Limited Submissions
Sponsor: National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Program: NIH Director's Early Independence Award (DP5 - Clinical Trial Optional)

Estimated Award Amount: $1,250,000 (direct costs only)
JHU Nomination Limit: 2
For More Detailed Information Click Here

Opportunity Summary:
The NIH Director's Early Independence Award supports exceptional investigators who wish to pursue independent research essentially directly after completion of their terminal doctoral/research degree or end of post-graduate clinical training, thereby forgoing the traditional post-doctoral training period and accelerating their entry into an independent research career. Applications are welcome from individuals of diverse backgrounds and perspectives and in any topic of relevance to the broad mission of NIH.

The NIH Director's Early Independence Award is part of the High-Risk, High-Reward Research program funded through the NIH Common Fund. All Common Fund initiatives invite investigators to develop bold, innovative, and often risky approaches to address major problems that are especially daunting or to seize new opportunities that offer the potential for rapid progress.

Eligibility & Requirements:
• The receipt date of the terminal doctoral degree or end of post-graduate clinical training of the PD/PI must be between June 1, 2017 and September 30, 2019.
• At the time of application, the PD/PI must not have served as a post-doctoral fellow following a previous (not the most recent) doctoral degree for more than twelve months.
• Only single PD/PI applications are allowed.
• Individuals must commit at least 9.6 person-months each year during the first two years of the project period to research supported by the Early Independence Award. In the final three years of the project period, awardees may reduce effort toward the Early Independence Award project, but the total effort towards independent research in general must remain at least 9.6 person-months each year.
• Individuals are eligible only if they, at the time of application submission, do not have research independence.
• Eligible individuals must have all the following characteristics:
  o The PD/PI’s current research agenda is set through concurrence with mentors.
  o The PD/PI’s research is funded primarily through support to other investigators (mentored fellowships such as NIH F31 or F32 Fellowships or NSF Graduate Research Fellowships do not preclude eligibility).
  o The PD/PI does not have any space assigned directly by the institution for the conduct of his/her research.
  o The PD/PI, according to institutional policy, cannot apply for an NIH R01 grant without special waiver or exemption from the institution.

Internal Nomination Process:
Interested applicants should submit the following documents:

1. JHU Limited Submission Cover Sheet
2. Proposal (maximum of two pages of text only, single spaced: 12-pt font and one-inch margins) (Note: figures, tables, and other reference material may be included in addition to the 2 pg. text limit)
3. Curriculum Vitae of investigator, including current external research support and publications
4. Budget (two pages maximum)

Questions? Comments? Email the Research Development Team at resapp@jhu.edu.