The National Institute of Health (NIH) supports mentorship of diverse trainees on the pathway to independence through the Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research mechanism, aka “Diversity Supplements.”

A presentation developed by the UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center and Clinical Translational Research Center
Diversity Supplements provide additional funding to existing NIH grants enabling principal investigators to extend research in new directions to promote the career development of the diverse investigators—from the high school through the faculty career level—who have demonstrated interest in research.
Diversity Supplements are offered by every institute for most research and program or project center grants.

(JAMA, Dec 2021. More data available here)
The **NIH has expanded its definition** of “underrepresented” to include more individuals.

(Notice of NIH’s Interest in Diversity, NOT-OD-20-031)
Award Aims

High school-through faculty-level (including health professionals) eligible investigators

Independent investigation within the general scope of the original project

The emerging research career development of the candidate
Eligibility

**CANDIDATE**

Candidates must meet NIH’s definition of diverse, be US citizens or non-citizen nationals of the United States, or individuals who have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States. *Please note that different NIH Institutes or Centers (IC) have additional eligibility requirements.*

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR**

The PI must have an active NIH grant that will have at least two years of support left at the time the supplement is awarded. Diversity Supplements are available under a wide range of Activity Codes including those in the D, P, R and U series. *(Funding Announcement)*
Identifying a Candidate

1. High school students interested in the sciences
2. Predocs pursuing graduate-level research training and developing research capabilities
3. Postdoc scholars preparing for independence
4. Faculty developing independence
5. Newly-disabled established investigators needing additional support or special equipment
"Receiving an F31 award has empowered me to seize once-in-a-lifetime professional development opportunities and to develop critical skills in science communication and collaboration required to become a successful investigator."

-- Danielle Zumpano
“The Diversity F31 gives me a chance to begin establishing independence in my research career under the guidance of excellent sponsors and mentors. I am excited to use this support to explore motor characteristics of ADHD with novel approaches that may not have been funded otherwise.”

-- Rose De Kock
“The NCI diversity supplement has not only allowed me to gain research experience in the field of cancer health disparities, a field in which I have discovered my scientific passion, but also provided a critical support network to help achieve my goals of independent research.”

-- Dr. Nicole Halmai
Diversity Supplement Success Stories

• Scholar: Oanh Meyer, Ph.D., M.A.S.
• Level: Assistant Adjunct Professor
• Department: Neurology
• Award Title: P30 (Diversity Supplement Fellow)
• Award Date: July 2019
• Awarding Institute: NIH/NIA
• Award Amount: $23,556
• Mentor: Charles S. DeCarli, M.D.
• Project name: University of California, Davis, Alzheimer’s Disease Center

“The postdoc diversity supplement allowed me to gain valuable experience in social determinants of health in aging and Alzheimer’s disease. The training and research program introduced me to faculty I hadn’t worked with previously, and who are now colleagues I collaborate closely with.”

-- Dr. Oanh Meyer
Benefits

FOR CANDIDATE

- Hands-on research experience with faculty mentor
- Development of long-term career plans
- Opportunity to write a research project proposal
- Salary and support for tuition, travel, and supplies (or stipend)
- Opportunity to publish and generate data for research
- Access to NIH enrichment programs and NIH contacts

FOR PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

- Training the next generation of diverse researchers
- Diverse perspectives for lab and research project
- Show a commitment to addressing issues of equity, diversity and inclusion and of expert mentorship
- Administrative vs full review (typically <10 weeks)
- Broadened goal for the parent grant
- Increased number of collaborative research publications
Confirm mentee and PI eligibility.

Formulate research collaboration plan and training plan.

Contact the program officer of the PI’s parent grant.

Contact the diversity program officer at target institute.

Prepare the application.
UC Davis has several grant development resources including:

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<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>F Award Writing Workshop</td>
<td>Cancer Center &amp; CTSC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of Grant Development</td>
<td>Cancer Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants Facilitation Unit</td>
<td>School of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinary Research Support</td>
<td>Office of Research</td>
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