Clinical & Translational Science Center

A Weill Cornell Medical College Multi-Institutional Consortium with:

Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences / New York Presbyterian Hospital / Cornell University, Ithaca / Cornell University Cooperative Extension, New York City / Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center / Hospital for Special Surgery / Hunter College of the City University of New York / Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing / Hunter School of Urban Public Health / Hunter Center for Translational and Basic Research / Animal Medical Center and Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine

1300 York Ave, Box 149, New York, NY 10065 • Tel: 646-962-8302 • Fax: 646-962-0534 • www.med.cornell.edu/ctsc

CTSC KL2 CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD
Request for Applications

DUE BY 5PM ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024

Funding Period: Up to 3 years
Up to $105,000 per year
includes salary support and up to $25,000 per year for research related expenses

Year 1 Funding Period: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025
Appointments may be up to 3 years and based on positive annual evaluation of trainee progress

CLICK TO INITIATE APPLICATION
View Eligibility Requirements and Application Instructions

The goal of the CTSC KL2 Career Development Award is to increase the pool of qualified clinical and translational (C/T) researchers trained to address the challenges of today's complex clinical care environment by providing rigorous training and mentoring to conduct translational team research across disciplines and institutions.

KL2 projects must have a translational or clinical research focus; *Purely basic research proposals will not be funded*. Pre-clinical studies should have *near-term potential to translate into patient-oriented research*. Research priority areas include precision medicine, drug discovery, targeted therapeutics, biomarker or device development, and novel technologies; health needs of LGBTI and underserved populations and/or health outcomes in the community; pediatric and women's health studies; life course studies of disease; and studies incorporating biostatistical methodologies and design.

KL2 Scholars pursue research training at 75% time and effort (50% minimum for surgeons). Appointments are normally made for 12 months (no less than 9 months), up to 2 years, based on positive bi-annual evaluation of scholarly progress. Scholars receive:
- Salary support at the NIH approved level
- Funding for supplies and research support
- Funding for travel to present at national conferences and symposia
- Access to support services that facilitate conducting C/T research
- Multi-level mentoring
- Clinical and translational research support
- Professional skills and career development training

What is Translational Science? Translational Science is the field of investigations that focus on turning observations in the laboratory, clinic, and community into interventions that improve the health of individuals and the public—from prevention to diagnostics and therapeutics as well as medical procedures and behavioral changes. Read more about the stages of translational science here.

The mission of the Weill Cornell Medicine Clinical Translational Science Center (WCM CTSC) is to rapidly advance translational science discovery with the ultimate goal of getting more treatments to all patients more quickly. To achieve this mission, the CTSC Education Program (CTEP) aims to educate and train a diverse and empowered group of clinical and translational scientists who are prepared to advance translational science discovery to practice, thereby improving health and enhancing the quality of life by reducing disability and death from disease. The WCM CTSC is committed to ensuring that the translational science workforce is broadly representative across racial, ethnic, sex, gender, age, socioeconomic, geographic and disability status (See NIH's Interest in Diversity Statement). We seek students who represent and embody the wide range of lived experiences and backgrounds of the US population.

EDUCATIONAL AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Professional Degree Trainees	*PhD Trainees*
KL2 awardees who hold a professional degree (MD, DOs, DMD, DNP, DVM, or DPT) are required to complete the Advanced Certificate (if funded for 1 year) or the Master's in C/T Investigation program (if funded for 2 years).	KL2 Awardees that are enrolled in, or currently hold doctoral-level research degrees (PhD) are required to complete a total of 10 credits during their appointment. K scholars are encouraged to enroll in the Advanced Certificate and/or Master's Degree in C/T Investigation.

Upon completion of the KL2 program, the following are required:
- Completion within the last four years of human subjects' protection training such as the Responsible Conduct of Research course
- A first author scientific article submitted to a high-quality scientific journal
- A clinical & translational grant proposal submitted to a federal (e.g. K award, RO1, R21, other NIH award) or other funding agency requiring peer-review with the trainee named as Principal Investigator.
- Abstract submission and presentation of CTSC KL2 research at the annual Translational Science National Conference
- Presentation of CTSC KL2 research at a local, national or international scientific conference
- Presentation of CTSC KL2 research at a Research-in-Progress networking lunch

Questions? See CTSC FAQs, or email CTSC-education@med.cornell.edu

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ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applications must comply with eligibility and submission requirements

Documents or information that are missing or incomplete will disqualify application for review

