicago, IL
- Los Angeles, CA
- Virginia
- Cleveland, OH
- Michigan
- Atlanta
- New York
- San Francisco, CA
- Alabama
- North Carolina

Additional information on all NIH-funded awards can be found at:

<https://reporter.nih.gov>

Institutional Network Award: Program Goals



Networking

- Develop & maintain new **peer-to-peer** virtual platforms
- **Outreach** & community service programs with local high school or colleges
- Annual **national meeting** of all U2C-supported trainees

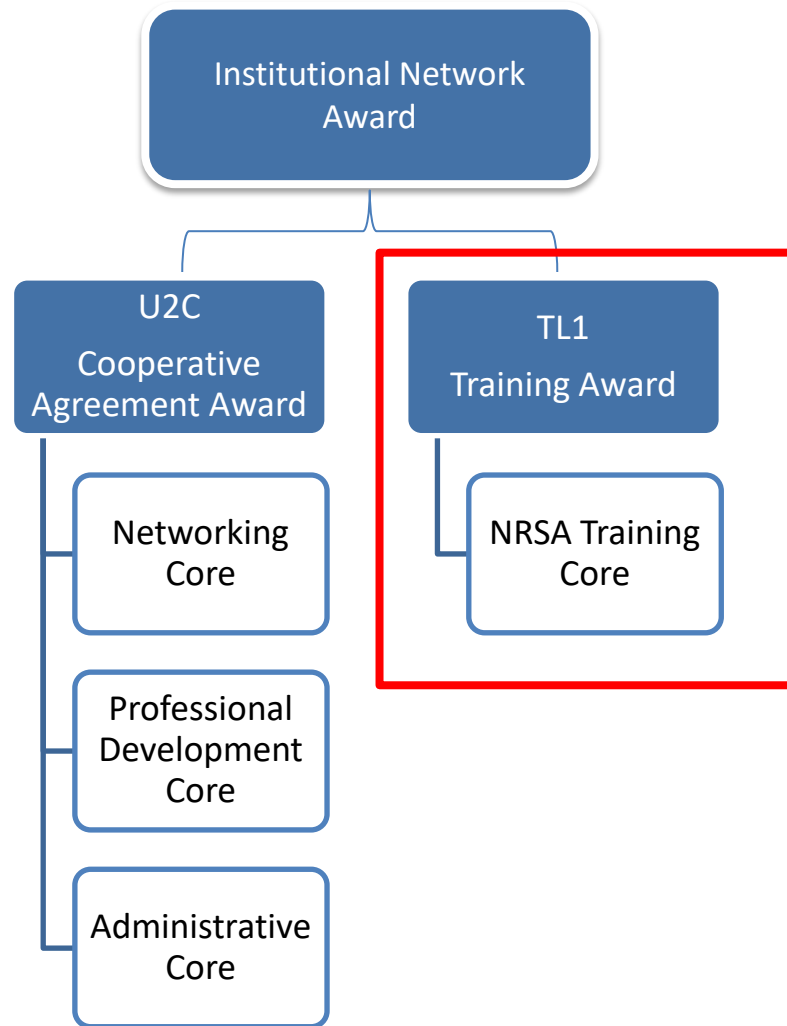
Professional Development

- **Curriculum development** or re-design, catered to a modern workforce
 - entrepreneurship/commercialization
 - leadership training
 - communication
- **Mentorship** training and support

Administration

- Robust, ongoing **evaluation** program
- **Coordinating activities** across institutions, for *all* KUH trainees

Institutional Network Award: Program Goals



NRSA Training Core

- recruit and fund at least **5** highly competitive pre- and/or post-doctoral trainees **across K-, U-, and H-**mission focused research
- Innovative strategies to recruit a diverse cohort of trainees - including diversity in scientific background

Notable changes

- Page limits for Training Core: 12 pages
- Initial receipt date: November 15, 2023
- Subsequent dates: September 27, 2024, September 26, 2025
- Review criteria
 - Only Overall score determined by Significance, Innovation, Investigators, Approach, and Environment
 - Administrative, Networking, Professional Development have unique criteria
 - Training Core evaluated per “usual” training program criteria

