ORIP

OFFICE OF RESEARCH
INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS

TRAINING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

Fact Sheet 2025

ORIP'S MISSION

ORIP advances the National Institutes of Health (NIH) mission by supporting infrastructure for innovation. This support is focused on research resources, including animal models for human diseases, cutting-edge scientific instrumentation, construction and modernization of research facilities, and research training opportunities for veterinary scientists. Through continued engagement with NIH institutes, centers, and offices and the biomedical research community, ORIP empowers and expands existing programs and develops new initiatives to support NIH research at the forefront of scientific progress.

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National Institutes of Health
Office of Research Infrastructure Programs

OVERVIEW

ORIP advances biomedical research by supporting the creation of animal models for human disease and related key infrastructure, enabling access to state-of-the-art instrumentation, providing educational training programs, and assisting small businesses in developing new technologies. ORIP supports training and career development programs—specifically for veterinarians seeking to enter the field of biomedical research. The Division of Comparative Medicine (DCM) supports biomedical research through programs that relate to the use, characterization, and care of animal models for human diseases. Laboratory animals, as well as new approach methodologies, help biomedical researchers in understanding the mechanisms of development and progression of the pathology of a variety of human diseases. As part of this effort, DCM funds institutional training grants and individual career development awards to foster the development of the next generation of veterinary scientists who want to pursue scientific careers. Veterinary scientists have unique comparative medicine experience in laboratory animal medicine, pathology, and zoonotic infectious diseases, making them valuable contributors to biomedical research.

For more information about these opportunities, please visit the ORIP Training and Career Development webpages.

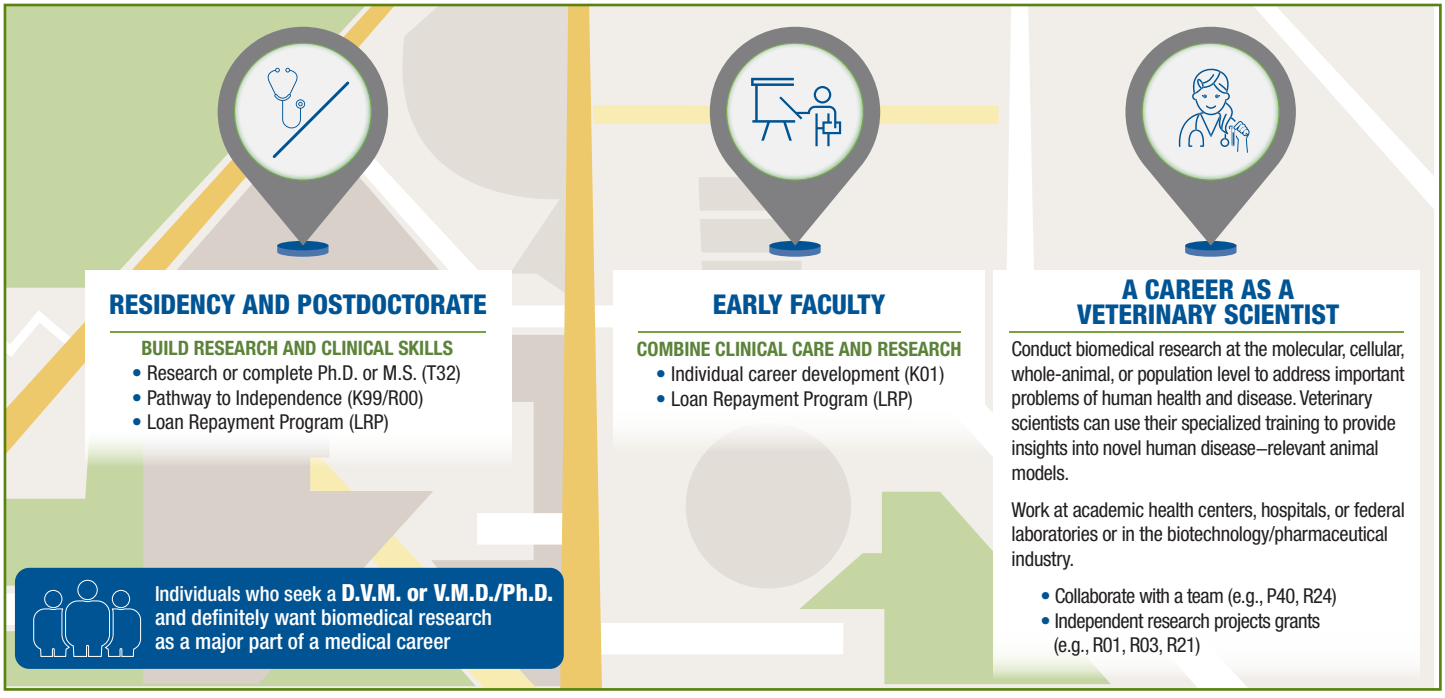
INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH TRAINING GRANTS

The Institutional Research Training Grants offered by ORIP encourage motivated veterinarians to explore careers in the biomedical research field. Veterinary schools and other research institutions that provide advanced training in comparative medicine receive these awards.

