Charles A. King Trust Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program

Office Hours

October 8th, 2025, 12:30PM ET

HEALTH RESOURCES IN ACTION

Agenda

- Program Overview and Application Requirements

  - Program Mission & Research Focus

  - Program Overview

  - Changes from 2025

    - Two-stage review process

    - Application Portal

  - Eligibility

- Lessons Learned and Helpful Tips

  - Pitfalls to Avoid

  - Application Tips

- Q & A

Program Mission

The King Trust was established to support and promote the:

"*investigation of human disease and the alleviation of human suffering through improved treatment*".

King Trust Fellowship Program

To provide funding to Massachusetts based postdoctoral fellows and clinical scientists in the mid to late stages of their research training to help them achieve their goals of becoming independent investigators in biomedical research.

Diverse and Inclusive Research

To promote and enable diversity in biomedical research, the King Trust is committed to awarding researchers *of all backgrounds*, including racial/ethnic groups that are underrepresented in science.

The King Trust seeks to support the next generation of scientific leaders who are dedicated to creating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive research environment, and who contribute to the wider research community and promote positive research culture.

Research Focus

There are two separate, but linked programs:

- **King Trust Basic and Preclinical Science Award Program**
    - Proposals in the basic sciences seek to increase our understanding of the underlying biological processes relevant to human health and disease. Preclinical sciences seek to move findings from basic research towards clinical application.
    - This includes research projects involving patient derived tissue, samples or data; or using cell culture or animal models seeking to understand basic science questions

- **King Trust Clinical and Implementation Research Award Program**
    - Clinical or implementation research funded by this program support *human* studies
    - Includes physiological research, behavioral science and health education research, translational research (the application of bench research to patient care), epidemiological research, health services and policy research, outcomes research, and research about healthcare delivery and population health, regardless of specialty or discipline.

Additional funding from the O'Brien Trust and Fortin Charitable Foundation supports research focused on **cancer or vision**.
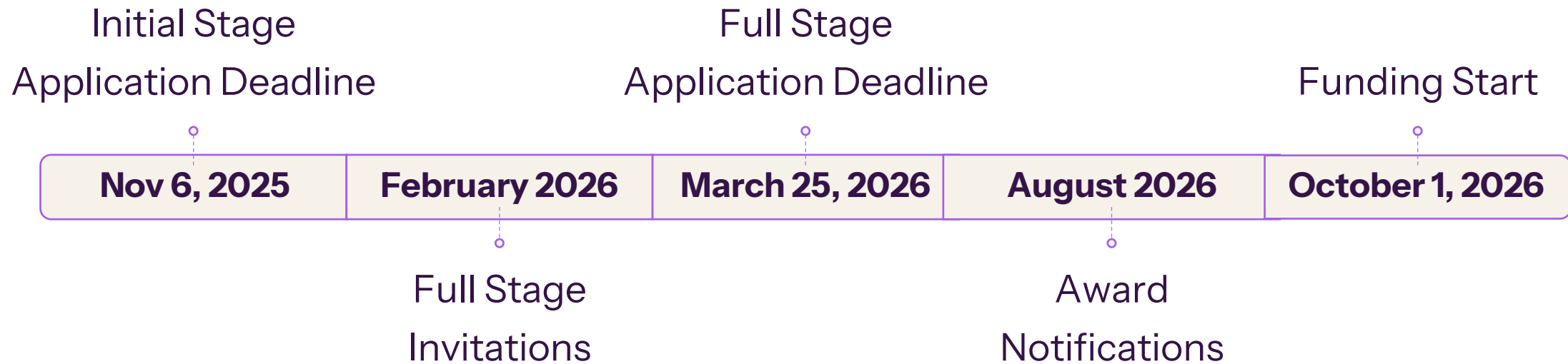
Program Overview

Amount & Duration: Ranging from $194,100 to $215,000 total over 2 years (inclusive of 10% fringe allowance and flexible allowance of $25K per year, indirect costs not allowed)

