Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI)
K12 Early Career Investigator Awards in
Clinical - Translational Research

Background and Instructions

The Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI) is seeking a diverse pool of applicants for CTSI K12 Early Career Investigator Awards in Clinical - Translational Research. These awards are designed to provide promising early career faculty the opportunity to be mentored in research-intensive, multi-disciplinary settings toward the goal of developing independent 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 (NIH), 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 behavior change. 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.

NIH, NCATS, and the Indiana CTSI are committed to growing diverse research teams. Diversity at all levels, from the fields of science to the regions in which it is conducted to the demographic backgrounds of scientists, contributes to excellence in mentored research career development environments and strengthens the research enterprise. Individuals from groups underrepresented in the biomedical sciences are encouraged to apply.

"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."

NIH Diversity Statement: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-031.html

NCATS Translational Science Training at Partner Institutions:
https://ncats.nih.gov/research/training-education/training-partner-institutions

The emphasis of CTSI K12 Early Career Investigator Awards in Clinical - Translational Research is to move findings from basic laboratory and pre-clinical research (referred to as T1 research) toward the development of new treatment options, 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 are not always linear and can jump steps depending on the research project and starting point. The goal of the CTSI is to make awards to early career investigators conducting research at all these stages. However, it is important that the proposed research have clear applications to human disease and health outcomes.
https://ncats.nih.gov/translation

K12 Early Career Investigator training and career development through this CTSI program is viewed as a collaborative endeavor among the early career applicant, the primary mentor, and the co-mentor. Therefore, the both the mentors and the applicant must complete the application.

Opportunities available to CTSI Early Career Investigator Awardees

- Up to 75% salary support (capped at $100,000 annually) and associated fringe costs
- $10,500 research and development support per year of award to be used for pilot research, training, and travel related expenses to the annual Association for Clinical and Translational Science (ACTS) meeting.
- Participation in Project Development Team practicum to enhance protocol development skills.
- Early Career Investigator workshops and coursework focused on research career development.
- Required attendance, including poster presentations, at: 1) National Association for Clinical and Translational Science (ACTS) meeting each spring that involves similar trainees from more than 50 other research institutions; 2) Annual Indiana CTSI meeting.
- Award is for 2 years (with year two of funding contingent upon satisfactory progress during year one).

Eligibility Criteria

<u>Individuals must meet ALL fifteen (15) of the following eligibility criteria in order to apply</u>:

1. Candidates must propose research that is either clinical or translational in nature (i.e., involving some human component, either directly or with clear implications for near future human health). Eligible candidates fall into 1 of the following 2 categories:

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

2. Per NIH requirements, applicants must be US citizens or permanent residents.
3. Applicants must have a full-time faculty appointment and evidence of strong, existing commitment by the home department towards supporting the applicant's research career. This evidence may consist of already being placed on the tenure-track OR departmental protection of time for research and facilitation of professional development opportunities comparable to tenure track faculty. Moreover, the applicant must be eligible to apply for extramural funding but have *not* been a principal investigator on an R01 or equivalent grant.
4. Applicants from Indiana CTSI participating institutions (including all campuses affiliated with Indiana University, Purdue University, and the University of Notre Dame) are eligible.
5. <u>Applicants must be early career investigators</u>. Priority is given to individuals at the Assistant Professor (or equivalent) level, most commonly within the first 5 years of their faculty appointment. There is also a strong preference to provide K12 awards to those

who are not yet ready to apply at the time of initiation of the K12 award for an extramural mentored career or independent grant award. However, applicants who have applied for such awards and were not successful due to reviewers' concerns that the applicant required additional preliminary data, publications, or skillset development, may apply for the K12 and include the critiques from this prior application to demonstrate the need for the K12 to become competitive for the future career award application.

6. At the time of application submission, if a potential scholar has an individual mentored K award under review with the NIH, they cannot submit a K12 application that duplicates any of the provisions proposed in the individual mentored K award. NIH guidelines specify that it is not allowable to have overlapping applications under review at the same time. Moreover, an applicant who is actively applying for extramural career awards at the time of applying for a K12 award may be considered too advanced for the K12 award. The K12 program leadership will ask during the application period and prior to award initiation if extramural career awards or research project funding applications are under review or pending funding.
7. Faculty appointments cannot be contingent upon receipt of the K12 career development award.
8. Postdoctoral fellows and scientists, who are not full-time faculty, are ineligible.
9. Per NCATS, applicants must be able to commit a minimum of 75 percent of full-time professional effort (including summer months) to conducting research and to any training activities associated with the K12 program. Applicants from surgical or intensive procedural specialties, may have no less than 50 percent of full-time professional effort for this program, if sufficiently justified and programmatically approved.
10. Department Chairs 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 assure that the candidate will have 75% protected research time during the award period. There is no requirement that the candidate must currently (prior to K12 award initiation) have 75% protected time for research.
11. The CTSI K12 salary award is capped at $100,000 annually. The recipient institution may supplement the NIH salary contribution on K12 awards up to a level that is consistent with the institution's salary scale. For effort directly committed to the K12 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 K12 award. For effort not directly committed to the K12 award, K12 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 K12 award. Indirect costs are not provided to the successful awardee's home unit by the CTSI K12 award.
12. At the time of their appointment (July 1, 2025) K12 Scholars must *not* have a pending application for any other PHS mentored career development award (e.g., K07, K08, K22, K23, F99/K00) or equivalent award (including foundation or VA career awards) 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.
13. Candidates must receive interdisciplinary mentorship from a clinician or clinician-scientist with a doctoral degree and a non-clinician scientist with a doctoral degree; the non-clinician scientist, if considered the primary mentor, should have experience working directly with human research participants. This means there must be at least two mentors (i.e., one person cannot fill both roles). Either one may serve as primary mentor. Both mentors are expected to hold active faculty positions, with the primary mentor from

