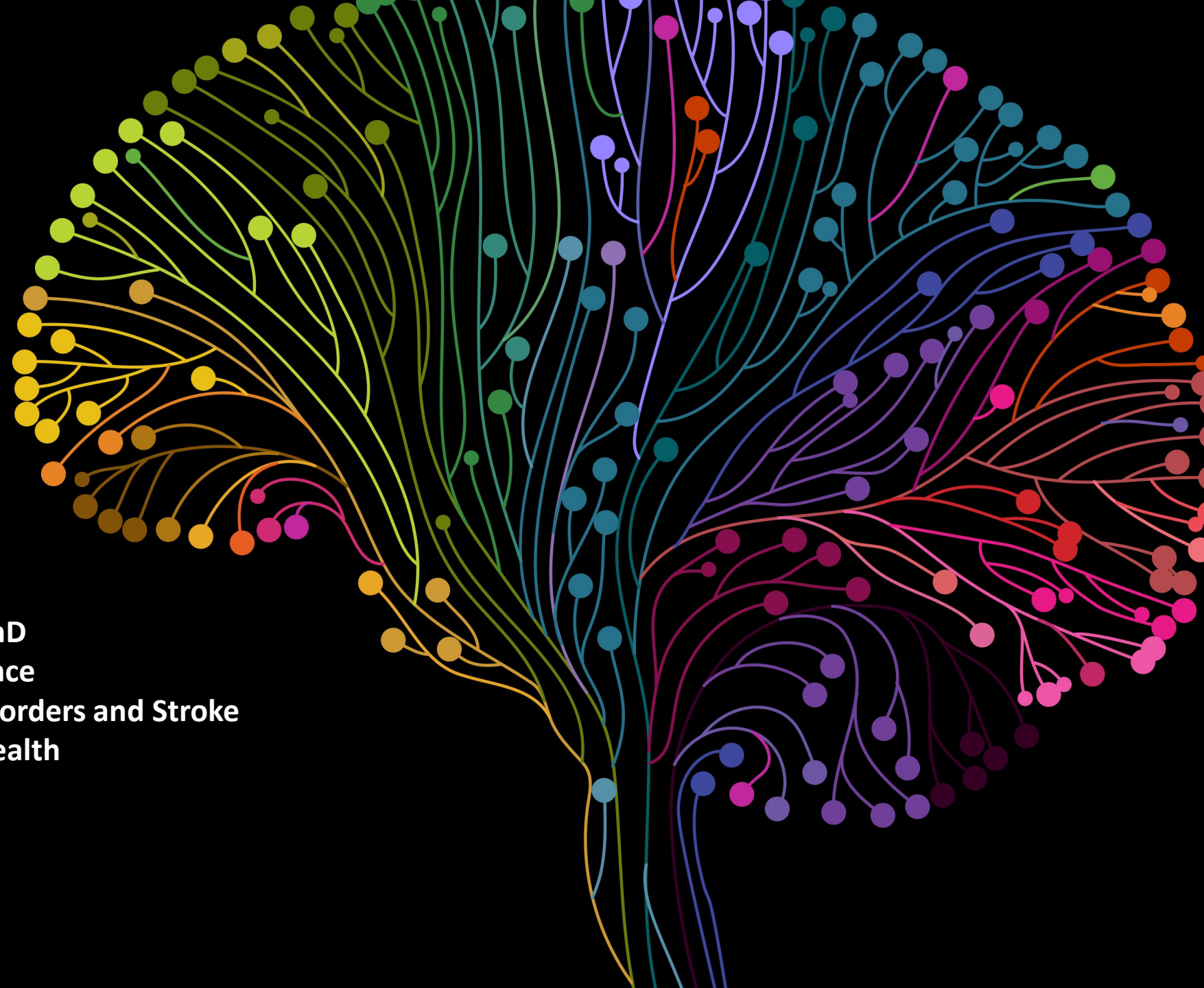NIH Grant
Mechanisms
for
Clinician-Scientists

Vicky Whittemore, PhD
Division of Neuroscience
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
National Institutes of Health

National Institutes of Health

- 27 different components called Institutes and Centers.
- Each has its own specific research agenda, often focusing on particular diseases or body systems
- Each Institute has an Intramural and extramural component
- The Extramural component of each Institute supports research grant awards to investigators at all levels of career development.