Building a national Community of Trainees

- Minimum of 5 trainee slots across K, U, and H research; no maximum
- Only **one** application per institution is permitted
- One application per metropolitan statistical area (MSA) is *strongly encouraged*
- Over time, it is expected that each Institutional Network Award will actively participate in a nationwide program

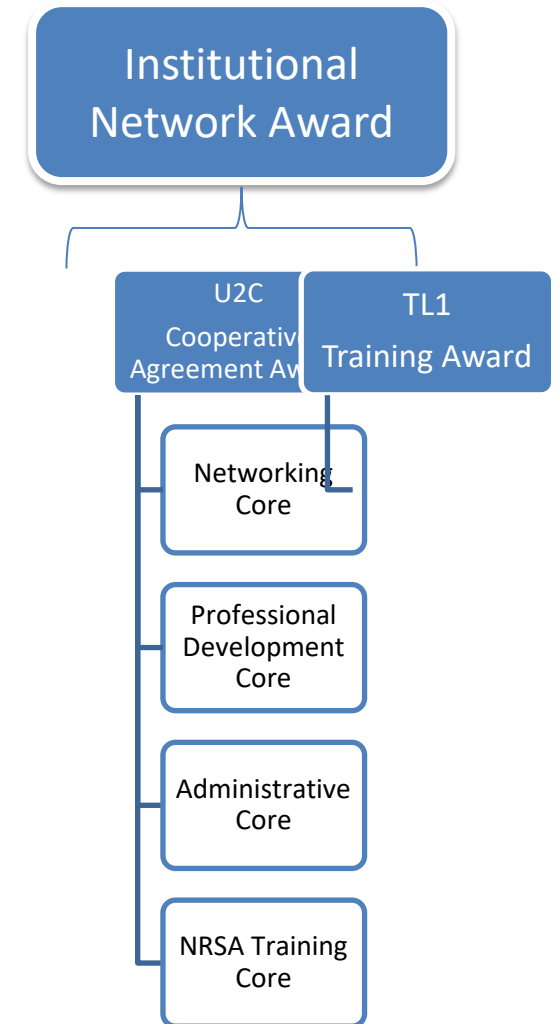
Program Directors/Principal Investigators

- The PD/PI should be an established investigator in the scientific area relevant to the mission NIDDK/KUH
- Additional PDs/PIs from other scientific and technical disciplines may be included to achieve the training goals
- Strongly encouraged that institutions include women and/or individuals from diverse backgrounds when forming the leadership team of the program
- Overall PD/PI(s) should be distinct from NRSA Core Director (TL1 PD/PI)

U2C and TL1 Linkage

- U2C and TL1 linked at the time of application
- Separated at the time of award and will maintain their own, separate budgets and their own Principal Investigator/Program Director (PI/PD)
 - NRSA Training Core will be awarded as the TL1
 - The NRSA Training Core Director named in the application will become the TL1 PI
- No TL1 award will be made unless the associated U2C is also funded

Application → Award



Budget Requirements

- TL1 component (NRSA Training Core)
 - Must adhere to NRSA guidelines (stipend levels and allowable costs)
 - Slots: Justify, Justify, Justify...
- U2C component
 - The total requested salary support for the combined effort of **Overall PIs** and **Core Directors** across all U2C cores and the TL1 core should not exceed six calendar months per year
 - no restriction on other personnel effort
 - Total Cost of the U2C Award (Administrative Core, Networking Core, and Professional Development Core) **should not exceed 70%** of the Total Cost of the TL1 (NRSA Training Core)

Prior Approval Requests

- Applicants requesting \$500,000 or more in direct costs in any year must submit a proposed budget and justification memo to the scientific program contact (Tracy L. Rankin, PhD, MPH) at least 6 weeks before submitting the application

- Please include the following information:
 - Proposed Title of Application
 - Proposed Contact PI of Application
 - Commons ID of Contact PI
 - Applicant Institute
 - Proposed Budget
 - Budget Justification (brief)

This information can also be found in the FAQ Document (Q21)

