Weill Cornell Medicine
Clinical & Translational Science Center

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 TL1 TRAINING AWARD FOR *PRE- & EARLY* POST-DOCS

Request for Applications

DUE BY 5PM ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026

$38,038 for one year (Pre-docs)

Up to $82,540 for one year* (Post-docs)

**Depending on level of experience*

(residents, fellows, early post-doc PhDs)

Year 1 Funding Period: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

NOTE: 2nd year funding is contingent on continued NIH CTSC Grant Funding

Appointments are for up to 2 years and are based on the bi-annual evaluation of trainee progress

CLICK TO INITIATE APPLICATION

View Eligibility Requirements and Application Instructions

The goal of the CTSC TL1 Training Award is to support career development among pre- and early post-doctoral trainees by providing rigorous training and mentorship to conduct clinical and translational team science across disciplines and institutions. The program equips trainees with the knowledge and skills to advance diagnostics, therapeutics, clinical interventions, and behavioral strategies that improve health, while accelerating the translational science process to deliver new treatments and cures to patients more quickly.

TL1 projects require a translational or clinical research focus. Projects with a focus on translational science are particularly encouraged. Emphasis is placed on the following priority areas: precision medicine, drug discovery, targeted therapeutics, biomarkers, device development, novel technologies, pediatric health, life course studies of diseases, studies incorporating biostatistical methodologies and design, and inclusion of dissemination and implementation strategies.

Purely basic science research proposals will not be funded. Pre-clinical studies should *have near-term potential to translate into patient-oriented research*.

What is Translational Science? Translational science is the field that generates innovations that overcome longstanding challenges along the translational research pipeline. These include scientific, operational, financial, and administrative innovations that transform the way that research is performed, making it faster, more efficient, and more impactful. Read more about the stages of translational science here.

Dissemination and Implementation science (D&I) is a crucial component of innovating and overcoming challenges in translational science. Accordingly, we are introducing D&I frameworks and methods into the TL1 Training Award review, placing D&I within the overarching discussions of the proposed research question, design, methodology, and potential impact(s) of the research findings. To learn more, please refer to the CTSC D&I Science Lecture Series.

TL1 Trainees pursue research training *on a full-time basis, defined by NIH as 40 hours per week (100% time and effort)*. Appointments are made for 12 months (no less than 9 months), up to 2 years, based on positive bi-annual evaluation of scholarly progress. Trainees receive:

- Stipend coverage at the NIH approved level
- Funding for supplies and research support including educational expenses
- Funding for travel to present at national conferences and symposia
- Access to research support services to facilitate conducting C/T science research
- Multi-tiered mentorship
- Clinical and Translational science didactic research education
- Professional skills education and career development coaching

EDUCATIONAL AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Pre and Post-doctoral MD Awardees	***Pre and Post-doctoral PhD Awardees***
TL1 awardees who are enrolled as medical students or currently hold medical degrees enroll in either the Advanced Certificate (if funded for 1 year) or the Master's in C/T Investigation Degree (if funded for 2 years).	Awardees are encouraged to enroll in the Advanced Certificate and/or Master's Degree in C/T Investigation. TL1 Awardees who are enrolled in or currently hold doctoral-level research degrees (PhDs) complete a total of 10 course credits during their appointment.

To complete the TL1 program, the following are required:

- Completion within the last four years of human subjects' protection training such as the Responsible Conduct of Research training course
- Completion of at least one CTSC mentoring workshop and active participation in monthly Research-in-Progress seminars.
- One first-author scientific article submitted to a peer-reviewed high-quality scientific journal ***OR*** if appropriate, a clinical & translational grant submitted to a federal institution (i.e., K awards or other NIH funding mechanisms, AHRQ, PCORI), or other foundation/industry research funding requiring peer-review with the trainee as Principal Investigator.
- Presentation of original data in formal scientific venues:
  a. Abstract submission and poster presentation of CTSC TL1 research project at the annual Translational Science National Conference
  b. Presentation of CTSC TL1 research project at a local, national, or international scientific conference
  c. Presentation of CTSC TL1 research project at a WCM CTSC Research-in-Progress seminar

TL1 Awardees must also agree to complete the CTSC Annual Alumni Surveys for a minimum of 15 years beyond the trainee's participation in the TL1 Program.

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

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 clinical and translational scientists who are prepared to advance translational science discovery to practice, public health, and public policy, 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 of the wide range of lived experiences and backgrounds of the US population.

