

Mentored Career Development Awards in Biomedical Data Science for Clinicians and Doctorally Prepared Scientists (K01)

Moderators: Carol Shreffler (lead) and Cathrine Sasek

Agenda

- Introductions
- Project Overviews: K01 awardees are invited to present 2 minute introductions to their projects.
- Discussion
 - Any questions or comments on the research presented?
 - What is the biggest challenge that you have faced as a new researchers?
 - Have you experienced any unique challenges in the BD2K area?
 - What could NIH do to help you with these challenges (other than funding)?

Summary of Discussion:

Approximately 17 of the 21 K01 Awardees attended. To start the discussion, each attendee introduced him or herself, and briefly presented their background and described their research project. Awardees represented mix of areas covered by the program announcement: Quantitative, engineering, bioinformatics, biomedical, with a sizeable representation of physician scientists.

The group had great enthusiasm for the program, and the opportunity it offered for career development in data science methods development, but they felt BD research was often not received well in the categorical institutes. There was concern that review committees may not have the expertise to review big data focused applications. Those who had applied for career development awards through the institutes provided feedback on the critiques, which were more focused on expectations of hypothesis testing and in-depth investigation of a domain science question.

Concern was also mentioned about publishing manuscripts that use big data in multiple areas of research if reviewers don't have an understanding of BD research. It was noted that publications often merge biomedical and informatics areas and represent "niche" type of research.

For these reasons, the K01 awardees are anxious about defining their "home" when the BD2K program concludes, and they are expected to transition to R01 grants. Any way the BD2K program could bridge this transition would be helpful.

They would also like information on what is available, both in terms of research funding, places to present their work, and scientific exchange. The observation was made that they are more similar in their interests and research than it might appear by looking at their backgrounds and scientific domain applications, and they would like to be able to identify venues to better define the discipline of data science and to present their research to others with similar interests.

BD2K Awardees expressed strong interest in developing mechanisms for exchange of scientific research ideas and experiences both across the group and a virtual space for individual private exchanges (such as grant applications, questions, problems which may be encountered by physician scientists, etc.). They also wanted the grantee meeting to include both structured time for scientific exchange and presentations, and unstructured time for discussion and informal social gathering. The physician scientists also stayed after the meeting as a group, so this may become a subgroup interest.

The K01 Awardees want better communication with other BD2K resources, especially the Centers and a mechanism by which they might be able to connect to center resources. One suggestion was to include a K01 showcase next year as a means to help them hook up with big programs such as the centers.

K01 awardees felt there was not sufficient travel funding in the career development costs and would like to be able to budget for additional scientific meetings or training courses. Note: This is artificial, due to the way the FOA was worded to include travel for one scientific meeting and for the BD2K consortium meeting; K01 awardees can rebudget to allow travel to additional meetings.

ACTION ITEMS

For BD2K Staff:

Include an extra day in the All Hands meeting in 2016 for a “satellite” meeting of the BD2K K01 grantees. The agenda for this meeting should include:

- A grantsmanship workshop
- Meeting with IC program officers
- Meeting with Scientific Review Officers from BD2K Study Sections
- Meeting with Center representatives to learn about resources available.

Discuss whether the All Hands meeting is sufficient or whether an additional K01 Grantee meeting which would expand the time for scientific exchange is also appropriate (Michelle suggested this in conjunction with the trainee meeting.)

For the Training Coordinating Center

- A private dedicated exchange space for the K01 awardees
- Explore with K01 awardees how the Center might be able to connect them with center resources applicable to their research. A specific example was access to algorithms which might be useful in their tool development.
- Include K01 awardees when considering rotation opportunities
- Organize a K01 (+ trainee) meeting?