Review Criteria

- Reviewers will be asked to evaluate individual sections (Administrative core, Professional Development Core and Networking core), and assign a component impact score.
- Only the Overall assessment will receive separate scores for Significance, Investigators, Innovation, Approach and Environment, as well as an overall impact score
- The Training Core will be evaluated separately for Training Program and Environment, PI/PD, Preceptors, Trainees, and Training Record

Administrative Core Evaluation

- Demonstrated ability of the **leadership team** to coordinate, manage, and integrate the components of the proposed program
- The appropriateness of the plans to include **partnering institutions** in all aspects of program management and decision-making, if applicable
- The strength of the strategies for ongoing **monitoring** of the program and plans for corrective action
- The conceptual basis and robustness of the proposed **evaluation** plans for the program
- The planned approach for developing the **annual meeting** of trainees and other stakeholders
- The appropriateness of the proposed **External Evaluation Board** in terms of meeting frequency, progress metrics evaluated, and how feedback would be incorporated into the program

Professional Development Core Evaluation

- The demonstrated ability of the Core **leadership** to develop and implement the proposed Core activities
- The **strength of the planned trainee curricula** including how the curricula will be tailored to individual trainee goals
- The appropriateness of the **courses and forums** proposed to enhance trainees' ability to successfully compete for extramural research funding
- The novelty and innovation of proposed **approaches to address trainees' goals** and prepare them for entry into the research or scientific workforce
- The robustness of the approach to **train trainees in team science** and multi-disciplinary collaborative research
- The strength of the plans to **prepare proposed sponsors for mentoring** and for continued improvement of mentoring skills, as well as the approach to address mentoring shortcomings and recognizing excellence

Networking Core Evaluation

- The demonstrated ability of the Core leadership to develop and implement the proposed Core activities
- The strengths of the approach to develop the Peer Network, including the involvement of trainees in the design, implementation, and ongoing improvement
- The strategies proposed to incorporate all NIDDK/KUH supported trainees and scholars into the peer network and activities of the program
- The robustness of the planned approach to provide collaborative opportunities across the career stages and departments of NIDDK/KUH-supported trainees
- The strategies proposed to engage potential partners within the applicants metropolitan or community area
- How well trainees are incorporated into the proposed outreach activities of the Core and how appropriate the plans are to synergize with existing R25 or T35 programs, if applicable
- The strengths of the plans to develop outreach to diverse institutions



Do awards need to support K, U, and H training?

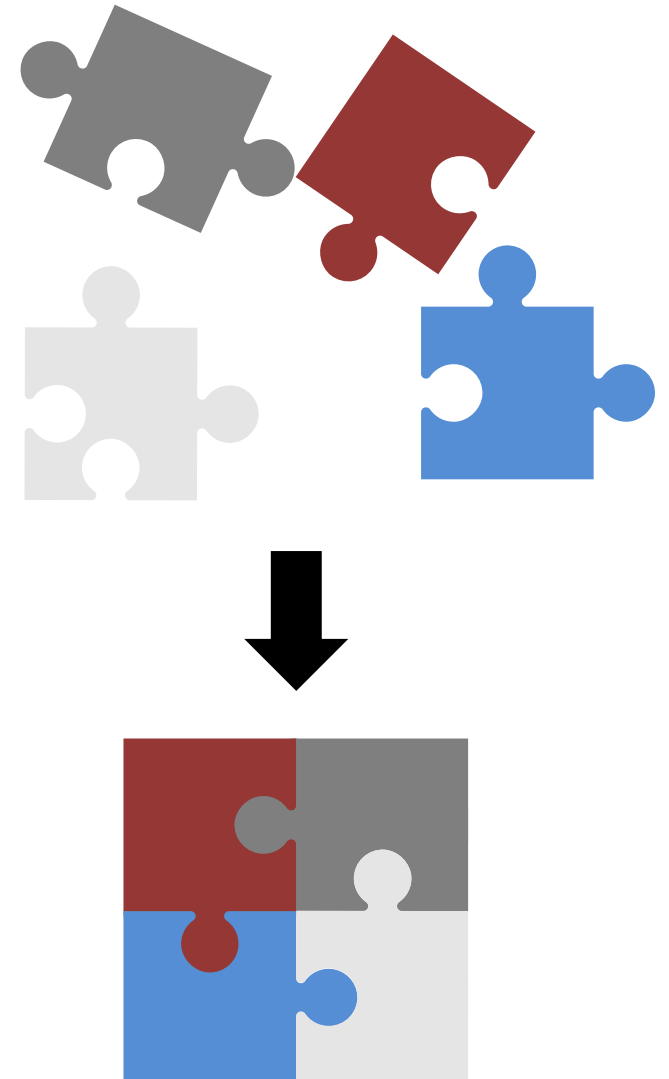
- NIDDK encourages applicants to leverage available resources -- to the extent possible -- to maximize the training opportunities across K-, U- **AND** H- research
 - Equal representation of K, U, and H is not required
- May be accomplished by partnering with other departments within a given institution or by partnering with other institutions in the Metropolitan Statistical Area (if feasible)
- Interdisciplinary trainees share some universal needs