Award Dates: Oct 1, 2026 – Sept 30, 2028

Changes from 2025 Program

Two-stage review process:

Initial Stage
Application Deadline

Full Stage
Application Deadline

Funding Start

Nov 6, 2025	February 2026	March 25, 2026	August 2026	October 1, 2026

Full Stage
Invitations

Award
Notifications

Eligibility

By October 1, 2026

- Postdoc (or equivalent) or clinician scientist with a doctoral degree (MD, MD/PhD, PhD, DO, DMD, PharmD, DPT…)

- Conducting mentored non-independent research in **Massachusetts**. Non-independent training positions may include the following:
  - the candidate's research is entirely funded by another investigator's grant or conducted entirely in another investigator's assigned space
  - the candidate has not received a start-up package from the university
  - the candidate may also not be allowed by institutional policy to hire postdoctoral fellows or technical staff or be the responsible supervisor of graduate students
  - the candidate may lack other rights and privileges of faculty such as attendance at faculty meetings.

- **Postdoc Research Experience (excluding pauses for extenuating circumstances):**
  - Without clinical training
    - 3-6 years full-time postdoctoral research experience
    - Commit 90% protected time to research
  - With clinical training
    - No more than 6 years full-time postdoctoral (or equivalent) research experience
    - Commit 70% protected time to research
  - Must have completed residency and clinical training. Award support may not overlap with fellowship support.

- **Publication:** By November 6th, must have at least one peer reviewed research article from postdoc work (co-author is fine). Submitted or in-press must be publicly available as a pre-print.

- Must apply under guidance of a Mentor (1 applicant per mentor)

Eligibility cont.

- **Concurrent Funding:**
  - Cannot hold concurrent Career Development Award, including NIH K, KL2 or other equivalent award <u>at the time of application</u>.
  - Cannot have other funding totaling more than $100K (applicants without clinical responsibilities) or $150K (applicants with clinical responsibilities) in direct costs, during the first year of the award.
    - Does not include the King Award itself, or awards designed to support loan repayment

Example 1: Clinician Scientist
- Foundation Award (1/1/2024 – 12/31/2026)
  - $110,000 direct costs
- Young Investigator Award (7/1/2025 – 6/31/2027)
  - $55,000 direct costs

NOT ELIGIBLE

Example 2: Clinician Scientist
- Really Cool Fellowship Award (8/1/2024 – 7/31/2026)
  - $150,000 direct costs
- Foundation Award (1/1/2026 – 12/31/2027)
  - $90,000 direct costs
- NIH Loan Repayment Program (7/1/2025 – 6/31/2027)
  - $60,000 direct costs

ELIGIBLE

Initial-Stage Review Criteria

Research Proposal	- The proposed work is **original**, **creative**, and **impactful**, building upon current knowledge and relevant literature, and will **significantly increase understanding of human disease and treatment**. - The research aims are **well conceived**, **feasible** within the proposed timeframe, and **necessary** to inform the hypothesis. - Role(s) of the mentor(s) is/are **clearly outlined and relevant** to proposed research project.
Applicant	- The applicant is **accomplished** and has **demonstrated increasing independence** (e.g., learning new topics or techniques; mentoring/supervision roles; authorship of publications) and has a clear path toward becoming and independent researcher. - The applicant has **demonstrated commitment and contributed to the wider research community**, for example through: - Leadership roles and contributing to the advancement of other investigators accomplishments (e.g., reviewing, mentoring, teaching). - Fostering a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment through volunteer activities or lived experience. - Promoting positive research culture through initiatives focused on research integrity, open science, or other volunteer activities.

