Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI)
T32 Postdoctoral Training Awards in Translational Research
Community, Public Health Track

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.

The Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI) T32 Postdoctoral Training Awards, funded in part by NCATS, are designed to provide promising postdoctoral fellows with the opportunity to be mentored in research-intensive multi-disciplinary settings toward the goal of developing careers across the spectrum of translational research.
https://ncats.nih.gov/about/about-translational-science/spectrum

The CTSI postdoctoral training awards in translational research are intended to move findings from basic laboratory and pre-clinical research (referred to as T1 research) toward the development of new treatments or clinical trials (referred to as T2 research) to eventual clinical dissemination and implementation (referred to as T3 research), as well as 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.

Historically, most applications for the CTSI T32 postdoctoral training awards in translational research have focused on research projects in the T1 to T2 stages. ***The CTSI strongly encourages applications from postdoctoral fellows who have a keen interest for directed training in T3 to T4 translational research in the areas of clinical, health care delivery, public health, population health, or community or policy-based efforts. It is important that the translational research has clear applications to human disease and health outcomes***.

The postdoctoral fellow will undertake a translational research project tailored to his or her interests while working in a research environment with mentors who can help the fellow develop the necessary skills to become a successful translational science researcher. To that end, postdoctoral training 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. The postdoctoral fellow will participate in grant writing and publication submissions. The training is experiential, supplemented with seminars and invited talks that will help the fellow consider a career in translational science research.

Funding for all postdoctoral training awards is for up to two years (with the 2nd year of funding contingent upon review and demonstration of satisfactory progress). Benefits include a stipend as well as health insurance and research training related expenses.

The application process mirrors an abbreviated NIH National Research Service Award (NRSA) for Individual Postdoctoral Fellows (F32). As such, applicants are encouraged to apply for the F32 during their first year of support. More information on the NRSA program is available from the National Institutes of Health.

Criteria for CTSI T32 Postdoctoral Fellowship application include:

- Applicants must be located at and mentored by faculty from one of the IN CTSI campuses, Indiana University at Indianapolis, Indiana University at Bloomington, Purdue University at West Lafayette, or the University of Notre Dame. The applicant must have a firm commitment for the post-doc position in the mentor's laboratory (i.e., an offer of employment cannot be contingent on the receipt of this fellowship award), and the mentor's letter should address this commitment to training and support of training.

- Candidates must have received a PhD or equivalent degree from an accredited domestic or foreign institution by the time of the T32 award start date on July 1, 2026. These postdoctoral fellowships may not be used to support studies leading to the MD, DO, DDS, DVM, or similar health-professional degree. Neither may these awards be used to support the clinical years of residency training.

- NCATS stipulates that candidates with PhD degrees should be early in their postdoctoral stage with no more than two years since the date of their terminal degree by the time of the T32 award start date on July 1, 2026.

- Individuals in post-doctorate clinical training, who wish to interrupt their studies for a year or more to engage in full-time research training before completing their formal training programs, are eligible to apply. NCATS stipulates that candidates with clinical degrees, must have completed their residency if they have chosen not to subspecialize by the time of the T32 award start date on July 1, 2026.

- All trainees are required to pursue their research training full time, normally defined as 40 hours per week or as specified by the sponsoring institution in accordance with its own policies.

- Per NIH policy, no individual trainee may receive more than three years of aggregate Kirchstein-NRSA support at the postdoctoral level, including any combination of support from Kirchstein-NRSA institutional research training grants and individual fellowships.

- 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 have a demonstrated interest in multi- and inter-disciplinary scientific training in translational research consistent with the ongoing work of the primary and co-mentors.

- The primary mentor must have a research program that includes peer reviewed, extramurally funded research.

- Per NIH policy, candidates must be U.S. citizens or hold permanent resident status.

Opportunities available for CTSI T32 Postdoctoral Fellows:

- Annual stipend aligned with NIH postdoctoral fellowships.

- Mentoring with a faculty member whose research program includes peer reviewed, extramurally funded clinical or translational research.

- Networking with other pre- and post-doctoral trainees, program mentors and allied researchers from multiple institutions in Indiana to develop a cross-disciplinary community of scientists.

- Attendance, including poster presentation at: 1) National Association for Clinical and Translational Science (ACTS) Conference each spring that involves similar trainees from more than 50 other research institutions; 2) Annual Indiana CTSI meeting.

- Opportunities to participate in grant writing and publication submissions.

- Funding is for one year and is renewable for one additional year pending review and demonstration of satisfactory progress.

Indiana CTSI trainees are required to attend and present a poster at the annual Indiana CTSI meeting in the fall, attend the national Association for Clinical and Translational Science (ACTS) meeting in in the spring, and attend several Indiana CTSI gatherings during the academic year and complete an annual progress report.

Interested candidates must submit a current CV, proposed working title, and abstract to Aaron Zych, ajzych@iu.edu for eligibility pre-screening *before* starting an application in WebCAMP. Pursuant to the executive order issued by the President on January 20, 2025, "Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferencing", and in line with current NIH funding and award processes, NIH funds may not be used to fund diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) research programs or related training. Applicants with questions about allowable research topics/activities should consult with Aaron Zych at ajzych@iu.edu.

Mr. Zych will provide you with the link to start an application in WebCAMP once you are pre-qualified to apply.

Applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM 11/5/2025.
Awards will start on **07/01/2026.**

Please note that you will be submitting through the Indiana CTSI's grants management software WebCAMP. Please allow enough time to be familiar with the system.
The WebCAMP Users Guide is linked on the Indiana CTSI website

Questions?
Please contact Aaron Zych, IN CTSI Education Program Manager, ajzych@iu.edu