Abstract:

Background: The primary individual research career development awards for emergency medicine (EM) investigators are the K08 and K23 awards. The characteristics and post-award productivity of EM K08 and K23 awardees have not been previously described.

Objectives: The objective of this study was to describe EM researchers who have received a K08 or K23 award and to evaluate their post-award federal funding and publications.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional study during January 2012 of clinician scientists who previously completed an EM residency or fellowship and have received a K08 or K23 from NIH or AHRQ between fiscal years 2000-2011. Awardees were identified through a NIH reporting tool (NIH RePORTER). Post-award funding, including R01 equivalent funding, were abstracted from NIH RePORTER in K awardees that completed their K training by the end of the 2011 fiscal year. Publications and impact factor were calculated in all K awardees using PubMed and Journal Citation Reports. We also conducted an email survey of all EM K awardees using REDCap electronic data captures tools during September and October 2012 to describe awardee characteristics (demographics and research background). Simple descriptive statistics were reported.

Results: There were 63 EM awardees identified; 24 (38%) were K08 awardees and 39 (62%) were K23 awardees. Of the 38 (60%) awardees who completed their training, 16 (42%) obtained subsequent federal funding with 6 (16%) obtaining R01 funding (median time from end of K to R01 of 4.5 years). Overall, the mean number
of publications per awardee year was 4.0 with a mean five-year impact factor score of 4.5 per publication. Forty-five (71%) of EM K awardees responded to the survey. Respondents had a median age of 36 (IQR 25-38) and 33 were male (73%). The median time from completion of residency to K award was 6 years (IQR 4-7 years) with 27 (60%) completing a research fellowship prior to K award.

**Conclusion:** Approximately one in six EM K awardees who completed their K08 or K23 training subsequently obtained R01 equivalent funding. Awardees published a median of 4.0 manuscripts per year in journals with a mean impact factor of 4.5. Given the numerous barriers facing EM researchers, EM K awardees demonstrate good post-award productivity.