Request for Applications
ICTR TL1 Postdoctoral Trainee Program

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

This NIH-funded TL1 Postdoctoral Trainee Program will provide a firm foundational pathway to bridge between previous successful doctoral training (MD, PharmD, DVM, PhD, etc.) and future independent and sustained careers in translational and clinical sciences. The program supports Trainees conducting research along the entire translational research spectrum, T_0-T_4. Upon completion of the TL1 Postdoctoral appointment, we expect Trainees will be poised to successfully compete for institutional KL2/K12/other career development and (or) extramural (federal, foundation) funding. Funding for the scholar award starting July 1, 2022 is subject to competitive renewal of the ICTR institutional grant funded by the National Institutes of Health.

As part of the program, Trainees will conduct research in a field of biomedical science, with the intent of understanding the language/culture/processes intrinsic with translating research outcomes along the research spectrum. Such understanding will assist Trainees in managing effective research teams and disseminating research outcomes to their stakeholders. We expect Trainees to gain competency in two areas - 1) fundamentals of research design and data science, and 2) regulatory and research ethics - through a variety of courses, workshops, seminars, etc. Trainees will detail exemplars consistent with attaining such competencies via a formal portfolio.

- The awardees must commit 100% of their full-time academic effort to research and training activities of the program. The appointment period is 2 years with a possibility of a competitive extension for a 3rd year funding in extenuating circumstances.
- The annual TL1 package provides 100% of postdoctoral trainee salary as determined by current NIH NRSA Postdoctoral Stipend rates. Each Trainee will also receive 60% of tuition and fees requested by the institution, up to $16,000/year. Each Trainee will also receive up to $ 11,850 for related training expenses (including up to $2,000 for health insurance costs) and $3,300 for travel annually.
- If desired, the Trainee's department or school/college can also provide supplemental salary support (from non-UW sources), as dictated by individual school or institutional policies.

ELIGIBILITY of APPLICANTS

TL1 Scholar mentors/advisors are strongly encouraged to support well-qualified applicants who meet the NIH definition of Traditionally Underrepresented Groups.

- Currently postdoctoral fellow, instructor, fellow or similarpost-graduate non-tenure track position at the time of award start, accompanied by a commitment letterfrom a dean or departmental chair describing the suitability of the applicant for a faculty position at UW Madison or elsewhere upon a successful completion of the TL1 Postdoctoral award
- No more than one year of previous support on an NIH T Postdoctoral award.
- U.S. citizens or Permanent Residents.
- An awarded TL1 scholar may not receive salary support from any other federally funded source during the program. Applications will be given priority if they meet the following additional criteria: applicants from underrepresented groups in biomedical science, or applications with diverse areas of investigation (spanning UW schools/centers). ICTR will consider applications across the full spectrum of translational science.

APPLICATION and SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Applicants will be provided with informational packet designed to assist applicants with both understanding the scope of the TL1 program and with completing the online application submission.

- **Important Timeline**

  The program has a bi-annual admission policy. As such, applications are accepted twice during calendar year (application deadlines: October 1 and April 1). Start dates are on January 1 and July 1each calendar year.

  The application process consists of:

  - Preapplication notification and consult with the TL1 Postdoc Program Coordinator at least one weekprior to the application deadline (see contact info below)
  - Completing online application submission (see detailed Application Instructions)
  - Application Screening and Advisory Committee Review
  - TL1 leadership review of scores and final selection
  - Award Announcement

- **Content and Form of Application Submission (See Application Instructions for details)**

  1. Letter of intent – to contain applicant's information, research title and abstract, mentor's information and brief statement on departmental commitment for research support
  2. Basic Demographic Data and NIH required information
  3. Research abstract with project title
  4. Research Proposal (up to 4 pages)
  5. Applicant current CV
  6. Applicant NIH biosketch
  7. Candidate Statement (2 pages)
  8. Individualized Career Development Plan (1-2 pages)
  9. Budget and Justification
  10. Mentor letters of support
  11. NIH biosketch for each mentor and documentation of formal mentor training
  12. Human Subjects (if applicable)
  13. Chair or Dean letter of support

APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Applications will first undergo a screening process to evaluate responsiveness to the RFA, including: 1) confirmation of the translational nature (T0 – T4) of the main research project; 2) training plan detailing the schedule of coursework; and 3) adequate financial support to complete the outlined research agenda.

Applications meeting all three requirements will be evaluated using the NIH 9-point rating scale (1 = exceptional; 9 = poor) scoring system by two independent reviewers with appropriate expertise. Review criteria include: 1) potential of the candidate to develop into a successful clinical/translational investigator; 2) evidence of commitment on part of the applicant's Primary and Secondary Mentors, and the experience and success of the lead mentor in mentoring trainees, as well as strength of the required letters of support; 3) the quality and feasibility of the proposed hypothesis-driven research project and the training/career development plan; 4) diversity to encourage training of candidates from different departments and from traditionally under-represented groups. Applications deemed of high scientific merit will be evaluated and ranked by an ICTR review committee. All applicants will receive a brief summary statement explaining the rationale for the scores, funded or unfunded, following completion of the review process.