



GHUCCTS EDUCATION

KL2 Junior Faculty Scholars Program – Request for Applications

With support from a Clinical and Translational Science Award from the NIH National Center for Advancing Clinical and Translational Science (NCATS), we are pleased to announce the next round of applications for our Georgetown-Howard Universities Center for Clinical and Translational Science (GHUCCTS) KL2 award. This [K-series](#) career development award is nearly identical to our previous KL2 awards and analogous to individual [K23](#) or [K08](#) awards, with a focus on developing early-career (MD or equivalent; doctorally-trained nurses, pharmacists or dentists; and clinically or translationally-oriented PhD) faculty investigators through an inter- or multi-disciplinary mentored research experience so that they can become independent, extramurally-funded investigators. Given the goals of the GHUCCTS, awards will favor those: 1) who propose novel trans-, inter-, or multi-disciplinary and collaborative research projects, 2) from the entire T1-T4 translational continuum, 3) which span departments, disciplines, and institutions, and 4) address significant health disparities.

The program will require a documented commitment of 75% protected time for research and career development activities and will provide salary support (we anticipate up to \$90,000 of salary, supplemented by fringe benefits). In addition, we anticipate that the program will provide up to \$40,000/year to support research and training. We anticipate that support will be provided for up to 3 years; with 2 years by GHUCCTS (based upon documented progress and continued promise), and 1 year provided by the sponsoring department or institution.

CTR Scholars will be expected to submit individual K- or R-series (R01, R21 applications or their equivalent) applications within 2 years of the award and, if successful, must then be provided with a firm continued commitment of 75% protected time and salary from their sponsoring departments (i.e., for at least 5 years from the date of original appointment to the KL2 or for duration of the R-series award, whichever is shorter) in order to ensure their success.

We envision an iterative and highly mentored process for application development, over the coming 6 months, so that the application will be responsive to this RFA and the mentor-trainee relationship will have already been proven productive. This application and review process will enable us to appoint one KL2 awardee in **April 2018**. We encourage potential applicants to contact us as soon as possible to clarify requirements and suitability of this support mechanism for your career development goals in order to submit the pre-application by the deadline.

ELIGIBILITY

- All candidates must be US citizens, Non-Citizen Nationals, or Permanent Residents
- All candidates must have a full-time faculty or equivalent appointment at a GHUCCTS institution (Georgetown University, Howard University, or MedStar Health) at the time of award activation
- Must devote 75% effort to the program for a full 3 years (will consider 50% effort, with prior consultation and approval, in accord with NIH guidelines, for some surgeons or procedural subspecialists)
- Individuals who were, or currently are Principal Investigator of NIH R01, R29, P01, K01, K08, K22 and K23 grant ARE NOT eligible

