

Charles A. King Trust Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program

Office Hours

September 29, 2026, 12 PM ET



Agenda



- Program Overview and Application Requirements
 - Program Mission & Research Focus
 - Program Overview
 - Changes from 2026
 - 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 seek to increase our understanding of the underlying biological processes relevant to human health and disease or 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

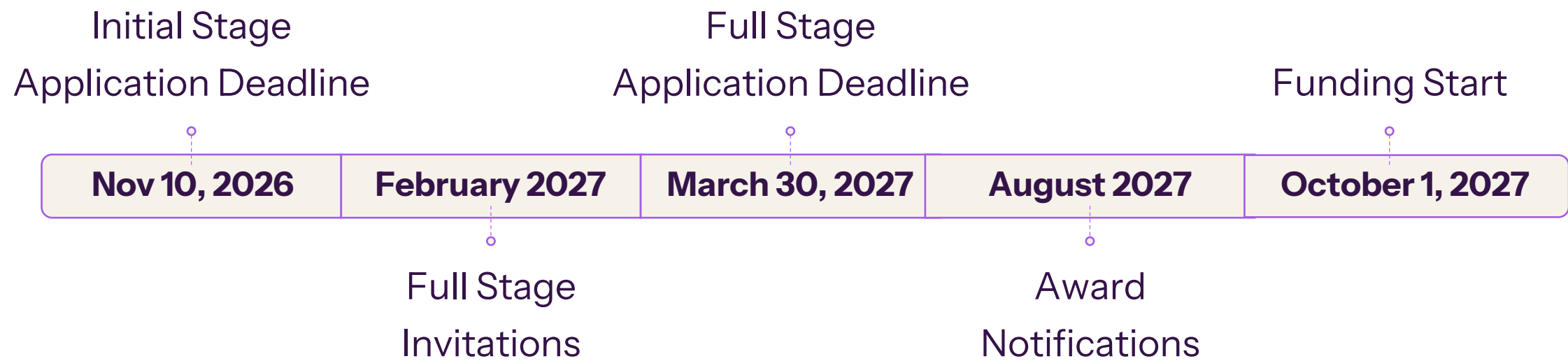


Amount & Duration:	Ranging from \$200,700 to \$221,600 total over 2 years (inclusive of 10% fringe allowance and flexible allowance of \$25K per year, indirect costs not allowed)
Award Dates:	Oct 1, 2027 – Sept 30, 2029

2027 Program Timeline



Two-stage review process:



Review Process



Changes from 2026 Program



- \$3,000 salary increase
- Initial-stage applications will not require an NIH Biosketch
- No longer requiring an invitation of an Institutional Official to submit
 - --An Authorized Institutional Representative is still required to certify the application for submission!

Eligibility



By October 1, 2027

- 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**.
- **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 10th, 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 at the time of application.
- 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 (1/1/2025 – 12/31/2027)
 - \$110,000 direct costs
- Young Investigator Award (7/1/2026 – 6/31/2028)
 - \$55,000 direct costs

NOT ELIGIBLE

Example 2: Clinician Scientist

- Really Cool Fellowship Award (8/1/2025 – 7/31/2027)
 - \$150,000 direct costs
- Foundation Award (1/1/2027 – 12/31/2028)
 - \$90,000 direct costs
- NIH Loan Repayment Program (7/1/2026 – 6/31/2028)
 - \$60,000 direct costs