an Indiana CTSI member institution. The primary mentor must have an excellent track record (1) for themselves receiving independent extramural research funding (with strong preference for active independent funding), (2) have established expertise in clinical and translational science, and (3) for supporting and advancing the careers of early stage clinical and translational scientists. Mentors are expected to interact directly and consistently with the scholar to develop an individualized career development plan. Mentors must be committed to continue their engagement throughout the scholar's total period of development under the award. Additional co-mentors are allowed without restrictions on their background or current status.

14. Candidates must plan to submit a grant for external funding (either a career development award or independent research grant). Appointed scholars are encouraged to apply for individual mentored Ks. These applications should not have content that duplicates any of the provisions in their awarded K12 (this would constitute overlap).
15. Candidates must be selected with the anticipated ability to complete the entire two-year program. The selection committee must consider whether individuals who have pending NIH research grant applications with fundable scores that would require early K12 termination are appropriate for this award.

Criteria for a successful application include:

- Candidates must have a primary mentor and a co-mentor, who are both doctorate-holding faculty investigators from two different disciplines (one must be a clinician-scientist and the other a non-clinician scientist).
- Candidates must have interest in multi- and inter-disciplinary scientific training in translational research consistent with the ongoing work of the primary and co-mentors.
- Training plan (e.g., proposed courses, workshops, seminars, or other formal educational experiences relevant to the proposed research).
- The primary mentor must have an excellent track record for themselves receiving independent extramural research funding (with strong preference for active independent funding), have established expertise in clinical and translational science, and for supporting and advancing the careers of early stage clinical and translational scientists. Department Chairs 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 assure that the candidate will have 75% protected research time during the award period. If the candidate is not currently on the research tenure-track, then the Department Chair letter must also include a statement guaranteeing that the applicant has protected time for research and facilitation of professional development opportunities comparable to tenure track faculty.

Before applying:

→ Forward a copy of your curriculum vitae to Patricia McGuire at pcmcguir@iu.edu.

- **Include all submitted awards (past, not funded), current awards submitted and under review or pending, and awarded grants on your CV**

→ We will review your CV to verify your eligibility to apply for this award.

- **Please be advised to complete this step by December 6, 2024 as part of the pre-application approval process.**

***** See Instructions for Submission on next page *****

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

Please use the following checklist with your application:

Applicants must upload each document separately as a single PDF into WebCAMP:

1. Applicant's completed Application Intake Form uploaded in WebCAMP.
2. Applicant's completed Application uploaded in WebCAMP.
3. Applicant's full Curriculum Vitae uploaded in WebCAMP (please do not submit the NIH 5-page Biosketch as a substitute for the full curriculum vitae).
4. Two letters of recommendation (one from the primary mentor and one from the co-mentor) uploaded in WebCAMP.
5. Department Chair letter uploaded in WebCAMP.
6. Primary Mentor's brief curriculum vitae (NIH 5-page Biosketch is preferred). The intent is to indicate research publications and grant support. Uploaded in WebCAMP.
7. Co-Mentor's brief curriculum vitae (NIH 5-page Biosketch is preferred). The intent is to indicate research publications and grant support. Uploaded in WebCAMP.
8. Previous grant application critiques suggesting the applicant would benefit from additional training that the K12 grant program would fulfill.

Please note that you will be submitting through the Indiana CTSI's grants management software WebCAMP.
The WebCAMP user's guide is available under the funding announcement here:
https://indianactsi.org/translational-research-development/open-funding-opportunities/

Information on how to submit can be found here: CTSI K12 Link

Please submit all required documents/materials via the Start a Submission link found here: CTSI K12 Link

Applications must be received by 11:59:59 PM January 13, 2025

Please direct all questions regarding the application process to:

Patricia McGuire, Program Manager
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