Do applications need to be multi-institutional?

- Multi-institutional applications are not required, but they are encouraged if partnership **enhances the training environment and experience**
- A single, consolidated application from several institutions within the same metropolitan area, that include multiple departments with a different research focus, are strongly encouraged and preferred
- If proposed, multi-institutional partnerships should be **thoughtful**

What are some common pitfalls?

- U2C ≠ T32
- programs ≠ Program
 - Insufficient integration of existing, available resources into the larger program plan
 - What's the “added value” provided by the U2C-TL1?
 - How will trainees navigate long lists of available resources? *May* help to provide an example of a trainee's path through the program
- Institutional partnerships formed “in name only”
 - Lack of clarity in leadership and governance structure descriptions
- Lacking details for implementation



When should I apply?

- Application Due Date(s)
 - November, 15th, 2023
- Earliest Start Date(s)
 - July 2024
- Holding an existing KUH-T32 does **not** affect eligibility to apply. Only if a U2C-TL1 is *awarded* will existing KUH-T32s be relinquished.

Questions?



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Additional Slides – Please Refer to FOA for full description of Cores (PAR-23-248)

Reimagining Institutional Training at NIDDK

KUH is committed to training the next generation of researchers

**NIDDK Division of
Kidney, Urologic,
and Hematologic
Diseases**

May 21 - 22, 2019

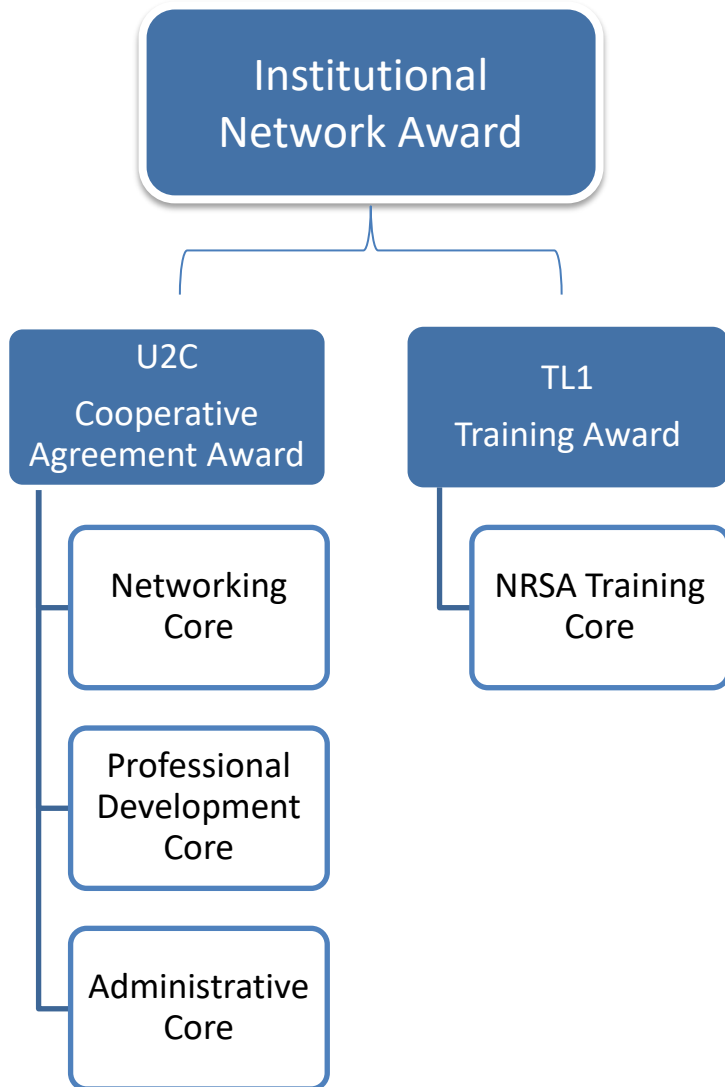
**T32 Best
Practices**

Natcher Conference Center
National Institutes of Health, Building 45
Bethesda, MD

Recruitment Retention Stability Mentoring

NIH National Institute of
Diabetes and Digestive
and Kidney Diseases

Institutional Network Award: Structure



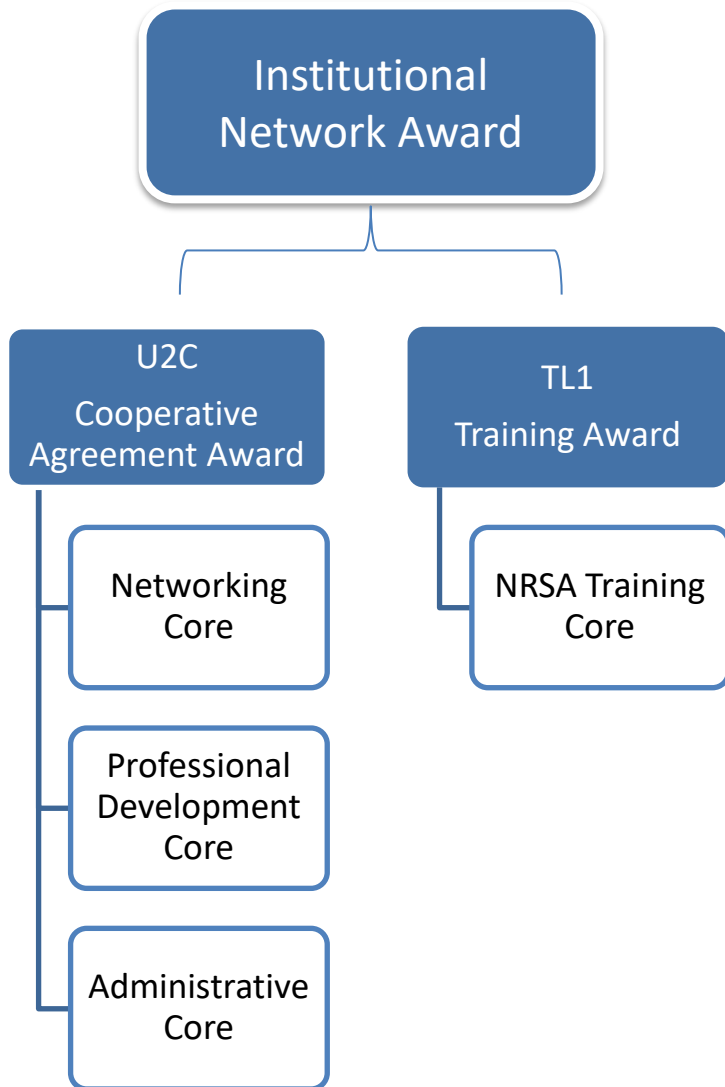
Networking Core

- Develop & maintain **peer-to-peer** network opportunities: in person and virtual
- **Outreach** & community service programs, such as with local high school or colleges
- Annual **national meeting** of all U2C-supported trainees

Professional Development Core

- **Curriculum development** or re-design, catered to a modern workforce
 - entrepreneurship/commercialization
 - leadership training
 - communication
- **Mentorship** training and support

