

UW ICTR TL1 Postdoctoral Trainee Program

Application Instructions

Appointment Start Date July 1, 2021

The ICTR TL1 Postdoctoral Trainee Program welcomes and encourages women and traditionally underrepresented groups to apply.

Applications are due by 5 pm on April 1, 2021.

Please follow the application link sent by Ana Garić (ana.garic@wisc.edu) and complete all sections.

We accept submissions quarterly: October 1, January 1, April 1, July 1 for appointments to be made on July 1 and January 1. Most submissions are expected on October 1 and April 1. The purpose of the January and July submission dates are to enable individuals outside UW to apply for an early decision prior to joining UW (though UW faculty mentor must be identified, and the appointment dates will stay the same). UW-based trainees may apply to all dates, however there will be no advantage to apply to the January/July dates as the appointment will not occur earlier.

To apply, review the application requirements in detail, and plan with your mentor and department chair. If you have questions about the application process, or training support, contact Ana Garić at the email above.

At least one week prior to the deadline, contact Ana Garić to request a link to the Qualtrics submission form, where the following components will be uploaded. See also a detailed link to the Qualtrics components on our website.

1. Applicant and Project Information (Face Page + Abstract)

Complete the questions in the "Applicant Information and Demographics" sections, and certify that all information that has been completed is true and accurate. Research project abstract (maximum 500 words).

2. Research Plan (4 pages)

The Research Plan describes the primary research project to be undertaken during the TL1 postdoctoral award period

- Specific Aims with clear, measurable objectives
- Significance, innovation, and approach
- Preliminary studies, if appropriate
- Role of the mentor(s)
- Classification of primary research area (see Translational Research Continuum classification below)

Translational Research Continuum Classification

- **T0: Basic Biomedical** - Identification of opportunities and approaches to health problems.
- **T1: Pre-clinical Implications** - Seeks to move fundamental discovery into health application.
- **T2: Clinical Research** - Health application to evidence-based practice guidelines.
- **T3: Clinical Implementation** - Practice guidelines to health practices.
- **T4: Public health Research** - Health practice to population health impact.

The proposed activities for the research plan should be completed in two years, although a component of the study may involve more prolonged follow-up.

- Specific Aims State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved.
- List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed, e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology.
- Significance
Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.

Describe the scientific premise for the proposed project, including consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of published research or preliminary data crucial to the support of your application.

Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.

Describe the next steps to be undertaken after the current training period, if successful, to make a sustained impact on human health, individual or public.

- Innovation

Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.

Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

- Approach

Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Describe the experimental design and methods proposed and how they will achieve robust and unbiased results.

Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims.

If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high risk aspects of the proposed work.

Explain how relevant biological variables, such as sex, are factored into research designs and analyses for studies in vertebrate animals and humans. For example, strong justification from the scientific literature, preliminary data, or other relevant considerations, must be provided for applications proposing to study only one sex.

If your study(s) involves human subjects, the sections on the Inclusion of Women and Minorities and Inclusion of Children can be used to expand your discussion on inclusion and justify the proposed proportions of individuals (such as males and females) in the sample, but it must also be addressed here in the Approach section.

- Literature Cited

Although candidates are expected to write the Research Plan, **the mentors should review a draft of the plan and discuss it in detail with the candidate**. Review by other knowledgeable colleagues is also helpful.

3. Applicant Current Curriculum Vitae and NIH Biosketch

Please include current copies of both your CV and NIH Biosketch. Follow the instructions, samples and blank format page for the latest NIH biosketch format. (see: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>)

4. Candidate Statement (2 pages)

Using the two scholar selection criteria as subheadings and the suggested components noted below, summarize the strengths of your application.

a. Track record:

- Describe any previous training in clinical and translational research.
- Give examples of opportunities you've had to engage in research (basic or clinical); describe your role in these projects.
- Highlight examples of your productivity (e.g., pursuing an original research question, analyzing data, and presenting or publishing your findings). Describe grants and major honors/awards.

b. Career Objectives:

- State your long-term translational research career goal(s) and the potential impact your research will have on public health.
- Explain how participation in the TL1 Postdoctoral Program, including all the training activities in your specific training program, will contribute to these long-term career goals.

