

# Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI) KL2 Early Career Investigator Awards in Clinical - Translational Research

The Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI) is seeking a diverse pool of applicants for CTSI KL2 Early Career Investigator Awards in Clinical - Translational Research. These awards are designed to provide promising early career faculty investigators the opportunity to be mentored in research-intensive, multi-disciplinary settings toward the goal of developing careers in clinical - translational research.

<https://ncats.nih.gov/translation/spectrum>

The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), a component of the National Institutes of Health, defines translation as the process of turning observations in the laboratory, clinic, and community into interventions that improve the health of individuals and the public. This includes a wide range of research that includes diagnostics and therapeutics, medical procedures, and behavioral changes. NCATS is committed to fostering the recognition and growth of translational science as a field, as well as cultivating the next generation of translational scientists.

NCATS and the Indiana CTSI are also committed to growing diverse research teams. "Research shows that diverse teams working together and capitalizing on innovative ideas and distinct perspectives outperform homogenous teams. Scientists and trainees from diverse backgrounds and life experience bring different perspectives, creativity, and individual enterprise to address complex scientific problems. There are many benefits that flow from a diverse NIH supported scientific workforce, including: fostering scientific innovation, enhancing global competitiveness, contributing to robust learning environments, improving the quality of the research, advancing the likelihood that underserved or health disparity populations take part in, and benefit from health research, and enhancing public trust." (NCATS Center for Leading Innovation & Collaboration, <https://clic-ctsa.org/taxonomy/term/9326>)

Emphasis of CTSI KL2 Early Career Investigator Awards in Clinical - Translational Research are to move findings from basic laboratory and pre-clinical research (referred to as T1 research) toward the development of new treatment options or interventions or clinical trials (referred to as T2 research) to eventual dissemination or clinical implementation (referred to as T3 research) to studying population health outcomes and health metrics (referred to as T4 research). The phases of translational research may not necessarily be linear and can jump steps depending on the research project and the starting point. The goal of the CTSI is to make awards at all of these stages. <https://ncats.nih.gov/translation>

It is important that the clinical - translational research have clear applications to human disease and health outcomes. To that end, KL2 Early Career Investigator training and career development through this CTSI program is viewed as a collaborative endeavor among the trainee, the primary mentor, and the co-mentor. Therefore, the application must be completed by both the primary mentor and the applicant.

To be eligible, candidates must fall into 1 of the following 2 categories:

1. Clinician-scientists with a doctoral degree (physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, clinical psychologists, optometrists, veterinarians, allied health care professionals, etc.).
2. Basic or other non-clinician scientist with a doctoral degree, who is doing translational research, and has high potential for early translation to patient care.

Additional eligibility criteria include the following:

- Per NIH requirements, applicants must be US citizens or permanent residents to apply.
- Applicants must have a full-time faculty appointment at one of the CTSI campuses, Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, Indiana University at Bloomington, Purdue University at Lafayette, or the University of Notre Dame, and be eligible to apply for extramural funding but who have to date, *not* been a principal investigator on an R01 or equivalent grant. Postdoctoral fellows and scientists, who are not full-time faculty and eligible to apply for extramural funding, are ineligible because we consider institutional commitment to awardees a critical factor in their ultimate success given a relatively short 2-year award and the limited number of K positions for our multi-university program.
- Applicants must be within the first 5 years of their faculty appointment at the time of the award (July 1, 2022), and faculty appointments cannot be contingent upon receipt of the career development award.
- Applicants must be able to commit a minimum of 75 percent of full-time professional effort to conducting research and to any training activities associated with the KL2 program, except for those in surgical specialties, which can have no less than 50 percent of full-time professional effort for this program, if sufficiently justified and programmatically approved. Department Chair must provide a letter describing the department's commitment to the long-term career development of the candidate to become an independent research scientist, and assuring that the candidate will have 75% protected research time during the award period.
- If the applicant successfully competes for this KL2 award, a copy of their current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) may be requested by the CTSI and will be revised to extend the period of protected time currently guaranteed by the trainee's department or school. For example, if the awardee has 2 years of protected research time left on their start-up package, the new MOU will be extended to 4 years of protected time (the original 2 years plus the additional 2 years supported by the KL2 award).
- The CTSI KL2 salary award is capped at \$75,000 annually. The recipient institution may supplement the NIH salary contribution on K awards up to a level that is consistent with the institution's salary scale. For effort directly committed to the K award, salary supplementation is allowable but must be from non-Federal sources, (including institutional sources). Non-Federal or institutional supplementation of salary must not require extra duties or responsibilities that would interfere with the goals of the K award. For effort not directly committed to the KL2 award, KL2 award recipients may devote effort, with compensation, on Federal or non-Federal sources as the PD/PI or in another role (e.g. co-I), as long as the specific aims of the other supporting grant(s) differ from those of the KL2 award.
- At the time of their appointment (July 1, 2022) KL2 Scholars must *not* have pending an application for any other PHS mentored career development award (e.g. K07, K08, K22, K23) that duplicates any of the provisions of the K component. Former or current PDs/PIs on any NIH research project grant [this does not include NIH small grants (R03), exploratory Development (R21) or SBIR, STTR (R43, R44 grants)] or equivalent non-PHS peer reviewed grants that are over \$100,000 direct costs per year, or project leaders on sub-projects of Program project (P01) or center grants (P50) are *NOT* eligible to participate. Appointed KL2 Scholars are encouraged to apply for individual mentored K awards (e.g. K07, K08, K22, K23) and independent awards (R01, R03, R21); if successful, KL2 Scholars may be required to reduce effort on the mentored career award to a minimum of .50 FTE and hold concurrent support from their mentored career award and a competing PHS research grant on which they are the PD/PI or component lead or terminate their KL2 appointment, depending on Program requirements.

- Candidates must receive interdisciplinary mentorship from a clinician or clinician-scientist with a doctoral degree and a basic or non-clinician scientist with a doctoral degree. This means there must be at least two mentors (i.e. one person cannot fill both roles). Either one may serve as primary mentor.
- Candidates must plan to submit a grant for external funding (either a career development award or independent research grant) during the first 12 months of the award.

Benefits include partial salary support, pilot research monies, and travel funds to attend the national Association for Clinical and Translational Science (ACTS) meeting in Washington DC in the spring. Award is for 2 years (with 2<sup>nd</sup> year of funding contingent upon satisfactory progress during year one).

Applications must be submitted by January 5, 2022, and awards will begin July 1, 2022.

**For full details on eligibility requirements, and the application process, please visit the Indiana CTSI website for this RFA: [Indiana CTSI KL2 Link](#)**

If you have general questions, please contact Patricia McGuire at [pcmcguir@iu.edu](mailto:pcmcguir@iu.edu).