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- An 8-10 page research proposal for the major research project, describing three (3) years of work. Using the PH398 (current R01) format, including: specific aims page, significance, innovation, and approach, providing background, major experimental or study details, with attention to feasibility, available resources and collaborations, and plans for subsequent work. While the focus is on the major research project, please describe other planned research activities and sources of support required for their completion in order to account for 75% FTE that will be devoted to the K award.
- A brief (1-3 page) plan describing a subsequent individual K award application or R01 application that would be submitted in year 1 or 2 of the KL2 period of support and how that application would be made more competitive by prior KL2 support.
- A 1-page statement detailing 3-year and 5-year career plans as well as the specific role of this mentored research experience in achieving those goals, and the manner in which the project and mentorship plans will specifically advance multi- or inter-disciplinary research.
- A 2-4 page proposal detailing the plan and rationale for specific didactic training to supplement and enhance the mentored research experience. In particular, please provide a critical self-appraisal of current skills and needs for further training with respect to the [core competencies for translational investigators](#) identified by NCATS. If a specific degree or certificate program is proposed, please provide details and rationale. We encourage applicants to consider including coursework from the GHUCCTS MS program in Clinical and Translational research in the didactic educational plan if appropriate. If specific courses, workshops, internship, or tutorial experiences are proposed, **please provide details and rationale.**
- NIH biosketch (in current format) for the applicant and each mentor
- A three-year detailed budget & budget justification (using NIH's FP4 & FP5 forms)
- A detailed letter from the department chair (co-signed by any other relevant responsible official) endorsing and appraising the applicant and the application, as well as outlining the department's plan for, and commitment to, the applicant. **LETTER MUST INCLUDE:**
 - Specific plan that guarantees 75% protected time from day 1 of KL2 support
 - Details of all past and current institutional research support (e.g., protected time, research funds, non-monetary resources) provided to the applicant
 - Plans for additional/continued institutional research support during the 3 years as a KL2 scholar including source(s) of funds to support salary and research expenses during one of the three years as a KL2 scholar
 - Details regarding provision of, or access to adequate research facilities, ancillary, or core resources required for the proposed research
 - Details regarding ALL anticipated clinical, teaching, administrative, or other activities which might be reasonably construed as either extraneous to (or competing with) research career development
 - Commitment to continue this support for 5 years (from the date of initial appointment) if the applicant transitions successfully to an individual K-series or R01/R21 award following the period of KL2 support.
- A letter from the mentor(s). **LETTER MUST INCLUDE:**
 - Mentors letters can be written individually, or all mentors may contribute to a single letter which, however, must delineate each of their roles as well as the plan for coordinated joint mentorship
 - Detailed commitment to the applicant
 - Their contributions to development of the research project
 - Their plans for interacting with the applicant over the next 3 years, as well as an appraisal of the applicant's likelihood of productivity and success in transitioning to research independence.
- One to two additional letters of support by senior faculty familiar with the applicant's current work and accomplishment and able to evaluate the likelihood of success, defined by the transition to individual

extramural research funding.

Mentor Qualifications: Mentors must interact closely with the scholar, and should have research expertise and experience relevant to the proposed career development program. Mentors must be committed to continue their involvement throughout the total period of the scholar's career development under this award. Each Scholar candidate appointed in the program award must have a **primary mentor**, preferably from a GHUCCTS institution, who: (1) has a track record of successful and sustained federal (i.e., NIH, AHRQ, CDC, FDA, DOD, HRSA or VA) research funding, (2) has the research resources (including funding, facilities, space, collaborations, access to key populations, technologies, and reagents) to ensure productivity, and 3) has a track record of successful mentorship of trainees who have gone on to productive independent academic careers. The mentor must be committed to continue this involvement throughout the candidate's total period of development under the award. Secondary or **joint mentors** should be similarly committed to the scholar's career development, but provide complementary perspectives, guidance, and support. While at least two mentors are required, there is no limit to the size or composition of the mentoring team. In each case, the mentoring team must clarify the roles of each member and how they will function together for the scholar's benefit. Further, we require that **joint mentors be expert in demonstrably-differing disciplines or specialties than the primary mentor or focus their research in differing parts of the clinical-translational research continuum (T1-T-4)**. The applicant and mentors must explain the rationale for selection of the mentoring team and how it will function to guide the applicant to independent funding, translational research productivity, a training and career development direction that favors discipline-spanning collaborative team science, and successful academic career development.

Pre-Application & Letter of Intent

Anyone planning to submit an application in response to this RFA should complete and submit the *Pre-Application Form (online)* by **September 15, 2017** in order to ensure that the planned application will be responsive and to enable us to identify suitable scientific reviewers. In addition, we encourage, but do not require, that potential applicants discuss their plans with program directors at the earliest possible date for critical feedback during the application process.

Deadlines:

- Complete application due dates: **11:59PM on January 8, 2018**
- Submit Final Application in PDF format to Ms. Cyndi Campbell – narciisc@georgetown.edu

Award Notification:

- Anticipated award notification dates: **April 2018**

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): <http://www.georgetownhowardctsa.org/education/faqs>

We have assembled a list FAQs, but if there are questions that are not clearly answered there, please contact us via email for clarification and to update the FAQs.

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Administrative Contact

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