5. Individual Development Plan

In this section, create an Individualized Development Plan (IDCP), detailing short- and long-term career goals and the proposed training that will enable you to achieve these goals. It is expected that you work closely with your mentors to design your training plan. UW ICTR allows any UW/NIH compliant IDP. If you do not currently have one, we suggest using the UW IDP found here: <https://grad.wisc.edu/professional-development/individual-development-plan/>

6. Training plan:

Please state your research and career goals, and identify the additional training you need to reach these goals. Training may include meetings, seminars, courses, workshops, scientific meetings, externships, among other types of training, that address gaps or provide additional expertise that will enable you to emerge as an independent investigator. Identify specific competencies where there is a gap in training, and describe how you will obtain additional training in each area. If appropriate, state explicitly the courses you will take, both in ICTR and elsewhere, and indicate whether you will enroll in the Capstone Certificate Program or graduate program. The training plan must include courses related to the two main CTR competences – research design and responsible conduct of research. Other areas that may be addressed include scientific concepts & research design, ethics & participant safety, investigational products development & regulation, clinical trials operations, study & site management, data management & informatics, leadership & professionalism, communications, teamwork & team science and community and stakeholder engagement.

7. Research Support (1 page)

ICTR TL1, like other NIH training grants provide support for the trainee at the NIH postdoctoral salary rates (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-21-049.html>). In certain cases, NIH salaries can be supplemented by non-federal sources of support—please contact ana.garic@wisc.edu for consultation.

TL1 does not support research costs. Here we request that you specify how research costs will be supported, naming grants or other sources of support that help reviewers ensure that the research plan is sound. List the budget source, cost of research, acknowledgment of support, collaboration, and any additional matching funds (departmental, mentor support etc. if applicable).

8. Budget and Justification

In addition to the NIH postdoctoral salary, the NIH training grant provides a limited budget for workshops, meetings, page charges, and other activities (60% of tuition and fees requested by the institution, up to \$16,000/year; 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). For planned coursework, if any, tuition costs can be partially offset by TL1 but must be supplemented by departmental support. Please provide itemized list of you expenses that will be related to and covered by the above provisions.

9. Mentor Information

Please complete the mentor information form and upload to corresponding location in your online application. A minimum of one UW faculty mentor is required. Up to 4 mentors can be named, with Name, Degree, Position, School, Email, Telephone, Date of training completion and a brief (1 line) description of each mentor's training in mentoring.

10. Mentor NIH biosketch (for each mentor)

11. Mentor Letter of Commitment & Recommendation (primary and secondary)

Each mentor needs to submit a mentor letter that includes the following information:

- Qualifications of applicant
- Training and Career Development
 - Indicate how the TL1 Postdoc award will enhance the development of the applicant's research career.
- Mentor Commitment
 - Adequate and sustainable time and commitment
 - Nature and extent of interactions that will occur during the award period
 - Confirm adequate space, facilities and resources will be made available for the successful completion of research projects (if applicable)
 - Describe how the proposed research fits into your research program and/or expertise
 - Indicate how you will provide guidance with regard to applicant's career development
 - Confirm that you reviewed your mentee's TL1 Postdoc research plan
 - Commitment to attend ICTR TL1 Postdoc biannual scholar/mentor meetings, participate in mentor training activities and take part in TL1 Postdoc grant mock reviews and monthly seminars as appropriate.
 - Acknowledgement that, if awarded the TL1 Postdoc, the applicant will cite the ICTR grant on all work that the scholar contributes to while funded and acknowledge the grant on that work performed while funded but published afterwards.
- Mentoring experience, training and philosophy (include list of up to 10 past mentees/trainees: names, dates and current positions).

- Document previous **formal** mentor training, provide details (content, duration, format [face-to-face, online], location, year completed)

12. Regulatory and Compliance Approvals

Submit all human subjects, animal protocol, biological safety letters of approval, if available. If your study(s) involves human subjects, the NIH sections on the Inclusion of Women and Minorities and Inclusion of Children must be included. If approvals are not complete, write 'Pending' with the anticipated completion date.

13. Chair or Dean Letter of Support

The appropriate department chair or dean needs to submit a letter with your application that includes the following information (**note: this is not the same as the mentor's letter of recommendation**).

- Commitment to ensure Applicant will meet 100% protected time during the TL1 postdoctoral appointment (academic appointment) to conduct research, coursework, and other TL1 programmatic activities. N.B., clinical activities on non-academic time are allowed, but this must meet UW and NIH requirements. Contact Ana Garić for details.
- Appointment as non-tenure track faculty or postdoctoral research associate (with a commitment for faculty appointment after completion of the TL1).
- Describe the department's long-term commitment to the Applicant's career development, including resources (financial and other) that will be provided to the Applicant, if any. Address plans for further development after the period of the TL1 Postdoc award and the Applicant's motivation and likelihood to become an independent investigator.
- Assurance the Primary Mentor supports the Applicant's Career Development and Training Plan.

14. Applicant Demographics

Complete the questions in the "Applicant Demographics" section and certify that all information has been completed true and accurate.

Questions involving the application or review process should be directed to Ana Garić, ana.garic@wisc.edu or 265-1861.