

Request for Applications

ICTR TL1 Predoctoral Training Program
July 1 or Sept. 1, 2021 Appointment Start Date
Application deadline: April 9, 2021, 11:59 PM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The TL1 Predoctoral Training Program trains and supports future clinical and translational leaders in their early years of earning either the Clinical Investigation PhD or another UW-Madison PhD with a Clinical and Translational Science focus (PhD^{CTS}). The TL1 program welcomes applications from students pursuing dual degrees, such as a MD, DDS, DO, DNP, or PharmD combined with an MS or PhD.

No TL1 traineeship can be provided for study leading to a MD, DO, DDS, DNP, PharmD or other professional clinical degrees, or a master's degree that is not pursued in a combined program with a doctorate.

TL1 trainees are appointed for two years, in one-year increments, contingent on continued NIH funding to ICTR. Each appointment encompasses 12 continuous months (three semesters, including Summer).

TL1 predoctoral trainees must receive no salary support from other federal sources during TL1 training.

During TL1 training, trainees have non-dissertator status and take a full graduate course load (8 credits in Fall and Spring, 2 credits in Summer). The remainder of the PhD time, in which students focus on their dissertations, will need to be funded by other sources such as individual F30 or F31 awards or the trainer's funding.

In addition to coursework, TL1 program training includes biannual mentor meetings with a TL1 program director; an academic year manuscript writing workshop to develop scientific writing and critiquing skills; a team skills workshop; mentorship training for trainees and trainers; optional workshops on applying for an individual NIH F award, and dissemination and implementation of community interventions developed by the translational research team; and an optional externship in industry. **Benefits include** an annual NIH stipend of \$25,836 for July 2021 and later appointments, health insurance, tuition, segregated fees, and travel funds, and opportunities to participate in the national TL1 community.

Trainees and new trainers are expected to complete mentorship training and participate in the mentor meetings and writing workshop.

ICTR currently funds 12 predoctoral trainees through the TL1. [Information about current and former TL1 Trainees](#) is on the ICTR website.

ELIGIBILITY

Current and prospective TL1 predoctoral trainers (faculty mentors) are encouraged strongly to support well-qualified applicants. Eligible students:

- **Hold** a bachelor's degree at the start of the TL1 appointment
- **Have** U.S. citizenship or permanent residency in the U.S.
- **Secure** a committed faculty mentor (trainer) with a clinical or translational project who is committed to participating in the structured training program

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- **Have** serious interest in becoming an independently federally funded researcher
- **Are** committed to pursuing research training in clinical or translational research. Students interested in basic science training are advised to seek support from another UW-Madison T32 grant.

Keys to Successful Applications

The strength of the mentor-mentee relationship as well as the clinical and translational project description in the application are important.

[Clinical Investigation](#) PhD students are preferred applicants. In addition, the TL1 program has a particular interest in reducing health disparities. Therefore graduate students who are [underrepresented and/or disadvantaged](#) or whose research projects are at the levels of [clinical implementation](#) or [population health](#), or focus on populations historically underserved by research, are preferred applicants.

COURSEWORK

TL1 trainees in the [PhD in Clinical Investigation](#) program proceed in that program as well as participating in the TL1-specific non-credit activities.

TL1 trainees in the [PhD^{CTS} program](#) pursue the graduate [Fundamentals of Clinical Research Certificate](#), the [Clinical and Community Outcomes Research Certificate](#), or other approved coursework in biostatistics for research, population health statistics (epidemiology), research study design, and responsible conduct of research. This background is applied toward proficiency in:

- Determining when it is appropriate to use a patient-oriented research design to investigate a translational clinical problem;
- Understanding the principles of clinical research design and statistical analysis; and
- Understanding the principles of multidisciplinary patient-oriented clinical research protocols; and
- Applying and fostering professional, ethical and responsible conduct of clinical research

These are among the skills that a trainee in a two-year program can obtain, among the NIH-recommended competencies for clinical and translational scientists.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Traineeship offers will be made approximately May 17, 2021. A TL1 Advisory Committee, advisory to the Co-Principal Investigators, is made up of faculty representatives from the ICTR partner schools and colleges. The committee reviews applications and may interview applicants.

Questions may be directed to studentinquiry@ictr.wisc.edu

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