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## GHUCCTS TRAINING & CAREER DEVELOPMENT

### **KL2 Junior Faculty Scholars Program – Request for Applications**

*With the anticipated successful competitive renewal of our Clinical and Translational Science Award from the NIH National Center for Advancing Clinical and Translational Science (NCATS), we are pleased to announce the next round of applications for our Georgetown-Howard Universities Center for Clinical and Translational Science (GHUCCTS) KL2 award. This [K-series](#) career development award is nearly identical to our previous KL2 awards and analogous to individual [K23](#) or [K08](#) awards, with a focus on developing early-career (MD or equivalent; doctorally-trained nurses, pharmacists or dentists; and clinically or translationally-oriented PhD) faculty investigators through an inter- or multi-disciplinary mentored research experience so that they can become independent, extramurally-funded investigators. Given the goals of the GHUCCTS, awards will favor those: 1) who propose novel trans-, inter-, or multi-disciplinary and collaborative/team research projects, 2) from the entire T1-T4 translational continuum, 3) which span departments, disciplines, and institutions, and 4) address significant health disparities.*

The program will require a documented commitment of 75% protected time for research and career development activities and will provide salary support (we anticipate up to \$90,000 of salary, supplemented by fringe benefits). In addition, we anticipate that the program will provide up to \$40,000/year to support research and training. We anticipate that support will be provided for up to 3 years; with 2 years by GHUCCTS (based upon continued support by NCATS and on documented progress and continued promise of the scholar), and 1 year provided by the sponsoring department or institution.

KL2 Scholars will be expected to submit individual K- or R-series (R01, R21 applications or their equivalent) applications within 2 years of the award and, if successful, must then be provided with a firm continued commitment of 75% protected time and salary from their sponsoring departments (i.e., for at least 5 years from the date of original appointment to the KL2 or for duration of the R-series award, whichever is shorter) in order to ensure their success.

We envision an iterative, interactive, and mentored process for application development, over the coming 3 months, so that the application will be responsive to this RFA and the mentor-trainee relationship will have already been proven productive. This application and review process should enable us to appoint KL2 awardees in **May 2020**. We encourage potential applicants to contact us as soon as possible to clarify requirements and suitability of this support mechanism for your career development goals in order to submit the pre-application by the deadline.

Because we have not yet received notice of our CTSA renewal, despite a fundable priority score, funding for the KL2 and the specific start date will depend on our receipt of the Notice of Grant Award from NCATS.

### ELIGIBILITY

- All candidates must be US citizens, Non-Citizen Nationals, or Permanent Residents
- All candidates must have a full-time faculty or equivalent appointment at a GHUCCTS institution (Georgetown University, Howard University, or MedStar Health) at the time of award activation
- Must devote 75% effort to the program for a full 3 years (will consider 50% effort, with prior consultation and approval, in accord with NIH guidelines, for some surgeons or procedural subspecialists). The applicant, mentors, and relevant department chairs/chiefs will need to describe and ensure how the plan for protected time will be implemented and enforced.

- Individuals who were, or currently are Principal Investigator of NIH R01, P01 or P50 subprojects, or individual K (e.g., K01, K08, K22, K23) grants/awards ARE NOT eligible. Likewise current/former PIs of non-NIH peer reviewed research grants >\$100k annual direct costs are ineligible. By contrast, applicants may have (or continue to) served as PI on R03, R21, or SBIR/STTR grants.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

### Pre-Application & Letter of Intent

Anyone planning to submit an application in response to this RFA should complete and submit the [Pre-Application Form](#) (online) as soon as possible but no later than **December 31, 2019** in order to ensure that the planned application will be responsive to this RFA, that the applicant has sufficient institutional support, and to enable us to identify suitable scientific reviewers. Acknowledging the compressed timeline, applicants do not need to wait for feedback to the pre-application in order to begin writing the final KL2 application. In addition, we encourage, but do not require, that potential applicants discuss their plans with a KL2 program director at the earliest possible date for critical feedback during the application process.

