

# REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)

## Research Education, Training and Career Development (CTSI-Ed)

### Translational Research Development Program (TRDP)

- Awards of up to \$16,000 in research funds available over one year
- Required monthly Seminar Series with topics in translational research and career development
- Integrated events with faculty scholars conducting translational research
- Available to predoctoral students pursuing a PhD (or dual degree with a PhD) who have passed their written and oral preliminary examinations; PhD postdoctoral fellows within 3 years of completing their PhD; Students with clinical rotations that fall within the requested length of the award are not eligible to apply.
- Up to 4 scholars will be awarded
- Start date August 1, 2022
- **Letters of intent due March 21, 2022; Full applications due May 2, 2022**

### Program Description

The Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) will provide institutional research funds for predoctoral students and postdoctoral fellows with a demonstrable and significant interest in translational research focused on human health. The program aims to provide an opportunity for early stage investigators to gain significant experience with clinical and translational research as a foundation for the development of an independent research career focused on human health.

Funds are designed to support a modest research project that will result in at least one first-authored publication in a peer reviewed journal for the Scholar. The TRDP project must be secondary to the applicant's primary research endeavors and must advance the Scholar's research along the clinical and translational research spectrum (see below). For example, a TRDP project for a Scholar currently conducting basic research (T0) should be in the T1, T2, T3, or T4 translational categories. Similarly, a Scholar currently conducting health services research (T3) should develop a TRDP project that demonstrates a clear movement toward T4 research.

A portion of the funds may also be used to support didactic coursework or attendance at workshops that will facilitate successful completion of the TRDP project by developing the applicant's skills in clinical and translational research.

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The Translational Research Development Program will award up to 4 Scholars, with a maximum award of \$16,000 in research funds. In addition to the awardee's current primary research mentor, awardees must engage a translational mentor who will help advise and guide the TRDP project. This translational research mentor must be a faculty member who conducts clinical or translational research, or a biostatistician at the University of Minnesota who will provide significant mentoring for the project. The translational mentor's experience and expertise should complement that of the primary mentor.

Applications from underrepresented populations are strongly encouraged.

### Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Predoctoral applicants must be pursuing a PhD in a UMN PhD graduate program or UMN PhD dual degree program, have passed their written and oral preliminary examinations, and obtain the support of their research advisors.
- PhD postdoctoral applicants must be within 3 years of completing their PhD at time of application
- MD or MD/PhD medical fellow applicants or postdoctoral applicants must be no more than 3 years into their appointment as a fellow or postdoc at the time of application. Students with clinical rotations that fall within the requested length of the award are not eligible to apply.
- Must be able to engage full-time in research or educational activities related to the applicant's research activities during the period of the TRDP award.
- For questions, contact CTSI-Ed Staff at [ctsieduc@umn.edu](mailto:ctsieduc@umn.edu)

### Requirements and Milestones

Requirement	Duration/Frequency
Engage in full-time mentored research and educational activities related to the applicant's research activities during the period of the TRDP award.	Continuous
Meet with primary mentor	Weekly or more

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Meet with translational research mentor	Bi-monthly or more
Mentoring team group meeting (Scholar, mentor and translational research mentor)	Monthly or more
Develop and revise an Individual Development Plan that will identify strategic goals and strategies associated with the Scholar's objectives for the TRDP award	Required at orientation meeting, 6-mo, 12-mo reviews
Participate in monthly TRDP Scholar seminars with >75% attendance. <i>Several seminars require mandatory attendance.</i>	Monthly; (the second Wednesday of each month), 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Present a poster at the fall CTSI Research Symposium; fall 2022	Once
Attend half-day Translational Science Retreats	Twice (fall; spring)
Attend the spring national Association for Clinical and Translational Science annual meeting (ACTS Translational Science), and submit an abstract to present a poster during the award period. Expenses covered using your TRDP funds.	Once
Participate in one UMN/Mayo Mock Study Section. This activity is offered annually on UMN or Mayo campus as well as at the ACTS Translational Science Conference. Scholars may choose which they would like to attend.	Once
Presentations at Seminar: Scholars are required to present chalk talks, the translational path of their project, and an aspect of their discipline/training they consider themselves an expert in.	During Seminars (Monthly; the second Wednesday of each month, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.)
Wellbeing requirement: All scholars are required to take a wellbeing course or a self-selected series of webinars/lectures/podcasts during the program. Course suggestions include Wellbeing and Resilience for Health Professionals, Mindfulness at Work, or one of a scholar's choosing with a certificate of completion. If a scholar elects not to take a course, scholars can select 6 webinars,	Scholar's choice (determined as part of the Individual Development Plan with mentors)

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<p>lectures, or podcasts and prepare a half page reflection on each on how the scholar will apply what they've learned in their own lives.</p>	
<p>Adhere to all reporting requirements:</p> <p>Submit progress reports at 6-months and 12-months. Progress reports must document the efforts of the Scholar to submit one or more peer-reviewed manuscript(s) incorporating research results obtained with this grant. A minimum of one peer-reviewed manuscript as lead author incorporating the research results obtained should be submitted for publication by the end of the one-year award period. Scholars will present their progress to members of the Internal Advisory Board and program leadership for assessment and guidance</p> <p>Work with TRDP Program administrators to complete all reporting requirements including the annual Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR). Complete all surveys including entrance/exit, mentor/mentee experience and seminar ratings.</p>	Continuous

## Selection Criteria

- Previous research, academic experience, academic potential, and achievement index\* over time. *\*What you have accomplished in research given the opportunities available to you, your personal circumstances and time devoted to research*
- Potential of the TRDP project to foster the development of distinctly new clinical or translational research skills that are more than incremental training
- Feasibility and novelty of proposed project
- Ability of the TRDP project to advance the Scholar along the clinical and translational research spectrum
- Support of the applicant's primary research mentor for the TRDP project
- Qualifications of the translational research mentor and commitment to the applicant's interests in developing expertise in clinical or translational research
- Quality of the training environment(s)
- Passion for translational research/science and a career in academia or industry.

