



# REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTENT

## Due June 1, 2026

### K12 MENTORED RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

Georgetown-Howard Universities Center for Clinical and Translational Science (**GHUCCTS**) is now accepting letters of intent from **early-stage investigators\*** who seek up to three years of mentored research career development in clinical and translational science (**CTS**). This new K12 Program expands upon our successful KL2 program over the past fifteen years by incorporating clinical translational science (**CTS**) training and career development activities into the curricula.

**\*Early-stage investigators** are defined by NIH as "a Program Director/Principal Investigator who has completed their terminal research degree or end of post-graduate clinical training, whichever is later, within the past 10 years and who has not previously competed successfully as a PD/PI for a substantial NIH independent research award" (<https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/policy-topics/early-stage-investigators>).

The K12 Program capitalizes upon the GHUCCTS established track record in cross-institutional training, mentoring and research and leverages the rich partnerships that GHUCCTS has established among Georgetown University Medical Center (**GUMC**), Howard University College of Medicine (**HUCM**), MedStar Health Research Institute (**MHRI**), the Washington, D.C. Veterans Administration (**VA**) and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (**ORNL**).

Clinical Translational Science (CTS) is:

*...the field that generates innovations that overcome longstanding challenges along the translational research pipeline...to transform the way that research is done, making it faster, more efficient, and more impactful.*

Morris ZS, Wooding S and Grant J. The answer is 17 years, what is the question: understanding time lags in translational research. *J R Soc Med.* 2011;104:510-20.

The translation of research discoveries into improved health care has been too slow. The rationale for mentoring early-stage investigators in CTS is the hope and promise for speeding up this process.

K12 Scholars receive didactic education in human health and disease that takes advantage of existing courses, seminars, and workshops through GHUCCTS-sponsored activities and training programs including the master's program in Clinical and Translational Science. K12 Scholars are also trained in: human subject research methodology & bioethics; grant writing & peer review; community engagement & team science; negotiation & networking; as well as other career enhancement skills that are tailored to the K12 Scholar's Career Development Plan.

**Early-stage investigators interested in complementing their discipline-specific training with supplemental training in CTS are encouraged to apply.**

Applications which propose trans-, inter- or multi-disciplinary and collaborative research projects, within the T1-T4 translational research continuum will be considered. We anticipate funding up to 6 early-stage investigators in this application cycle.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

The K12 program is open to all qualified (clinician and non-clinician) early-stage investigators proposing clinical translational research (**CTR**) and clinical translational science (**CTS**) who hold full-time appointments at a GHUCCTS institution and a faculty appointment (on any track) at either Georgetown University (**GU**) or Howard University (**HU**). Non-physician investigators include doctorally-qualified nurses, dentists, pharmacists or psychologists, as well as investigators from non-biomedical disciplines (e.g., engineering), who seek to cultivate careers in CTS.

- All candidates must demonstrate a documented commitment of 75% protected time for research and career development;
- Applicants must commit to one full year in the K12 Program, **regardless of achieving independent funding success**
- Applicants must have a primary mentor from a GHUCCTS institution who has sufficient research resources to facilitate and promote the applicant's research for the duration of the training period at the time of award activation;

## **K12 AWARDEES RECEIVE**

- Up to \$90,000/year of salary, supplemented by fringe benefits for up to 3 years
- \$40,000/year to support research and training for up to 3 years

## **K12 EXPECTATIONS**

K12 Scholars are expected to submit individual applications for K- or R-series (e.g., K01, K08, R01, R21 grants, *or their equivalent*) within 18 months of the award and, if successful, are provided with a firm continued commitment of 75% protected time and salary from their sponsoring institutions (i.e., for at least 5 years from the date of original appointment to the KL2 or for the duration of the R-series award, whichever is shorter) in order to ensure their success.