Program Eligibility - All Candidates
Must be **US Citizens**, **Non-Citizen Nationals**, or **Permanent Residents** (residency status must be met at time of application; proof of residency status required in order to be appointed)
Must have received, and been conferred, a **PhD, MD, DDS, DVM, DO, DNSc, DNR, DNP** or comparable doctoral-level degree
Junior faculty, Senior Fellows, and Residents and fellows in the Internal Medicine research pathway)
Must have a **primary appointment** with a **Weill Cornell CTSC partner institution**
Must have the ability to commit at the minimum 9 person months, equivalent to **75%** full-time **effort** (50% minimum for surgeons) directly to their KL2 research and career development activities.
No candidate may apply or hold concurrently a CTSC Funding Award (e.g., Pilot Award, Planning Award, etc.)
No KL2 candidate may be named PI on more than one active CTSC application
Only 2 resubmissions are allowed by an individual applicant (whether or not the projects are different)
If awarded the KL2, salary supplementation must be from non-Federal source. See NIH Notice for details.
Individuals who were or currently are a <u>Principal Investigator</u> on an NIH grant (e.g., R Grants, DP2, K Grants, etc.) are *not eligible*

Questions? See CTEP FAQs, or email CTSC-education@med.cornell.edu

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APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
Applications must comply with submission requirements
Documents or information that are missing or incomplete will disqualify application for review

Application Instructions and Checklist	
To access your application login to WebCAMP. Click on **Protocol Authoring and Review**. Under the **Abbreviated Title** column click on **Your KL2 Research Project Title** to access your application.	
Trainee Application Form	**Completed**
• A valid **employer issued/institutional email** is required to initiate an application.	☐
• **Is this a re-submission?** Answer 'yes' if the current application is a re-submission of a prior application that was not selected for funding/admissions. Resubmissions must outline/highlight changes from previous submission. No more than 2 resubmissions are allowed, whether or not the projects are different.	☐ ☐
• **Click on** your current **Residency Status**. Residency status must be met at time of application; proof of residency status required in order to be appointed.	☐
• Has there been any disadvantage in your life or training that you have had to overcome?	
• **If you are not selected** for the KL2 Award and **wish to be considered for any of the MS or Advanced Certificate program,** please select the appropriate check box(es). A letter of support from your department chair/division chief is required.	☐
• **Proposed Research Study:**	
o **Is this project covered under mentor's IRB/IACUC?** Answer 'yes' or 'no'	
o If research study is covered under **multiple IRB or IACUC protocols**, please click on the link "Other IRB/IACUC numbers" link to enter in other protocol numbers.	☐
• **Project Summary** – Briefly (250 word or less) describe your project written in plain language so even a non-scientist can understand the importance of the project. Include the project's broad, long-term objectives, specific aims, research design, methods, significance, and innovation.	
• **Multidisciplinary Integration** – Briefly (250 words or less) describe how a multidisciplinary approach is integrated into this proposal. A multidisciplinary approach is one that brings experts from biomedical or physical sciences with non-biological disciplines including biostatistics.	
• **Mentors -** Click on **[add]**, fill in required information. Two mentors are required, but list no more than 3 mentors. A Primary Mentor must be designated, each mentors' role must be defined. All mentors must have **active** or **recent** (federal or foundation) **funding**. Mentors cannot be listed on more than 2 active CTSC applications or current awards (including CTSC Seed Awards). Of the mentors:	
o One must be designated to serve as a **Clinical research mentor** and one a **Basic Science or Public Health mentor**	
o At least one mentor must have active NIH funding.	
o Both mentors must have a strong history of mentorship & a clear collaboration/mentoring plan.	
o At least 2 mentors, *including the designated primary mentor*, must be from different Weill Cornell	

CTSC partner institutions and from **different disciplines**. NIH definition of different disciplines will have priority (areas <u>outside</u> biology, e.g., computer science, imaging, chemistry, mathematics, informatics, engineering, behavioral science, health services/ outcomes research, and biostatistics). A mentor's institution will be determined by their primary appointment.	
Biographical Sketches	**Completed**
Upload individual MS Word files for the applicant and mentors; note the current NIH Biosketch format is required for all key personnel.	☐
Supporting Documents – Please Upload Attachments as individual PDF files.	**Completed**
Research Proposal: Projects must have translational or clinical research focus. Pre-clinical studies should have <u>near-term potential to translate into patient-oriented research</u>. Clinical Trials (phases I or II) are permitted. Emphasis is placed on drug discovery, targeted therapeutics, biomarker, device development, novel technologies; LGBTI and underserved populations health needs, research directly impacting health outcomes in the community; pediatrics, women's health studies; life course studies of diseases; and studies incorporating biostatistical methodologies and design. <u>Purely basic research proposals will not be funded.</u> **5 single-spaced** pages (at least ½ inch margins, no smaller than 11pt Arial font) to include: • Hypothesis and specific aims • Scientific background for the study, citing appropriate references of work • Significance of the research (relating specific aims to future studies to be generated) and importance of funding to feasibility of the project • Research Plan (research team to be involved, experimental design, methods, statistics, timeline, innovation, human subjects and animal issues, if applicable) • References and supporting tables, figures, 2-3 additional pages • First Name, Last Name in the upper left hand corner on all pages	☐
Career Statement (1 page or less): Discuss short- and long-term goals, and how this award would impact your career & professional development. Include applicant First Name, Last Name in document header.	☐
Letters: address to the KL2 Admissions Committee, on departmental letterhead, sign, and send from the department to ctsc-education@med.cornell.edu with candidate's name in the subject header. a. **Department Chair/Division Chief Letter:** Must state that the applicant will be guaranteed at least 75% protected time and effort; the department understands that the sources of support for the 75% KL2 effort include the CTSC KL2 grant for amounts up to $80,000 per year (plus fringe benefits); the department of the KL2 scholar is responsible for any remaining salary gap, and the remaining 25% of the scholar's salary.	☐
b. **Mentors Letters**: Required from all mentors and the designated primary mentor's letter must include a mentoring plan (click link for instructions).	☐
Other Support This document provides other active and pending support to ensure there is no scientific, budgetary, or commitment overlap through NIH "Other Support" guidelines. Note the current NIH Other Support format is required for all key personnel. Upload individual MS Word files for the applicant and mentors.	☐
Transcripts and Test Scores – Upload digital copies of test scores and transcripts with the application submission. Upon award acceptance, official documents will be submitted. Test scores include: MCAT, GRE. Transcripts from Undergraduate, graduate and/or medical school.	☐
How to Submit Your Application	
1. Return to the **Application Status Page** (link in the upper left-hand side of the page), click on the blue **Submit Application** button. 2. If you do not see the **Submit Application**, please click the **Run Detailed Completeness Check** link to display items missing, or incomplete.	

REVIEW CRITERIA

Upon submission to the online application module ePAR, your application will undergo review based on several Application Review Criteria.

APPLICATION PROCESS & TIMELINE

Applications are due by 5pm on Wednesday, January 31, 2024. Candidates will be notified by **June 2024** of their applications' final disposition. At that time, if selected for funding, the applicant will complete additional required regulatory and compliance documents within 30 days. Funding is contingent on submission of this information and failure to do so will result in disqualification. Upon submission of this additional information, the CTSC will prepare an award agreement. Once the award agreement is signed by the appropriate institutional business official(s), WCMC Grants and Contracts will review and sign the agreement and notify the CTSC that funding can be released.

BUDGET NOTES
- A budget is not due at the time of application
- KL2 Scholars cannot receive salary support from any other federal grant
- Items not allowed: 1) Capital or depreciable equipment, 2) Furniture, 3) Office supplies, 4) Membership fees or dues to organizations, 5) General software
- Only supplies of consumable nature that are directly related to the project are allowed
- Funding requests for travel and/or other supplies must be directly related to the project and clearly outlined in the budget justification. Foreign travel to conduct research is not allowed
- Each year of funding is contingent on satisfactory participation in the CTSC KL2 activities, progress toward the scholar's individual career goals, and continued support from the Scholar's mentors and department.
- This is an institutional career development award granted to the CTSC at Weill Cornell Medicine, and it is non-transferable; scholars who leave the CTSC Consortium will not be able to continue receiving KL2 funding from the Weill Cornell CTSC.

For a fast start on spending your award funds:

No expenditures related to human subjects or animals will be permitted until the CTSC is provided with a copy of the official IRB/IACUC letter of approval. Investigators are **strongly encouraged to submit IRB and/or IACUC protocols well in advance** in order to avoid significant delays in project initiation. Applicants must also be current on institutional compliance regulations.

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MENTORING PLAN INSTRUCTIONS:
(Each mentor's letter not to exceed 3 pages, excluding table of current and past trainees)

Please provide a detailed mentoring plan for the Candidate that describes the approaches to be used such as frequency of one-on-one and group meeting; oral scientific presentations; instruction on how to critically evaluate the literature and experimental design; training in scientific writing (e.g., grant proposal preparation, manuscripts, and abstracts); designing experiments, etc.

Plans to enhance the candidate's research capabilities should include:

1. Describe how the Candidate will be supported and guaranteed protected time, and how it will be ensured that the project is completed in a timely manner
2. Specific skills to be acquired during the mentoring experience
3. Milestones that will be reached during the mentoring experience (e.g., acquisition of preliminary data, new research skills, presentation of research findings at local/national meetings, and publications)
4. Opportunities to interact with research team; The role of other investigators who will contribute to the research mentoring should be described in the application
5. The mentoring plan must include instruction in the ethical conduct of research (including training in animal and human subjects' protection, if applicable)
6. A plan to acquire presentation and publication skills, and presentation of at least one poster or oral presentation at a national or international scientific meeting during the award period
7. A plan on how opportunities will be provided for the Candidate to participate in writing and publishing scientific papers
8. Describe any planned outside laboratory experiences or collaborations for the Candidate
9. How this experience will help the candidate move toward achieving her/his stated career goals
10. Mentors and candidate must provide a projected timeline delineating specific research milestones and other activities that will be undertaken to secure independent research funding (i.e., anticipated publications, training in grantsmanship, timeframe for grant submissions and type of independent research support the candidate seeks)
11. Mentors should provide evidence of mentoring experience and success. Please provide a table containing: (1) Current Trainees, (2) Past Trainees (≤ 10 years). For each of the individuals listed, please provide their current positions and name of institution, outcomes of the prior trainees. Describe how these prior mentoring experiences influenced the development/mentorship plan proposed for the current candidate

Reference NHLBI (7.1.8. MENTORING PLAN)

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APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA

Similar to the NIH process, each proposal is carefully reviewed by at least two independent evaluators for scientific merit based on translational focus and significance. The following criteria are taken into consideration:

- ✓ **Overall Impact Score -** Reviewers should provide their assessment of the likelihood that the proposed career development and research plan will enhance the candidate's potential for a productive, independent scientific research career in a health-related field, taking into consideration the criteria below in determining the overall impact score.

- ✓ **Candidate:** Does the candidate have the potential to develop to be an independent and productive researcher? Is the candidate's prior training and research experience appropriate for the proposed project? Is the candidate's academic, clinical (if relevant), and research record of high quality? Is there evidence of the candidate's commitment to meeting the program objectives to become an independent investigator in research? Do the letters of reference address the above review criteria, and do they provide evidence that the candidate has a high potential for becoming an independent investigator?

- ✓ **Career Development Plan/Career Goals & Objectives -** What is the likelihood that the plan (the award) will contribute substantially to the scientific development of the candidate and lead to scientific independence?

- ✓ **Research Proposal -** Is there a strong scientific premise for the project? Are the proposed research question, design, and methodology of significant scientific and technical merit? Has the candidate presented strategies to ensure a robust and unbiased **approach**, as appropriate for the work proposed? Is the research plan of high quality, and does it have potential for advancing the field of study with **innovation**? Is the scientific and technical merit of the proposed research plan of **significance**? Will the proposed research lead to an independent line of research for the candidate?

- ✓ **Mentors and Mentoring Plan** - At least 2 mentors are required. Primary and Secondary mentors must be from CTSC partner institutions. Additional mentors may be from any institution. Are the qualifications of the mentor(s) in the area of the proposed research appropriate? Does the mentor(s) adequately address the candidate's potential and his/her strengths and areas needing improvement? Is there adequate description of the mentor's proposed role in providing guidance and advice to the candidate? Is there evidence of the mentors' current research productivity and peer-reviewed support? Is there evidence of the mentors' active/pending research funding? Do the letters from mentors document their willingness to participate in the award program? Is the proposed Mentoring plan likely to contribute substantially to the scientific and professional development of the candidate, and facilitate his/her successful transition to independence? (see Instructions for Mentoring Plan)

- ✓ **Environment & Departmental Commitment:** Is there a strong statement of commitment by the department to the levels of effort required to devote directly to the research and career development

activities described in the application? Is the environment for scientific and professional development of the candidate of high quality? Is there assurance that the department intends the candidate to be an integral part of its research program as an independent investigator?

The following areas receive additional priorities for their special relevance to the CTSC mission:
- **Translational and Clinical Research Focus** – Projects aimed at improving research methods and/or incubating novel technologies to accelerate multidisciplinary clinical and translational research.
- **Pre-clinical studies** should have near-term potential to translate into patient- oriented research, and clinical trials (phases I or II) are permitted.
- **Emphasis is placed on:**
  - Drug discovery, targeted therapeutics, biomarker or device development and novel technologies
  - **Comparative effectiveness and health disparities research:** Projects focusing on health needs of underserved and special populations such as children, the elderly, vulnerable, and disabled populations, and LGBTI communities, and/or directly impacting health outcomes in the community, as well as health disparities research
  - **Pediatric and Women's Health Studies**
  - **Life course studies of disease**
  - Studies incorporating **Biostatistical Methodology and Design**

Questions? See CTSC FAQs, or email CTSC-Education@med.cornell.edu