ELIGIBLE

Initial-Stage Review Criteria

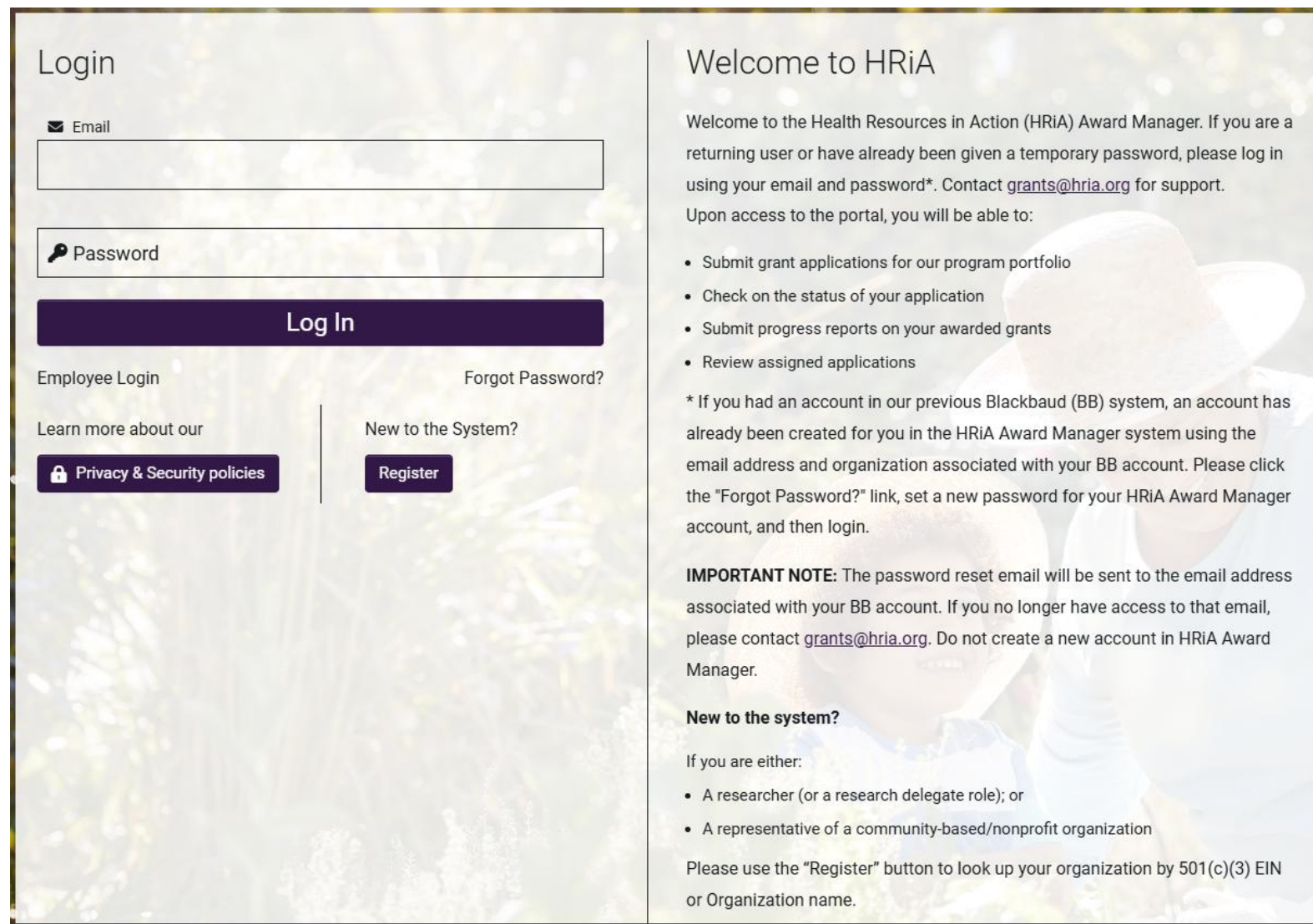


Research Proposal	▪ The proposed work is original, creative, and impactful, building upon current knowledge and relevant literature, and will significantly increase understanding of human disease and treatment. ▪ The research aims are well conceived, feasible within the proposed timeframe, and necessary 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 an 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 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.

i 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

Application Requirements – Online Fields



1. Lead Organization/Applicant Information

- Organization contact information
- Applicant information
- Institutional Officials contact information

2. Key Personnel

- Mentor(s) information
- Description of the Mentorship Team

3. Project Information

- Title, Program, Research Categories
- Project Summary (300 words max) & Non-technical Overview (3 sentences)
- Experimental Systems to be Utilized (100 words max)
- Project Resubmission (yes/no)
- Contributions to Wider Research Community (350 words max)
- Personal Statement (250 words max)

Application Requirements - Uploads



1. Applicant Eligibility and Research Experience (template provided)

- Basic Applicant & Project Information
- Applicant Education, Training & Research Experience
- Postdoctoral & Other Significant Publications
- Applicant Current/Pending Support

2. Initial Research Proposal (1pg, template provided)

- Research Proposal
- References (not included in 1pg)

Charles A. King Trust
Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program
2027 Grant Cycle - Applicant Eligibility and Research Experience

APPLICANT:	Name, degree(s)			
	Title			
	Department			
	Institution			
TITLE OF PROJECT:				
Years of full-time postdoctoral (or equivalent) research experience completed by October 1, 2027: 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 research and/or clinical training experience. Include all relevant experience starting with your doctoral degree. This information will be used by reviewers as well as internal staff 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 (MM/DD/YYYY)	End Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	% 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 (Please include the research lab/advisor's name where relevant)
Postdoctoral and Other Significant Publications: Please list all peer reviewed research articles (review articles not allowed) that have resulted from postdoctoral work or are highly relevant to the proposal. • Bold your name and list your contributions to the work.				
Link to Publication Repository (NCBI My Bibliography, CrossRef , Google Scholar , etc.):				
Reference e.g. AMA (Author A, Author B , et al. Title. Journal. Year; Volume (Issue): Pages. Link/PMD) or similar style		Contribution Use 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)		Publication Senior /Last Author (Isb the work originated in)
Current and Pending Support - List all active and pending support where you 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 you have 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. List N/A if none.

Application Requirements - Uploads



1. Applicant Eligibility and Research Experience (template provided)

- Basic Applicant & Project Information
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2. Initial Research Proposal (1pg, template provided)

- Research Proposal
- References (not included in 1pg)

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 Portal Invitations Feature

2025-1214 TWIN SUNS FOUNDATION

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Authorized Institutional Representative

You are **required** to invite an Authorized Institutional Representative who must "Accept" the invitation and complete the "Certification" tab prior to your submission.

- Biomedical research applicants - The Authorized Institutional Representative is responsible for research oversight and is often in the Office of Sponsored Programs. This person signs off on the application to ensure that you and the Institution have met the eligibility requirements.
- Community-based organization applicants - The Authorized Institutional Representative may be the Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director or other senior leader and signs off on the application to ensure that the lead applicant and project team have met the eligibility requirements.

Collaborator/Multi-PI

Users added as this role will be able to make changes to the application but will not be able to submit.

- Collaborators: Collaborators include anyone who will help you write/edit this grant. This may include grantwriting/pre-award staff and/or project personnel.
- Multi-PI: If you are applying for a biomedical grant, please refer to the Program Guidelines for further information on use of these roles, as some HRiA grant programs do not recognize a multi-PI.

Prefix	First Name	Last Name	Email	Role	Status
📄	Test	Test AIR3	LCarver+TESTAIR3@hria.org	Authorized Institutional Representative	Accepted
+					

Save

Invite

IMPORTANT: Inviting and having an *Authorized Institutional Representative* certify the application is required for submission. Request ASAP!

Collaborators can also be invited at this stage and can edit but not submit an application.

Application Tips



- *Be strategic:* Make sure your proposal reflects the program review criteria and goals
- *Be explicit:* Include specific statements outline the project novelty, impact, hypothesis, and why the project and fellowship would be helpful for your career trajectory.
- *Recruit the right team:* Include appropriate collaborations and/or shared mentorship if it benefits the project
- *Be convincing:* Include relevant preliminary data
- *Be realistic:* In timeline, budgets, methodologies, not overstating things, etc.
- *Avoid jargon and abbreviations:* Make it understandable to scientific generalists
- *Be concise and clear:* Make it easy to read quickly!
- *Be thoughtful:* Point out pitfalls, include contingencies, mention sample sizes and statistics
- *Seek feedback:* Ask others to review (internally, externally, and across disciplines)

Specific Quotes (Project)



- **Impact/Significance:**

- “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.”
- “It was unclear how innovative the approach was and how it might differ from similar approaches attempted by other researchers.”
- “The rationale regarding the proposed assays and analyses should be provided to support the impact of the work.”

- **Approach/Methods/Feasibility:**

- “The proposal aligns with the mission of the trust, however it would be improved with more technical innovation or opportunities for creativity.”
- “The project is mainly descriptive, without strong novel motivating hypotheses.”
- “Approach section is very broad and probably over ambitious, the project would benefit from a focused approach.”
- “The proposal is lacking rationale and missing key details on how the aims will be tested and what experiments will be performed.”
- “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 rationale is needed why these studies are relevant for the question at hand.”
- “Research plan is ambitious; the writing is dense and could benefit from more context and expectations of results.”
- “No follow-up studies are proposed to validate the potential hits obtained from the -omics studies.”
- “The scope of the project is ambitious, with a very broad array of experimental systems, endpoints, and techniques, which may pose feasibility challenges within the proposed timeframe.”

Specific Quotes (Applicant)



- **Experience/Publications:**

- “The applicant is still fairly junior in their role and this application would be strengthened by additional experience and evidence of postdoc productivity.”
- “The applicant's independent niche and postdoctoral productivity are still emerging, and the current proposal does not convincingly showcase a sharply defined, distinctive research program.”
- “The candidate is a co-author on numerous manuscripts but does not appear to have any first authorship papers. Clearly leading, high-impact postdoctoral outputs are still limited and the long-term niche/path to independence is unclear.”
- “There is limited record of experience directly relevant to the proposed research so the proposal could be improved with some discussion of how limited experience will be addressed.”

- **Mentorship:**

- “The application is missing information on the mentorship team and the role they will play in the proposed research and the career development of the applicant.”
- “The project could potentially be strengthened by expanding the mentoring team, for example by incorporating additional expertise in XYZ”.

- **Contributions to the Research Community/Promotion of Positive Research/DEI:**

- “Contributions to the wider research community are modest and generic (refereeing papers, mentoring) and could be improved with obvious and dedicated involvement”

Questions?

Program Website:

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

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

Contact Us:

KingAwards@hria.org