Trans-NIH ME/CFS Working Group

- Restructured in 2015
- Coordinate ME/CFS research activities across NIH
- Chaired by Walter Koroshetz, MD; Director of NINDS
- Composed of representatives from 23 Institutes, Centers and Offices
- Program Directors from the Institutes and Centers are available to talk to investigators and assist with the grant application process
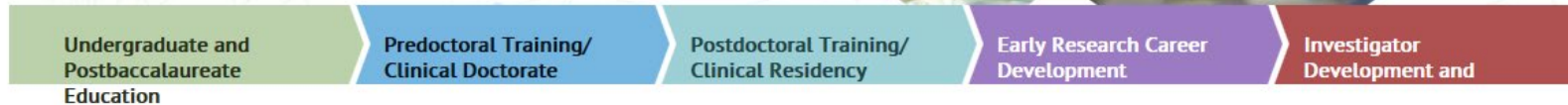- Includes representatives from Center for Scientific Review (CSR)

https://www.nih.gov/mecfs

https://researchtraining.nih.gov/career-path

K Awards for Clinician-Scientists

Career Development Awards (CDAs)

- Awards for candidates who wish to further develop their careers in biomedical, behavioral and clinical research
- Applicants are generally required to hold a research or health professional doctoral degree or its equivalent
- Eligibility for some CDAs is limited to only applicants with health professional doctoral degrees
- Provides protected time for clinician-scientists so they can focus on research while also performing clinical duties
- Provides support for basic or clinical research studies

NIH

K Awards for Clinician-Scientists

Types of K Awards:

K02 - **Independent Research Scientist Development Award**
- For support of an early to mid-career scientists with research funding, in need of additional protected time committed to research.

K08 - **Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award**
- To provide the opportunity for promising clinician scientists with demonstrated aptitude to develop into independent investigators, or for faculty members to pursue research, and aid in filling the academic faculty gap in health profession's institutions.

K12 – **Clinical Scientist Institutional Career Development Program Award**
- To provide support for newly trained clinicians appointed by an institution for development of independent research skills and experience in a fundamental science within the framework of an interdisciplinary research and development program.

K22 – **Career Transition Award**
- To provide support to outstanding newly trained basic or clinical investigators to develop their independent research skills through a two-phase program; an initial mentored research experience, followed by a period of independent research.

K23 – **Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award**
- To provide support for the career development of clinically trained professionals who have made a commitment to patient-oriented research, and who have the potential to develop into productive, clinical investigators.

K24 – **Midcareer Investigator Award in Patient-Oriented Research**
- To provide support for mid-career clinicians with research support, to allow for protected time to devote to patient-oriented research and to serve as mentors for beginning clinical investigators.

https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/career-development

Early Stage Investigators (ESI)

- ESI - A Program Director / Principal Investigator (PD/PI) who has completed their terminal research degree or end of post-graduate clinical training, whichever date is later, within the past 10 years and who has not previously competed successfully as PD/PI for a substantial NIH independent research award (R01 or equivalent)

- R01-equivalent ESI applications with meritorious scores will be prioritized for funding

- Sign up to be a grant reviewer: **Early Career Reviewer program**

Role of the NIH Program Director

....and how we can help:

Program Director:
- Provides information about funding opportunities/grant mechanisms
- Reviews specific aims for grant applications
- Listens to grant review and can discuss the summary statement
- Answers questions and helps investigators navigate the NIH system
- Administers grant when awarded

Matchmaker: https://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter_matchmaker.cfm

Contact for Questions and Referrals

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