Application Requirements – Online Fields

1. **Lead Organization/Applicant Information**

   - Organization contact information

   - Applicant information

   - Institutional Officials contact information

2. **Key Personnel**

   - Mentor(s) information

3. **Project Information**

   - Title, program, research categories

   - Non-technical overview

   - Contributions to wider research community

Application Requirements - Uploads

1. Eligibility Information (template provided)

- Project Information
- Research Experience
- Publications
- Current/Pending Support

2. Initial Research Proposal (template provided)

- Applicant and Mentor Info
- Non-technical overview
- Contributions to the wider research community
- Research Proposal (1 page)
- References

3. Applicant Biosketch (NIH non-fellowship format)

- Personal Statement speaks to Applicant's long-term goals and career development plans.
- Biosketch clearly highlights Applicant's
  - 1) significant accomplishments (positions, honors, awards, notable projects/funding)
  - 2) contributions to science and publications

Charles A. King Trust
Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program
October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2028
Applicant Eligibility Information

APPLICANT:	Name, degree(s)	
	Title	
	Department	
	Institution	
	Email	

TITLE OF PROJECT:

KEY WORDS:

Years of full-time postdoctoral (or equivalent) research experience completed by October 1, 2026: 0☐ 1☐ 2☐ 3☐ 4☐ 5☐ 6☐

Protected time for research if awarded (percent):

Education, Training and Career History: Please provide a brief timeline of your clinical and/or research training experience. Include all relevant experience since completion of your doctoral degree, as this information will be used to help determine eligibility and stipend level. Pauses in research experience should be explicitly outlined. *Please highlight time spent in post-doctoral research training (or equivalent) with an asterisk (*).*

Start Date	End Date	% Research Effort	Position/Degree or Pause in Research (e.g., graduate school [PhD]; medical school [MD, DO, etc.]; Postdoctoral fellowship; Residency; Clinical Fellowship; Research Internship; family/medical leave, etc.)	Institution

Postdoctoral Publications: Please list all peer reviewed research articles (review articles not allowed) that have resulted from postdoctoral work. **Bold your name** and list your contributions to the work using CRediT taxonomy or similar (e.g. conceptualization or design, acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data; creation of software or tool used in work; drafted or edited manuscript).

Reference	Contribution	Publications Senior /Last Author (lab the work originated in).

Applicant's Current and Pending Support – *Applicant should list all active and pending support where they are the PI (e.g. do not include a mentor's award you are supported by), addressing potential overlap (if any) associated with the current proposed project. If the research project is supported by other funding sources, a plan must be provided outlining how duplication of funding will be avoided. List N/A if Applicant has no other active or pending support.*

Funding Source, Project Title, Funding Period, and Status (e.g. Organization Name, "Project Title" XX/XX/XXXX – XX/XX/XXXX, Approved. Include date of notification if status is pending)	Total Amount and Annual Direct Costs	Role on the Project and Percent Effort (e.g. PI/Postdoc, 80% effort)	Describe any scientific or budgetary overlap with this proposal and outline how duplication of funding will be avoided.

Application Requirements - Uploads

Initial Stage Application Requirements:

