The purpose of the Big Data To Knowledge (BD2K) training program is to produce graduates who will have the required multidisciplinary skill sets to become leaders in the effort to develop new quantitative approaches and tools needed by the biomedical research community to harness the opportunities Big Data provides.

The BD2K pre-doctoral training initiative is different from most currently funded NIH training programs in that it will:

1. require that trainees become proficient at the intersection of three scientific areas – computer science/informatics, statistics/mathematics, and biomedical science;
2. expect active participation of training faculty from all of these three scientific disciplines who will work collaboratively across disciplines as co-mentors of trainees in Big Data Science;
3. develop the skills required to participate in a team approach to solving data-intensive biomedical problems, while also nurturing the skills necessary to be an independent investigator in Big Data science.

Opportunity #1:
Pre-doctoral Training in Biomedical Big Data Science (T32)(RFA-HG-14-004)

The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement is to solicit applications for graduate training programs in Big Data Science, for the expressed purpose of training the next generation of scientists who will develop computational and quantitative approaches and tools needed by the biomedical research community to work with biomedical Big Data in the biomedical sciences. This proposed training initiative should prepare qualified individuals for careers in developing new technologies and methods that will allow biomedical researchers to maximize the value of the growing volume and complexity of biomedical data.

Note: The term "biomedical" in this FOA will be used in the broadest sense to include biological, biomedical, behavioral, social, environmental and clinical studies that relate to understanding health and disease.

Applications for training programs that focus exclusively on one or two of the BD2K relevant scientific areas or on just a few diseases will not be considered responsive.

LIMIT ON NUMBER OF PROPOSALS PER ORGANIZATION
Only one application per institution is allowed per institution for new T32s.
Opportunity #2:  
Revisions to Add Biomedical Big Data Training to Active Institutional Training Grants (T32) (RFA-HG-14-005)  

The purpose of this FOA is to allow revisions (competitive supplements) to add a Big Data Science track to active T32 institutional training grants for the expressed purpose of training the next generation of scientists who will develop computational and quantitative approaches and tools needed by the biomedical research community to work with biomedical Big Data in the biomedical sciences. This proposed type of training should prepare qualified individuals for careers in developing new technologies and methods that will allow biomedical researchers to maximize the value of the growing volume and complexity of biomedical "big data." The career outcomes of individuals supported by NRSA training programs include both research-intensive careers in academia and industry and research-related careers in various sectors.

Note: The term "biomedical" in this FOA will be used in the broadest sense to include biological, biomedical, behavioral, social, environmental and clinical studies that relate to understanding health and disease.

It is essential that a revision to an active training program significantly expand the scope of an active training program. It is expected that the revision will support a separate training track that encompasses the requisite Big Data elements, whether it is built de novo or drawn from existing elements.

Applications for training programs that focus exclusively on one or two of the BD2K relevant scientific areas or on just a few diseases will not be considered responsive.

Since it is expected that trainees will be appointed for a minimum of two years, the training grant to which the revision will be made should have a minimum of 27 months remaining at the time of application. Awards will be made as revisions to the parent T32 and cannot exceed the project period of the parent award (see NOT-HG-15-009).

LIMIT ON NUMBER OF PROPOSALS PER ORGANIZATION

Applicant organizations may submit more than one application for Revisions to T32s.

Given the limited amount of funds for these combined initiatives, training programs within an institution are encouraged to consider combining their expertise in Big Data and submitting only one application, whether for: (a) a new T32 institutional training grant or (b) a revision to a T32 institutional training grant. To be strategic in submitting responsive proposal(s) for these funding opportunities, Northwestern University faculty members interested in applying are required to submit an internal letter of intent (LOI).

KEY DATES
• Internal Letter of Intent due: February 9, 2015 (by midnight)
• Sponsor proposal due: March 1, 2015
SUBMITTING A MANDATORY LETTER OF INTENT
Faculty members interested in applying to either Opportunity #1 (New T32) or Opportunity #2 (Revision to T32) are required to submit a letter of intent (LOI). An LOI is required but not binding.

1. Click here to access the LOI form.
2. In the Project Summary of the LOI, indicate whether you are interested in Opportunity #1: new T32 or Opportunity #2: Revision to an ongoing T32. In case you are interested in a revision, provide the title of the current T32, PI name and grant number.
3. Name the LOI as follows: “LastName-FirstInitial-LOI-NIH-BD2K-T32-2015”, replacing “LastName” with your last name and “First Initial” with your first initial.
4. Click on the Vault ticket: https://vault2.northwestern.edu/xythoswfs/webui/_xy-e6462863_1-t_UAgeOi4t
5. Click the Upload button.
6. Click the Browse button and navigate to your file on your hard drive or network.
7. Click the OK button.

Note: You will get a tiny confirmation message upon upload. If you do not see it, you may contact Karen Cielo k-cielo@northwestern.edu for a confirmation.

COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES
The Office of Research Development offers assistance in identifying and facilitating collaborations, putting together interdisciplinary teams, programmatic and administrative development of large, cross-school proposals, and leveraging institutional resources for outreach and education. Contact Fruma Yehiely (yehiely@northwestern.edu), Director of ORD, for more information.

CONTACT AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
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Limited Submissions web site: http://www.research.northwestern.edu/ord/funding/limited-submissions/