Institutional Network Award: Program Goals



Administrative Core

- Robust, ongoing **evaluation** program, including plans for establishing an External Evaluation Board (EEB)
- Coordinating activities across institutions, for *all* KUH trainees

NRSA Training Core (“TL1 Award”)

- Support a *minimum* of **5 trainees across K, U, and H research**
- Can support pre- and post-doctoral trainees
- Include innovative strategies to recruit **talented, diverse trainees** from a variety of scientific backgrounds

Building a Community: Peer Networking

- Networking Core
- Programs are expected to develop a plan to support direct peer communication and near-peer mentoring
 - Trainees supported by TL1, Fellowships (F), Career Development (K), Short Term Research (T35), Educational Programs (R25), etc.
 - Opportunity to create Alumni networks
 - Virtual platform (a space for ongoing discussion)
 - Combined with in-person meetings and events

Talk to your trainees!

Annual Consortium Meeting

- Annual, face-to-face meeting of all awardees supported by this FOA during the award period
 - Meeting goal: Highlight the progress of the programs, including opportunities for all trainees to present their project and network with peers and mentors across all supported programs
 - Each grantee will be expected to host and organize one face-to-face meeting during the project (award) period, in collaboration with the NIDDK
 - Plans for an annual meeting should be included in the application

Can we engage colleagues/trainees outside of NIDDK?

- Could PIs of the Network and Professional development core be individuals with funding outside of NIDDK-KUH?
 - Yes – interdisciplinary training is a goal of this FOA, PD/PIs/Core Directors may be funded outside of NIDDK
 - At least one Overall PD/PI of U2C-TL1 should be an established NIDDK-KUH investigators.
- Could the network activities incorporate trainees supported by other institutes (and not just NIDDK KUH)?
 - Yes - networking activities are not restricted to NIDDK, but should include *at least* other NIDDK trainees/awardees

How will smaller programs engage in this opportunity and successfully compete for an award?

- Institutional awards (rather than Departmental awards)
- Smaller institutions should be encouraged to engage departments and resources outside of the typical nephrology, hematology, or urology departments
 - i.e. graduate school departments
 - leveraging resources within the same MSA
- These awards are designed to provide resources and administrative support that may otherwise have been unavailable to smaller programs

Have other I/Cs at NIH used this model?

- The U2C-TL1 Institutional Training Mechanism is new with this FOA
- Some similarities with Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Program supported by NCATS
- As a cooperative agreement, funded awardees will work closely with the NIDDK to develop a robust evaluation strategy and capture relevant outcome data

Application Instructions

Page Limitations

Available Component Types	Research Strategy/ Program Plan
Overall	6 pages
Admin Core	6 pages
Professional Development Core	6 pages
Network Core	6 pages
Training Core	12 pages

*Resubmission (-A1) applications are permitted 1-page of introduction at the start of each component (5 pages total throughout the application)

Administrative Core

- The overall goal of the Administrative Core is to provide and oversee program organization, governance, collaboration, communication, as well as evaluation and continuous improvement.
- Plans for establishing an External Evaluation Board (EEB)
- Plans for organizing one of the annual face-to-face meeting of all awardees supported by this FOA during the award period, in collaboration with the NIDDK

Professional Development Core

- Trainee professional development
 - Grants-writing and/or scientific writing workshops or courses
 - Didactic, technical training based on interest
 - Leadership, entrepreneurship, and mentor training
- Preceptor professional development
 - Develop approach to identify and train preceptors in effective mentoring

Networking Core

- Programs are expected to develop a plan to support direct peer communication and near-peer mentoring
 - Trainees supported by TL1, Fellowships (F), Career Development (K), Short Term Research (T35), Educational Programs (R25), etc.
 - Virtual platform, space for ongoing discussion
- Community Outreach
 - Enhance outreach to pipeline training communities, engage TL1 supported trainees in these efforts
 - Pipeline communities include high schools, undergraduate institutions, as well as community colleges

Training Core

- Minimum of 5 trainees across K, U, and H
 - Can be pre- and/or post-doctoral
 - Innovative strategies to recruit trainees from a variety of scientific backgrounds

- Include Evaluation strategy



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