1. Eligibility Information (template provided)

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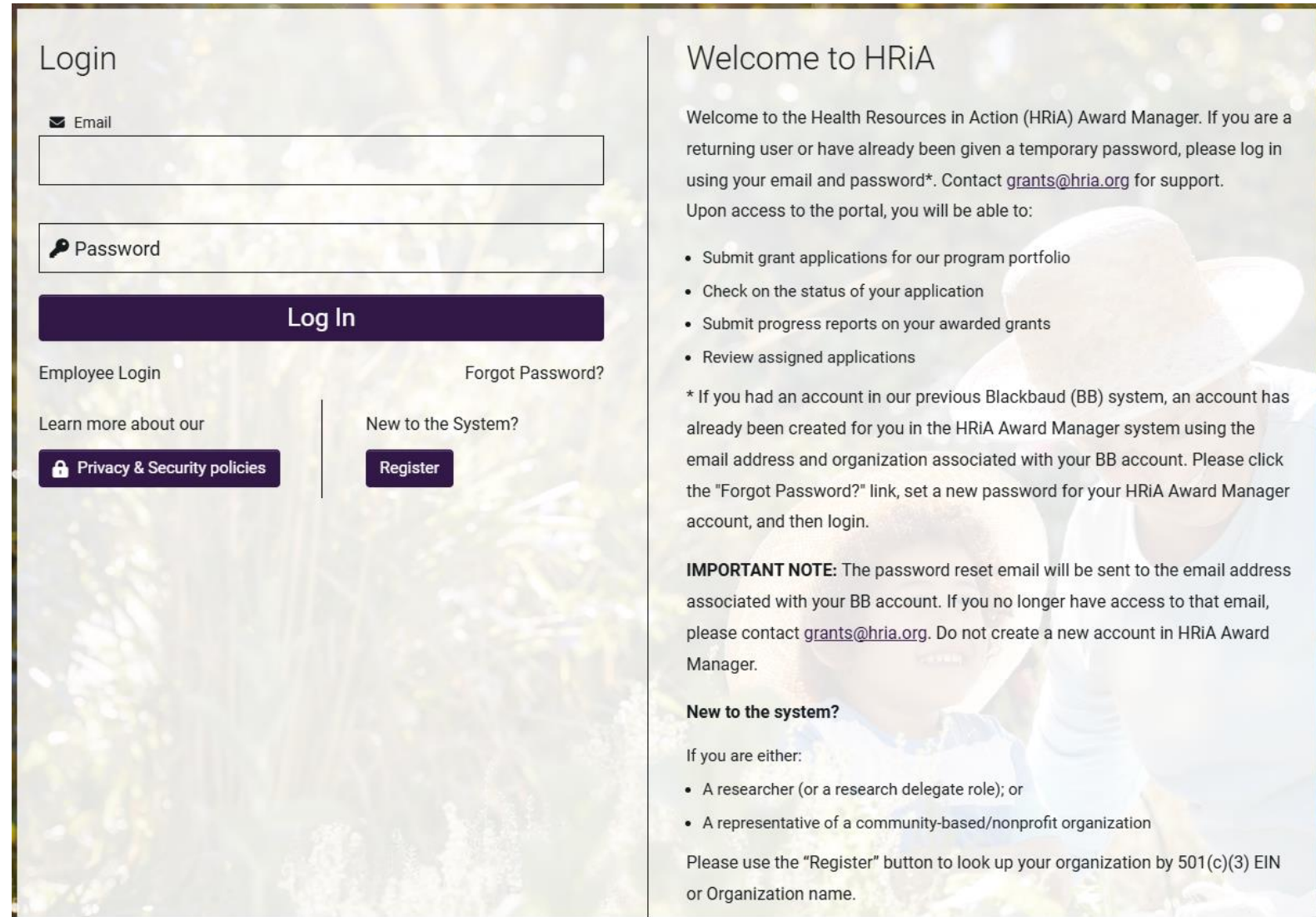- Research Proposal (1 page)
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King Trust Fellowship - *Initial Stage Research Proposal*

Research Proposal

Maximum of 1 page, not including References. Use Arial 11 font and ½ -inch margins on all four sides. Any figures, graphs, tables or images, including their legends must fit within the indicated page limit. For these visuals, the minimum is an 8 point-font size. Please include the following sections listed below. Supplementary materials (e.g. reprints of publications, appendices, and additional data) are not permitted and will be removed. Any instructions provided should be removed from the final pdf application.

Within one page, please describe the proposed research project. Include the following information:

- **Introduction:** Provide rationale for the research including current knowledge or gaps in the field. Include sufficient background information to allow non-subject matter experts to assess the proposal.
- **Significance/Impact:** Please describe the significance and impact of the proposed research. Speak to how this work will advance the mission of the Charles A. King Trust and "support and promote the investigation of human disease and the alleviation of human suffering through improved treatment."
- **Specific Aims:** Describe the research aims, or project objectives, that will test the central hypothesis of the work. Aims should be achievable within the project timeframe.
- **Approach and Analytical Plan:** Briefly describe the approach and analytical plan for the proposed specific aims. This should include information necessary for a reviewer to assess project feasibility (e.g., sample number, recruitment strategy, power analysis, etc.)