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- After formal review of the applications, the top rated applicants will be interviewed by CTSI-Ed leadership and final decisions will be made based upon a combination of the grant review score, the interview, and having balance in disciplines and diversity in the program.

## Funding

- Up to \$16,000 total available over one year.
- Carry forward of funds after one year will not be permitted
- Funds must be designated for the direct support of the research-training plan. No funds will be available to support stipends. In general, funds should be primarily used for research and educational activities such as supplies, travel, and tuition for training specifically related to the project. Funds must be budgeted to attend the ACTS conference.

## Applicants with F-Awards

Scholars supported by an individual NIH F-series fellowship (F30, F31, F32, etc.) during the period of TRDP support being requested must obtain pre-approval from their NIH program officer. Contact CTSI-Ed staff [ctsieduc@umn.edu](mailto:ctsieduc@umn.edu) with questions.

## Award Timeline

<b>LOI Due</b>	March 21, 2022 at 11:59 p.m.
<b>Applicant full submissions due</b>	May 2, 2022 at 11:59 p.m.
<b>Award start date</b>	August 1, 2021

## How to Apply

### Phase I: Letter of Intent (LOI)

Access the link for LOI submissions on the TRACT TL1 website [z.umn.edu/TRDP](https://z.umn.edu/TRDP)

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A mandatory letter of intent (LOI) is due on March 21, 2022 and will be used for planning the review of applications. See the attached LOI template. Applicants will be notified in March if they are invited to submit a full application.

### Phase II: Submitting Full Application

Full applications are due on May 2, 2022. Application requirements can be found below. Submission information will be provided to those invited to submit a full application.

Application Components		
Formatting instructions: All typed documents must be Arial 11 pt font, ½ inch margins, single-spaced. Upload all documents as PDFs.		
1	Applicant Information	Online form
2	Research Proposal to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project Title</li><li>• Aims</li><li>• Significance</li><li>• Innovation</li><li>• Approach</li><li>• Incorporation of biostatistical analysis in the Research Proposal</li><li>• Plans for advancing the project's research findings to early stage testing in humans (translation plan).</li></ul>	Up to 3 pages, exclusive of references
3	Training Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Title and summary of applicant's primary research project</li><li>• Describe the relationship of the applicant's primary research project to the TRDP project</li><li>• Describe how the TRDP project advances the applicant's research along the clinical and translational research spectrum, and develops distinctly new translational and clinical skills</li><li>• List any planned formal training activities (courses, workshops, etc.)</li><li>• Value of participation in TRDP proposal to applicant's career goals</li></ul>	1 page
4	Budget: use NIH budget sheet <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Include required travel to ACTS meeting</li></ul> <i>Download this form on the <a href="http://z.umn.edu/trdp">TRDP website</a> (<a href="http://z.umn.edu/trdp">http://z.umn.edu/trdp</a>)</i>	Up to 3 pages

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5	<p>NIH Biosketch/Other Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include personal statement that outlines career goals</li> <li>• Include manuscripts In Press and Submitted</li> <li>• Include pending grant applications</li> </ul>	
6	Primary Research Mentor NIH Biosketch/Other Support	
7	<p>Mentor – Mentee Compact completed with translational research mentor  <i>Download this form on the <a href="http://z.umn.edu/trdp">TRDP website</a> (<a href="http://z.umn.edu/trdp">http://z.umn.edu/trdp</a>)</i></p>	Upload completed form
8	Translational research Mentor NIH Biosketch/Other Support	
9	Support letter from Primary Research Mentor	Up to 2 pages
10	Support letter from translational research Mentor	Up to 2 pages

**LOI Template** – may adjust formatting as needed, but must provide each item. No more than 4 pages.

Initial to confirm you meet the eligibility criteria stated in RFA	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scholar Name</li> <li>Predoc or Postdoc</li> <li>ORCID ID* (for more information: <a href="https://orcid.org/">https://orcid.org/</a>)</li> <li>Date of enrollment in PhD program</li> <li>Date (or estimated date) of preliminary oral examination completion</li> <li>Estimated date of graduation</li> <li>Department/Division/Program, School/College, Organization (if outside of UMN ex. HHRI, VA)</li> </ol>	

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8. Primary Work Site (if not UMN Twin Cities)	
Please describe how you would contribute to a diversity of viewpoints and identities in the scholar program. You may use this box or type below. There is no page limit but generally applicants provide 1 to 2 paragraphs.	

**Translational Research/Science**

Translation refers to the process of turning observations in the laboratory, clinic and community into interventions that improve the health of individuals and the public—from diagnostics and therapeutics to medical procedures and behavioral- or population-level changes. See information about current and former TRDP Scholars at [z.umn.edu/trdp](http://z.umn.edu/trdp).

If you have questions about how your research might relate to translational science please contact CTSI-Ed Staff at [ctiseduc@umn.edu](mailto:ctiseduc@umn.edu).