K99 Timeline—Evan Miller

PhD in Chemistry, 2009


Attended Funding Fest 2010, May 2010

Began NIH NRSA Fellowship, Aug 2010 (NIBIB)

Applied for K99 Fellowship, June 2011

Began K99 Fellowship, Feb 2012 (NINDS)
Things to Consider

1) Know the goals.
   a) K99 mechanism
   b) the institute to which you apply

2) Start early!
   a) formulate ideas for your research plan
   b) get K99-specific tips and strategies

3) How does each portion of the application make the case for you?
   a) achieve independence
   b) research in the field supported by the institute

4) How do you quantitatively evaluate your training during the mentored phase?

5) It’s a team effort: co-mentors/sponsors.
   a) provide training and expertise to enable you to achieve the goals
   b) for me, this grew out of work I was already doing in their labs

6) Strong mentorship training plan/letter from your mentor.
Vital Stats for Evan Miller’s Application

1) Application submitted
   a) sold myself as a chemist who makes really interesting and useful tools
   b) K99 training/mentorship is essential to enable me to address neuroscience problems

2) Submitted June 2011 deadline

3) Evaluated by NINDS

4) Scientific Review group NST-2, met Oct 31, 2011

5) Received score of 26, available on eRA Commons

6) Got Summary statement a week or two after that
   a) Career Development
      i) planned meetings infrequent
      ii) not enough detail in terms of time/training in co-mentor’s lab
      iii) no neuroscience background
      iv) infrequent meetings
      v) no career development beyond research
   b) Research Plan
      i) lacks a specific biological question
      ii) developing tools vs. answering a question
      iii) more discussion of alternate approaches

7) Spoke with Program Official at Neuroscience mtg, Nov 15 2011

8) Officially heard in Jan 2012

9) Began funding Feb 2012