References *(not included in page limit)*

Application Requirements - Uploads

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Application Portal - HRiA Award Manager

Accessing the system

https://hria.us-1.smartsimple.com/

Login

✉ Email

[   ]

🔑 Password

[   ]

Log In

Employee Login   Forgot Password?

Learn more about our   New to the System?

🔒 Privacy & Security policies   Register

Welcome to HRiA

Welcome to the Health Resources in Action (HRiA) Award Manager. If you are a returning user or have already been given a temporary password, please log in using your email and password*. Contact grants@hria.org for support. Upon access to the portal, you will be able to:

- Submit grant applications for our program portfolio
- Check on the status of your application
- Submit progress reports on your awarded grants
- Review assigned applications

* If you had an account in our previous Blackbaud (BB) system, an account has already been created for you in the HRiA Award Manager system using the email address and organization associated with your BB account. Please click the "Forgot Password?" link, set a new password for your HRiA Award Manager account, and then login.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The password reset email will be sent to the email address associated with your BB account. If you no longer have access to that email, please contact grants@hria.org. Do not create a new account in HRiA Award Manager.

New to the system?

If you are either:

- A researcher (or a research delegate role); or
- A representative of a community-based/nonprofit organization

Please use the "Register" button to look up your organization by 501(c)(3) EIN or Organization name.

Luke Skywalker
Jedi

TWIN SUNS FOUNDATION
LWilliams+TESTLukeSkywalker@hria.org

$
Funding Opportunities

My Profile

Applications

1	**0**	**2**	**3**
In Progress	Revisions Required	Submitted & Under Review	Completed

Activities

0	**0**	**0**	**0**
Draft	Revisions Required	Under Review	Completed

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2025-1807 TWIN SUNS FOUNDATION

Logs ▾

🏠 Main

📥 Invitations

ℹ️ **Instructions**

Charles A. King Trust

- Please complete the questions in each of the tabs below.
  - * represents a required field
  - Use the **NEXT** button in the bottom right corner of the screen to advance to the next tab.
  - Use the **Save Draft** button to save your answers. Please note that there is no auto-saving feature in the system.
  - Use the **Invitation** Tab on the left to invite the required individuals (see below)
  - Use the **Submit** button only once you have completed all tabs. **Note:** Only the Applicant will be able to submit the application. If you are a Collaborator/Multi-PI you will be able to make and save edits, but will not see a submit button.
- Some information is copied directly from your organization and user profiles and will appear in a read-only state within this form.
  If the information displayed is not current, please update your organization and user profiles prior to completing and submitting this form.
- In order to submit the application, you will need to assign an **Authorized Institutional Representative** using the Invitations tab on the left. The Authorized Institutional Representative will need to **accept the invitation and complete the Certification tab**. They will have access to modify the application, but they will not have access to the "Submit" button.
- You can view your responses by clicking on the **PDF of Application** button.

Application Type:	Charles A. King Trust	*** Organization:**	TWIN SUNS FOUNDATION
* Applicant:	Luke Skywalker	**Created Date:**	10/07/2025 10:15 AM
Created By:	Luke Skywalker	**LOI Due Date:**	11/06/2025 02:00 PM
Submission Number:	1807		

📄 PDF of Application

PRIMARY CONTACT   ORGANIZATION INFORMATION   KEY PERSONNEL   INSTITUTIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION   PROJECT INFORMATION   ATTACHMENTS   CERTIFICATION

💾 Save Draft   ✓ Submit   ⊠ Withdraw

Application Portal - HRiA Award Manager

Using the Invitations feature

System Role Name	Permissions/Requirements
Authorized Institutional Representative (pre-award)	Required to Certify application but cannot submit application
Collaborator (grant writing staff)	Has edit access but cannot submit application

Invitations Feature – Request ASAP!

Caution: Check-out error
This record has been checked out (DATE/TIME)

Solution: Communicate with those invited and ask them to log out!

Application Tips

- Make sure your proposal reflects the review criteria and program goals

- Tell the story and provide explicit reasons and statements regarding why your approach is promising and helpful for your career trajectory. Recruit the right team: Include appropriate collaborations and/or shared mentorship if it benefits the project

- Include relevant preliminary data

- Be realistic (in timeline, budgets, methodologies, etc.)