### FINAL APPLICATION

- A 6-10 page research proposal for the major research project, describing three (3) years of work. Using the PH398 (current R01) format, including: specific aims page, significance, innovation, and approach, providing background, major experimental or study details, with attention to feasibility, available resources and collaborations, and plans for subsequent work. While the focus is on the major research project, please describe other planned research activities and sources of support required for their completion in order to account for 75% FTE that will be devoted to the K award.
- A brief (1-3 page) plan describing a subsequent individual K award application or R01 application that would be submitted in year 1 (usually an individual K-series application) or 2 (usually an R01 application) of the KL2 period of support and how that application would be made more competitive by prior KL2 support and training.
- A 1-page statement detailing 3-year and 5-year career plans as well as the specific role of this mentored research experience in achieving those goals, and the manner in which the project and mentorship plans will specifically advance multi- or inter-disciplinary research. This statement should be aligned with your individual development plan (IDP) developed in collaboration with your mentors.
- A 0.5-1-page lay summary of your proposal, including its potential impact on relevant patient populations (especially if understudied), communities, and suitable for sharing with interested lay advisory groups.
- A 3-4 page proposal detailing the plan and rationale for specific didactic training and career development activities to supplement and enhance the mentored research experience. In particular, please provide a critical self-appraisal of current skills and needs for further training with respect to the [core competencies for translational investigators](#) identified by NCATS. If a specific degree or certificate program is proposed, please provide details and rationale. We encourage applicants to consider including coursework from the GHUCCTS MS program in Clinical and Translational research in the didactic educational plan if appropriate. If specific courses, workshops, internship, externships (e.g., with industry, federal agencies, or stakeholder organizations), or tutorial experiences are proposed, **please provide details and rationale.**
- NIH biosketch (in current format) for the applicant and each mentor
- A three-year detailed budget & budget justification (using NIH's FP4 & FP5 forms)
- A detailed letter from the department chair (co-signed by any other relevant responsible official) endorsing and appraising the applicant and the application, as well as outlining the department's plan for, and commitment to, the applicant. **LETTER MUST INCLUDE:**
  - Specific plan that guarantees 75% protected time from day 1 of KL2 support
  - Details of all past and current institutional research support (e.g., protected time, research funds, non-monetary resources) provided to the applicant and assurance that prior commitments will be honored without any offset by the KL2 award or any new KL2-related commitments in years 1-3
  - Plans for additional/continued institutional research support during the 3 years as a KL2 scholar including source(s) of funds to support salary and research expenses during one of the three years as a KL2 scholar

- Details regarding provision of, or access to adequate research facilities, ancillary, or core resources required for the proposed research
- Details regarding ALL anticipated clinical, teaching, administrative, or other activities which might be reasonably construed as either extraneous to (or competing with) research career development
- Commitment to continue this support for 5 years (from the date of initial appointment) if the applicant transitions successfully to an individual K-series or R01/R21 award following the period of KL2 support.
- A letter from the mentor(s). **LETTER MUST INCLUDE:**
  - KL2 awards, the career aims, the training experiences, and the mentorship needs are, by definition, discipline-spanning and collaborative. Therefore, all applicants must propose dual or team mentorship, with input that spans disciplines and/or stages of research translation. Explaining the rationale, focus, content, and feasibility of the mentoring plan will be a key review criterion.
  - Mentors letters can be written individually, or all mentors may contribute to a single letter which, however, must delineate each of their roles as well as the plan for coordinated joint mentorship
  - Detailed commitment to the applicant
  - Their contributions to development of the research project
  - Their plans for interacting with the applicant over the next 3 years, as well as an appraisal of the applicant's likelihood of productivity and success in transitioning to research independence.
- One to two additional letters of support by senior faculty familiar with the applicant's current work and accomplishment and able to evaluate the likelihood of success, defined by the transition to individual and collaborative extramural research funding as well as the need for further mentored research training.

**Mentor Qualifications:** Mentors must interact closely with the scholar, and should have research expertise and experience relevant to the proposed career development program. Mentors must be committed to continue their involvement throughout the total period of the scholar's career development under this award. Each Scholar candidate appointed in the program award must have a **primary mentor**, preferably from a GHUCCTS institution, who: (1) has a track record of successful and sustained federal (i.e., NIH, AHRQ, CDC, FDA, DOD, HRSA or VA) research funding, (2) has the research resources (including funding, facilities, space, collaborations, access to key populations, technologies, and reagents) which will be available to the scholar to ensure productivity, and 3) has a track record of successful mentorship of trainees who have gone on to productive independent or collaborative academic careers. The mentor must be committed to continue this involvement throughout the candidate's total period of development under the award. Secondary or **joint mentors** should be similarly committed to the scholar's career development, but provide complementary perspectives, guidance, and support. While at least two mentors are required, there is no limit to the size or composition of the mentoring team. In each case, the mentoring team must clarify the roles of each member and how they will function together for the scholar's benefit. Further, we require that **joint mentors be expert in demonstrably-differing disciplines or specialties than the primary mentor or focus their research in differing parts of the clinical-translational research continuum (T1-T4)**. The applicant and mentors must explain the rationale for selection of the mentoring team and how it will function to guide the applicant to independent funding, translational research productivity, a training and career development direction that favors discipline-spanning collaborative team science, and successful academic career development.

**Deadlines:**

- Pre-application and Letter of Intent: **Dec 31, 2019**
- Complete application due dates: **11:59PM on February 19, 2020**
- Submit **Final Application ONLINE** in PDF format

**Award Notification:**

- Anticipated award notification and start date: **May 2020**

Inquiries to Ms. Cyndi Campbell, or to any member of the KL2 Executive Committee (Jason G. Umans, MD, PhD: [jgu@georgetown.edu](mailto:jgu@georgetown.edu); Kathryn Sandberg, PhD: [sandberg@georgetown.edu](mailto:sandberg@georgetown.edu); Charles D. Howell, MD: [charles.howell@howard.edu](mailto:charles.howell@howard.edu))