



There is an urgent need to create sustainable systems to facilitate the success of diverse faculty, particularly because the diseases central to the mission of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) disproportionately impact populations of color. SPLENDOR-NC leverages the strong partnerships between Duke University, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, North Carolina Central University, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Wake Forest University, and Winston-Salem State University to facilitate the success of diverse faculty engaged in research in the fields of nutrition, obesity, diabetes, and/or related conditions. SPLENDOR-NC offers the following programs.

Two-Year Scholars Program

Benefits:

- Mentorship: Scholars will have dedicated primary and secondary mentors throughout their time in the program.
- Training in Grant Writing, Publications, and Presentations: With the assistance of their mentors, scholars will develop a tailored training plan that provides necessary skills, builds their knowledge base, and helps them to meet core program competencies.
- Networking and Professional Development: Scholars will have opportunities to network with their cohort of scholars and mentors at an annual skill building retreat as well as at the national level at an annual NIDDK training consortium meeting.
- Pilot Funding: Scholars will be eligible to apply for Pilot and Feasibility Program (P&F) funding (see below).

Eligibility:

- Senior post-doctoral fellows or assistant professors in either fixed-term or tenure-track positions at one of the six partnering institutions, including those from groups nationally underrepresented in biomedical and behavioral research [as defined by the NIH](#).
- A focus on advancing a research career in the areas of nutrition, obesity, diabetes, and/or related research.

Expectations:

- SPLENDOR-NC scholars will be expected to participate in and engage with the program components for the full two-year program period. The final deliverable at the end of two years is an NIH proposal appropriate to the career stage of the scholar (e.g., K- or R-Level).

Pilot & Feasibility Program

- SPLENDOR-NC will provide competitive funds for P&F Program projects to post-doctoral scholars and early career faculty members at one of the six participating institutions, including but not limited to the SPLENDOR-NC cohort of scholars.
- Full proposals will be in the format of a NIH R21 (i.e., 1 page for specific aims, 6 pages for research strategy).
- Applicants will be required to submit letters of support from their primary mentor and/or immediate supervisor.
- P&F Program projects should be in the areas of nutrition, obesity, diabetes, and/or related research areas.

Two Levels of Funding:

- **\$10K Applications**: Pilot awards up to \$10K will support purchasing equipment, lab supplies, publication charges, travel, coursework, or training. Small pilot projects may also be proposed.
- **\$50K Applications**: Pilot awards up to \$50K will enable the collection of preliminary data to support extramural grant applications.