- Avoid jargon and abbreviations; should be understandable to scientific generalists

- Be concise and clear (make it easy to read!)

- Point out pitfalls, include contingencies, mention sample sizes and statistics

- Seek feedback (internally, externally, and across disciplines)

Common Pitfalls to Avoid

- Unclear impact/significance

- Feasibility of the approach, lack of detail, lack of pitfalls and alternate approaches

- Appropriate use of sample size and statistics

- Poor grantsmanship: jargon, abbreviations, no clear hypothesis

- Interdependent or exploratory Aims

- Relevance and rigor of publication record

- Unclear contribution to career development/training

- Lack of detailed and personalized mentoring plan

- Lack of experience or lack of plan to address gaps in experience

- Lack of detail in letters of recommendation

Specific Quotes

- **Impact/Significance/Hypothesis:** "The proposal is largely technical in nature and could be strengthened by addressing why the work is important/significant or how the findings will advance scientific knowledge about the topic."; "The proposal could be strengthened with more information about the overall biological question/goal and hypotheses"; "The applicant should clearly articulate the hypothesis within the proposal."; "The rationale regarding the proposed assays and analyses should be provided to support the impact of the work."

- **Approach/Methods:** "The proposal could be improved with further description of the number of experiments and statistical analyses."; "The proposal could be strengthened by including more description regarding interpretation of the results and extrapolation to the larger biological process."; "the proposal should mention methodologies, power calculations, or considerations of rigor and reproducibility"; "The experimental plan needs more details regarding expected results and alternative approaches."; "The aims are largely dependent on the outcome of the previous one."; "The proposal is exploratory in nature, and more rational is needed why these studies are relevant for the question at hand."; "Rationale for why x would affect y is underdeveloped."

- **Feasibility:** "A major concern is that too much work is being proposed and that each Aim may only be superficially addressed."; "The applicant proposes to utilize XXX statistical analysis, however, this does not seem feasible given the number of participants/samples included in the project."; "The applicant has proposed a large body of work to complete, however no mention is made regarding other support provided by laboratory personnel."

- **Experience/Publications:** "The Applicant should clarify whether they have any experience with the proposed techniques, and if not, how they will learn."; "There is limited record of papers directly relevant to the proposed research so the proposal could be improved with some discussion of how limited experience will be addressed."; "The applicant is a middle author on a publication with many co-authors and it is unclear what their role was in this study."

- **Career Trajectory/Development Plan:** "The proposal could be improved by providing more explanation of how this work will help the Applicant transition into an independent career."; "The role of the mentor and plans for transition to independence is not clearly laid out in the career development plan. Some other details are lacking."

- **Mentorship:** "The mentoring plan outlined should include more personalization and detailed description; potentially regarding how the current research will set the stage for future independence."; "It would have been a good idea to enlist a co-mentor so that the Applicant is sure to get sufficient guidance."; "The extent of involvement of the co-mentor is not fully delineated – it is unclear to what extent they will be involved and in what capacity."; "It should be clearly outlined the new techniques and background(scientific field) the Applicant will be learning and why it is important for completion of the work and their research trajectory."

- **LOS:** "The LOS could be improved by expanding upon the Applicant's strengths, skills, and traits that would make them a standout leader as an independent investigator. The LOS could also be improved by directly attesting to the importance of the proposed research."; "The other letters of reference could be improved with more personalized and extensive information."

- **Contributions to the Research Community/Promotion of Positive Research/DEI:** "The DEI/STEM statement was fairly generic and could have been improved with more specific details."; "The applicant's describes support for the idea of contributing to the research community and promoting positive research culture, however there is not too much involvement explicitly mentioned."

Questions?

Program Website:

https://hria.org/tmf/king/

Contact Us:

KingAwards@hria.org

Please send eligibility questions specific to your unique situation to our program inbox.

HEALTH RESOURCES IN ACTION