Postdoctoral Programs for Veterinarians (T32)

These programs provide support for the training of highly qualified veterinarians to help them excel in biomedical research careers. This training may be incorporated into a research degree program and should prepare the trainee to compete for independent grant funding. Institutional awards are made directly to universities and other research institutions to provide advanced training in biomedical or translational research.

For more information, visit ORIP's Institutional Research Training Grants webpage.



INDIVIDUAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

DCM offers career development support for individuals with D.V.M. or V.M.D. degrees who work with animal models and for HIV/AIDS early-stage investigators, including Ph.D. scientists, who work with nonhuman primate (NHP) models.

For more information, visit ORIP's Individual Training Grants webpage.

Special Emphasis Research Career Award (SERCA): K01 (Limited to veterinary scientists)

The SERCA K01 provides early-career veterinary scientists with 4 years of "protected research time" for an intensive, supervised career development experience in the biomedical sciences, leading to research independence. SERCA emphasizes in-depth research experience in a variety of basic, preclinical, and translational science disciplines. Candidates for this award must hold a D.V.M. or V.M.D. degree from an institution accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association. They may not have been a principal investigator on a federally supported research project (see the link below for which grant mechanisms are excluded). Candidates must be nominated by their institutions and design a career development plan that includes appropriate mentoring (typically by a mentoring team). Lastly, the proposed project should allow the candidate to transition to an independent research position.

For more information regarding all relevant requirements, consult the SERCA Guidelines. Also see the companion funding opportunity (PAR-25-176) Limited Competition: Small Grant Program for ORIP SERCA K01 Recipients (R03 Clinical Trials Not Allowed).

Students seeking novel fish viruses with Tony Goldberg, D.V.M., Ph.D.

Early Stage Investigators Using NHP Research Models: K01 (Limited to veterinary scientists)

The Early Stage Investigators Using NHP Research Models (ESI-NHP K01) provides early-stage investigators within 10 years of completing their terminal professional degree or residency training with support and up to 5 years of "protected time" for intensive, research-focused career development program activities under the guidance of an experienced mentorship team with expertise in both the preclinical application of NHP models and the translation of the results from such studies to clinical application. The focus of this program is to increase the number of highly skilled scientists using NHP models to address complex translational biomedical research designed to foster translation of outcomes into the clinic. The expectation is that through this sustained period of research career development and training, awardees will launch independent research careers and become competitive for new research project grant funding (e.g., R01). ORIP will contribute up to $75,000 per year toward the salary of the career award recipient and up to $100,000 per year toward the research development costs of the award recipient.

For information about ORIP's participation in this ESI-NHP K01 announcement, visit ORIP's Individual Training Grants webpage and PAR-23-073.

HIV/AIDS Scholars Using NHP Models: K01 (Not limited to veterinary scientists)

The HIV/AIDS Scholars K01 provides early-stage investigators within 10 years of completing their terminal professional degree or residency training with 3 years of mentored career development to prepare for independent research careers using NHPs as preclinical models for HIV/AIDS. HIV/AIDS scholars receive salary and research support and the guidance of an experienced mentorship team with expertise in both the preclinical application of NHP HIV/AIDS models and the translation of the results from such studies to clinical application in humans. By enhancing critical aspects of career development—such as grantsmanship, networking, and the ability to translate results from animals to the clinic—awardees prepare to launch independent research careers and become competitive for new research project grant funding (e.g., R01). The program brings participants together annually for the Conference for Early Stage HIV/AIDS Researchers Using NHP Models.

For information about ORIP's participation in this HIV/AIDS Scholars announcement, visit ORIP's Individual Training Grants webpage and PAR-23-225. Also see the companion funding opportunity (PAR-25-165) Early Stage Investigator HIV/AIDS Research Using NHP Models (R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed).

MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES (RE-ENTRY SUPPLEMENTS)

ORIP-supported principal investigators may be able to apply for administrative grant supplements to support specific research trainees and mentees. Re-entry supplements support individuals with high potential to re-enter an active research career after an interruption for family responsibilities or other qualifying circumstances.

For additional information about these supplements and how they might benefit your trainees, visit ORIP's Mentoring Opportunities (Re-entry Supplements) webpage.