## **MENTOR QUALIFICATIONS**

**At least one mentor** must be from a GHUCCTS institution. **Mentorship teams** need to enrich the applicant's training across the clinical translational research continuum (T1-T4) by providing trans-, inter- or multi-disciplinary experiences, guidance, support, and perspectives. The team must be committed to the applicant's career development plan and have sufficient research resources (e.g., funding, facilities, space, collaborations, access to key populations, technologies, reagents) that will facilitate and promote the Scholar's ability to conduct their research for the duration of this award and at least one member of the team must have a track record of training early-stage investigators who have gone on to productive careers in biomedical research.

## **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

## Font/Spacing Requirements: Follow NIH standards\*

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-attachments>

## LETTER OF INTENT

**Due: June 1, 2026**

### Submit as a single pdf file through the K12 Redcap portal

- **Biosketches** and **Other Support** of applicant and mentors: Follow current NIH requirements for these documents. Mentors must have sufficient resources to facilitate and promote the research career development of the K12 Scholar.
- **Specific aims: 1 page**
- **Research strategy: 1-2 pages**
- **Career development and mentorship plan: 1 page** written by the early-stage investigator in conjunction with the mentorship team and co-signed by all. The applicant needs to describe their interest in pursuing a career in clinical translational science and how their career development activities and mentorship plan will support their career goals. The rationale for selection of the mentorship team (must include at least 1 co-mentor) and how the team will function to promote, facilitate and advance the applicant's career development plan in clinical translational science is also required.
- **Note:** The letter of intent will be used to help shape and strengthen the scholar's final application through feedback sessions with members of the K12 Executive Committee. These feedback sessions will be scheduled shortly after receipt of the letter of intent.

## FULL APPLICATIONS ARE BY INVITATION ONLY

**Deadline: August 10, 2026**

### Submit as a single pdf file through the K12 Redcap portal

- **Biosketches** and **Other Support** of applicant and mentors: Follow current NIH requirements for these documents. Mentors must have sufficient resources to facilitate and promote the research career development of the K12 Scholar.
- **Mentorship agreement** signed by the early-stage investigator and each member of the mentorship team.
- **Specific aims: 1 page**
- **Research strategy: Up to 6 pages**
- **Career development and mentorship plan: Up to 3 pages** written by the early-stage investigator in conjunction with the mentorship team and co-signed by all. The applicant needs to describe their interest in pursuing a career in clinical translational science and how their career development activities and mentorship plan will support their career goals. The rationale for selection of the mentorship team (must include at least 1 co-mentor) and how the team will function to promote, facilitate and advance the applicant's career development plan in clinical translational science is also required.

## DUE DATES AND NOTIFICATION TIME LINE

- Letters of Intent are due by **June 1, 2026**.
- Request for full applications will be by invitation only and based on the letter of intent. Invitations to submit full applications will be sent via email by **June 5, 2026**.

- Full applications are due by **August 10, 2026**.
- We anticipate sending Notice of Awards by **September 1, 2026**.
- If awarded, the applicant will need to complete all compliance documents within 30 days. **Funding is contingent on submission of this information and failure to do so could result in disqualification.**
- Upon submission of this additional information, the K12 Executive Committee will prepare an award agreement/letter. Once the award agreement/letter is signed, the K12 Executive Committee will review and approve the agreement so that funding can start.
- Funding is anticipated to begin by **October 1, 2026**.

## **Questions? Please Contact:**

**K12 Program Administrator: Martha D. Gay, [mdg111@georgetown.edu](mailto:mdg111@georgetown.edu)**

**K12 Executive Committee:**

**Kathryn Sandberg, PhD, [sandberg@georgetown.edu](mailto:sandberg@georgetown.edu);**

**Rachel K. Scott [rachel.k.scott@medstar.net](mailto:rachel.k.scott@medstar.net);**

**Karl M. Thomson, [karl.thompson@howard.edu](mailto:karl.thompson@howard.edu)**

**PLEASE FORWARD THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TO ANYONE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED**