

**Update on the NIH responses to recommendations of the  
Physician Scientist Workforce ACD report – June 6, 2017**

- ***Sustain strong support for MD/PhD training:*** Continued support >900 positions in 47 MSTP programs. Enhancements to the MSTP programs to shorten training and promote recruitment from the medical student class are under consideration (Working group established May 2017; Request for Information June 2017).
- ***Support more Physician Scientists through individual fellowships rather than institutional training grants:*** Individual F30 fellowships support dual-doctoral degree training at institutions with ([PA-16-305](#)) and without ([PA-16-306](#)) NIH funded MSTP programs (2016).
- ***Continue to address the gap in RPG award rates between new and established investigators:*** Through 2016 the success rates for new investigators/early stage investigators and established investigators remain the same.
- ***Assess and track the strength of the Biomedical Research Workforce:*** Major goal of Division of Biomedical Research Workforce (DBRW) and OER; Trans NIH-evaluation of K-award programs including K08 and K23 is ongoing; Dashboard combining NIH and AAMC data to track NIH funded and national workforce being finalized (July 2017).
- ***Establish new physician-scientist specific granting mechanism to facilitate the transition to independence:*** Some IC increased salary contribution and research resources for K08 and K23; K99/R00 FOA re-issued with modifications to emphasize eligibility of Physician Scientists. NIAID plans to issue K99-R00 specific FOA for Physician Scientists (50% effort requirement; 2018).
- ***Expand Loan Repayment Program and amount of loans repaid:*** 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act (P.L. 114-255) authorized by Congress. LRP Legislative. Division of Loan Repayment website and online application system enhanced to accommodate current and potential future program changes; Recently completed outcomes evaluation will guide future policy.
- ***Support pilot programs to improve/shorten physician research training: Three 2016 meetings*** of physician scientists, residents, professional societies, leaders of board certification organizations and NIH representatives identified priority programs. 1) Pilot institutional Research in Residency Programs with potential individual Transition Scholar support during fellowship at same or new institution (FOA, June 2017); 2) Support for PhD or Masters after MD or health professional degree (Expand and strengthen NRSA support- under consideration); 3) Faculty networks to promote retention, career advancement and diversity in partnership with professional societies-under consideration). Scholarly review on promising programs (Acad Med 2017, in press).
- ***Intensify efforts to increase physician-scientist diversity:*** Request for Information (RFI) titled “RFI Strategies to Enhance Diversity in the Physician-Scientist Workforce” ([NOT-OD-16-027](#)); New extramural diversity website (<https://extramural-diversity.nih.gov/>) launched 2016.
- ***Leverage the existing resources of the CTSA Program to obtain maximum benefit for training and career development of clinician scientists:*** CTSA administrative supplements support dentists on KL2; New collaborations between CTSA and NIBIB to support biomedical engineers; CTSA collaboration with One health alliance to support veterinarians.