

## **Korean Visiting Scientist Training Award (KVSTA) 2nd phase Program's Call for Applications – 2023**

### **◆ Scope and Purpose of the Program**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) of the U.S. Department of Health and Humans Services and the Korea Health Industry Development Institute (KHIDI) of the Korea Ministry of Health and Welfare share an interest in fostering collaborative biomedical and behavioral health research in mutual areas of excellence and a common goal in educating and training the next generation of research scientists.

KVSTA program is to promote and ensure that postdoctoral researchers contribute to the development of health and medical sciences through the acquirement of advanced technologies and personal exchanges and collaborations at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the USA.

KHIDI in cooperation with the NIH, offers fellowship awards to support meritorious biomedical and behavioral research projects undertaken in NIH laboratories by young Korean early-stage postdoctoral researchers.

### **◆ Terms and Conditions**

#### **1. Number of Fellowships awarded annually:**

Approximately five(5) Fellowships, but possibly fewer depending on application quality and funding availability.

#### **2. Duration and commencement of Fellowship:**

Duration: The KVSTA Fellowship provides 2 years.

Fellowships should start at NIH on October 1, 2023 but no later than October 31, 2023.

However, this is contingent upon the applicant's ability to receive approval by the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security of his/her entry into the United States under a work-authorized U.S. immigration status.

#### **3. Financial terms of the Fellowship:**

KHIDI will provide each fellow funding support for two(2) years through their host Korean R&D institute who will deduct 5% from the total 150,000,000 KWN award to cover management expenses for the fellowship; each selected fellow will receive approximately 142,900,000 KWN for two(2) years. This fellowship is provided to support personnel expenses, system expenses, trainee reserves, and research funds. Research funds can be used autonomously as long as relevant regulations are followed. Each NIH Institute/Center must add funds to supplement the

KHIDI stipend in order for fellows to be designated as Supplemental Visiting Fellows as required by the program.

KHIDI will provide the KVSTA 2nd fellowship funds to the host Korean R&D institute who will then issue the funds twice a year to the fellow.

#### **4. Fields to apply:**

Including all fields related to biomedical and behavioral research at NIH, such as cancer, brain and neurological disease, cardiovascular, metabolic, allergy and chronic respiratory disease, reproductive and perinatal disease, precision medicine, etc.

#### **5. KVSTA stipulations for eligibility:**

Applicants must be citizens of the ROK. Residents of ROK are not eligible to apply. U.S. citizens and citizens of other countries are also not eligible

Applicants must be researchers at a Korea-based organization (industry, academia, research institute, and hospital).

Upon arriving at NIH, applicant's Ph.D. or equivalent doctorate in appropriate field awarded cannot be more than 5 years from initial date of post-doctoral appointment (Doctoral degree must have been received between October 1, 2018 and September 30, 2023). Applicant must check the details of stipulations for eligibility in notice of Health Technology R&D portal (KHIDI) (<https://www.htdream.kr> ).

Applicants who acquire whole their academic degree (bachelor, master, and doctorate (Ph.D. or M.D.) at an overseas university cannot participate to KVSTA program. Korean applicant must have received at least one degree in Korea in order to be eligible to apply to KVSTA.

- Post-docs who are currently at NIH are not eligible to apply if they do not have at least two (2) years remaining before the end of their maximum five (5) years as a post-doc Visiting Fellow at NIH on a J-1 visa when they start this fellowship program.

Applicants must also meet all other NIH eligibility requirements pursuant to NIH's Intramural Visiting Fellow Program (VFP) (<https://policymanual.nih.gov/2300-320-3>)

Successful KVSTA awardee fellows are not eligible to apply again to the KVSTA program.

#### **6. Obligations:**

Fellows must devote themselves exclusively to their research at NIH during the tenure of their fellowship. Failure to do so may result in the termination of the fellowship.

Selected applicant cannot stop training arbitrarily except due to exceptional reasons beyond the trainee's control. In this case, trainees must report this to the NIH and KHIDI.

- \* In case of early stop of the training arbitrarily, penalties may be imposed on trainees and/or host institutes.

Selected applicant must train full-time during training period at NIH. They cannot be employed or work elsewhere during the training period.

**Applicant must check the details in notice of Health Technology R&D portal (KHIDI) (<https://www.htdream.kr>).**

Applicant must check the website below for reviewing role of institution, department, field of research, etc., and complete the application form about specific research plan.

NIH : <http://www.nih.gov/icd/>

Applicant must submit recommendation letters from the applicant's sponsoring NIH principal investigator (NIH mentor).

NIH mentor
Qualification : Mentor or host must currently be an active PI at NIH
Role : Supervise selected applicant's research at NIH or research support at NIH

NIH mentor must send a progress report via email to Korean domestic affiliated institution twice a year.

\* NIH mentor must send a confirmation that the Fellow is in good standing letter two times (October 2023, March2024) and a progress report two times (September 2024, September 2025).

Selected applicant must submit a progress report (every six months) about his/her training progress and final report to KHIDI after conclusion of KVSTA program.

Selected applicant cannot receive other Korean governmental research funds or regional fellowship funds during training periods.

## **7. Deadlines and selection procedures:**

April, 2023 Announce KVSTA program

**June 1, 2023, 18:00 local Korea date/time: Deadline for receipt of original applications to KHIDI (in English)**

In May : An KHIDI review committee nominates the top 5 applicants to NIH

- A Korean scientist panel convened by KHIDI will evaluate and rank the applications on the basis of the scientific quality and feasibility of the proposed research project, the applicant's past scientific record, and the suitability of the sponsoring NIH lab.

In the early June : The top 5 candidate recommendations of the KHIDI panel will be submitted to NIH for acceptance. ICs at NIH begin to process the paperwork for accepting the awardees.

October 1 - 30, 2023 Start at NIH

## **8. Application format and what to submit:**

Applicant must submit the following application package electronically to the following website:  
<https://www.htdream.kr>

Subsequently, domestic affiliated institute of applicant must certify an application electronically or submit official public document to evaluation office in Korea .

- Research plan
- Certificate of Ph.D. or M.D. degree: Applicant also must mail out original copy of doctoral certificate to evaluation officer in Korea (Yu-Jin Han)
- Letter of Invitation: Submit only one letter of invitation from your NIH host researcher. The letter must clearly state a commitment in terms of both supplemental salary support and research resources by the NIH host researcher to sponsor you. The letter should confirm that the fellow will be a Supplemental Visiting Fellow at NIH. The letter must also include a brief account of the applicant's research project from the sponsor's perspective.
- \* Domestic affiliation institute: Applicant has to submit the application package under the name of the Korean host institute. Korean host institute can be one of the universities where applicant received degree or institute where he/she works.

## **9. For further information please contact:**

Information regarding this training program may be requested from the following:

In the U.S.: Tina Chung, MPH, Program Officer

E-mail: chungt@mail.nih.gov

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