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## GHUCCTS TRAINING & CAREER DEVELOPMENT

### **KL2 Junior Faculty Scholars Program – Request for Applications 2021 Application Cycle**

*Due to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, we have been forced to reconsider our application, selection, and appointment cycle for new KL2 scholars.* Most current KL2 scholars, nationally, have been unable to make significant research progress due to practical and institutional restrictions, despite continued KL2 support. We want to make sure that our next KL2 scholars have the best opportunity to benefit fully from their new awards. Therefore, we are **opening our call for new KL2 applications, with a full application deadline in February 2021 and an anticipated appointment date in June 2021.**

The successful competitive renewal of our Clinical and Translational Science Award from the NIH National Center for Advancing Clinical and Translational Science (**NCATS**) to enables us to continue our KL2 career development program. During its first ten years, the Georgetown-Howard Universities Center for Clinical and Translational Science (**GHUCCTS**) has been privileged to award KL2 support to 18 junior faculty colleagues from Georgetown and Howard Universities and from MedStar Health, who have leveraged this opportunity in order to publish >500 peer-reviewed manuscripts, receive over 50 extramural grants and conduct 30 sponsored clinical trials.

This [K-series](#) career development award is nearly identical to our previous KL2 awards and analogous to individual [K23](#), [K08](#), or [K01](#) 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 requires a documented commitment of 75% protected time for research and career development activities and will provide salary support (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 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 interactive, and mentored process for application development, over the coming 2 months, so that the application will be responsive to this RFA and the mentor-mentee relationship will have already been proven productive. This application and review process should enable us to appoint KL2 awardees in **June 2021 (or later as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves)**. 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.

## 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 Deadline: December 31, 2020**

**Online Pre-Application Form: <https://is.gd/GHUCCTSKL2Preapplication>**

## FULL APPLICATION

- A 6-10-page research proposal for the major research project, describing three (3) years of work. Using the PHS 398 (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 in year 2 (usually an R01 application) of the KL2 period of support and how that application would be made more competitive by the proposed 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 (but only if appropriate to your needs and career development). 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 for each mentor
- A three-year detailed budget & budget justification (using NIH's FP4 & FP5 forms)
- If applicable, we ask that you submit a brief statement describing any challenges in implementing the commitments required for the KL2 award (i.e., 75% focus on productive research and career development activities) due to competing commitments or uncertainties that have resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., unanticipated teaching or clinical work), how you and your department will plan to transition to the KL2 award, and any delays in start date that would be required to complete this transition.
- 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 (and addressing any transition plans needed to re-focus scholar effort due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic).
  - Details of all past, current, and previously-committed 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 by reviewers 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 (at least) 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 (from any institution or setting) 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 research-focused 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 stages 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.

**Deadline & Notification:**

- Full application due date: **12 noon EST on February 1, 2021**
- **Submit Final Application ONLINE** in PDF format
- Anticipated award notification and start date: **June 2021**

Inquiries to Ms. Cyndi Campbell [Cyndi.Campbell@georgetown.edu](mailto:Cyndi.Campbell@georgetown.edu), 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))



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## KL2 Scholars Program Sponsoring Department Guarantees & Commitments

The KL2 Scholars Program requires 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, 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.

### **Guarantees & Commitments:**

- The Department Chair/ Division Chief guarantees 75% protected time for year-1 and year-2 KL2 grant support
- The Department Chair/ Division Chief guarantees a rapid transition out of current clinical (and/or teaching) work in order to accept the award. Provide a detailed plan/timeline that guarantees 75% protected time for appointed applicant KL2 project (specifically state that clinical/admin/teaching load will not exceed and average of 10hours/week).
- The Department Chair/Division Chief's commitment to maintain any (institutional/departmental, local) research funding/startup that was already given or promised to the appointed applicant
- The Department Chair/Division Chief's commitment to continue 75% protected time and cover all salary and fringe during year-3
- The Department Chair/Division Chief's commitment to provide \$40,000 of research support during year-3
- The Department Chair/Division Chief will provide access to adequate research facilities, ancillary, or core resources required for the proposed research commitment to providing access to adequate research facilities, ancillary, or core resources required for the proposed research (e.g., committed lab bench space, office space, access to research facilities through the Lombardi Cancer Center, etc.)
- The Department Chair/Division Chief's commitment to providing administrative support to assist appointed applicant to navigate and complete administrative processes (budgeting, costing allocation, purchasing, and quarterly meetings with KL2 administration)

The Department Chair/Division Chief's commitment to continue out-year support (through year-5 or the duration of the research project grant, whichever is shorter) on same terms if appointed applicant receives an R01 or R21 grant following the 3 years in our KL2 program