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CTSC TL1 PRE- & EARLY POST-DOCTORAL AWARD APPLICATIONS

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 Citizen**, **Non-Citizen National**, or **Permanent Resident** (residency status must be met at time of application; proof of residency status is required in order to be appointed)
Must have the ability to devote full-time (**100% effort)** to the program
Must have a **primary appointment** with a **Weill Cornell CTSC partner institution**
No candidate may apply to or hold concurrently a CTSC Pilot Funding Award. If awarded, no other Federal funding support is allowed
A TL1 appointment may not be held concurrently with another Federally sponsored fellowship, traineeship, or similar Federal award that provides a stipend or otherwise duplicates provisions of the TL1 Program.
No TL1 candidate may be named as PI on more than one active CTSC application
Only 1 resubmission is allowed by an individual applicant (whether or not the projects are different)
Applicants with pending grant applications to NIH or other private/foundation funding source (with salary/stipend support) are not eligible
Fellows must ensure that they have at least 2 years remaining in their program (from the start of the TL1 appointment), dedicated to research (100% effort)
Pre-doctoral Candidates
Must have received a **baccalaureate degree** by date of appointment and be one of the following:
- Pre-doctoral medical **(MD)** student **at WCM** in 3rd or 4th year. *Encouraged to meet with Dean Salvatore Cilmi and Director of Medical Student Research to plan timing of TL1 research and ECR.*
- **Graduate student** enrolled at a **CTSC partner institution** who has passed their Admission to Candidacy Exam (ACE)
- **Nurse** candidate enrolled in a **DSN or DNP** program
- Pre-doctoral veterinary **(DVM)** student at Cornell University, Ithaca
An individual trainee may receive no more than 5 years of aggregate NRSA support at the pre-doctoral level
Transitioning from pre-doc to post-doc during a funding period is **not allowed by the NIH**
Post-doctoral Candidates
- Awardees must have received, and been conferred, a **PhD, MD, DDS, DVM, DO, DNSc, DNR, DNP** or comparable doctoral-level degree by date of appointment (July 1), and be *early* post-docs (less than 3 years past terminal doctoral degree). Residents in a formal research track are also eligible to apply if less than 3 years past MD.
- Graduate student nearing graduation who wishes to be appointed as a post-doc (PGY 0 level) must submit a verification of degree letter stating the date of degree conferral and the date of their first post-doctoral research position.
An individual trainee may receive no more than 3 years of aggregate NRSA support at the post-doctoral level.

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

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CTSC TL1 TRAINING AWARD
(PRE-DOCS & EARLY POST-DOCS)

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications must comply with eligibility and submission requirements

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

Application Instructions and Checklist	
To access your application please login to WebCAMP. Click on **Protocol Authoring and Review**. Under the "Abbreviated Title" column click on **Your TL1 Research Project Title** to access your application. • **Medical students who are considering applying for TL1 support are encouraged to meet with the Director for Medical student research prior to preparing their 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. A resubmission is an unfunded application that has been modified following initial review and resubmitted for consideration. No more than 1 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 will be required in order to be appointed.	☐
• **For post-docs**: enter the **start date of the first research position** held after the terminal doctoral degree.	☐
• **[Optional]** Has there been any disadvantage in your life or training that you have had to overcome?	☐
• **If you are not selected** for the TL1 Award and **wish to be considered for any of the MS or Advanced Certificate programs,** please select the appropriate check box(es). A letter of support from your department chair/division chief will required upon acceptance.	☐
• **Project Summary:** Briefly (250 words or less) describe your project 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 together with non-biological disciplines including biostatistics.	☐
• **Potential Impact:** Please describe the potential future impact of this research proposal. You can refer to this resource to help clinical scientists demonstrate their work's impact using the Translational Science Benefits Model (TSBM) framework: https://translationalsciencebenefits.wustl.edu/about-the-model/	☐

• **Proposed Research Study:**
  • **Is this project covered under the mentor's IRB/IACUC?** Answer 'yes' or 'no'
  • If research study is covered under **multiple IRB or IACUC protocols**, please click on the "Other IRB/IACUC numbers" to enter in the additional protocol numbers.
	☐

• **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, and each mentor's role must be defined. Mentors cannot be listed on more than 2 active CTSC applications or current awards (including CTSC Pilot Awards). Regarding the mentors: • The **primary mentor** must have **completed formal mentor training** (refresher, in-person, or online) **within the past 4 years,** and this must be **documented** (date, program title and institution) in the **personal statement** section of their **NIH Biosketch** (see Mentoring Plan instructions for details). Ideally, all mentors should have completed mentor training within the past 4 years. • One mentor must be designated to serve as a **clinical research mentor** and one mentor a **basic science or public health mentor** • All mentors must have strong records as researchers, including recent publications and active or recent (federal, foundation, institutional, industry) funding, and at least one mentor must have active Federal or other competitively awarded research support. • Both mentors must have a strong history of mentorship & a clear collaboration/mentoring plan. • 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 outside 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 a translational or clinical research focus. Pre-clinical studies should have near-term potential to translate into patient-oriented research. Clinical Trials (phases I or II) are permitted. Emphasis is placed on drug discovery, targeted therapeutics, biomarker, device development, novel technologies; 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. Pure basic science research proposals will not be funded**.** **3 single-spaced** pages (at least ½ inch margins, 11pt Arial font) to include: • Hypothesis and specific aims • Scientific background for the study, citing appropriate references of work in the area by the investigator(s) and others • 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 approvals, if applicable) • References and supporting tables, figures (2-3 additional pages are allowable) • First Name, Last Name in the upper left-hand corner on all pages	☐
Career Statement (1 page or less) – Discuss your short- and long-term goals, and how this award would impact your career & professional development. Please include First Name, Last Name in document header.	☐
Letters: address to the TL1 Admissions Committee on departmental letterhead, signed, and emailed directly from the department/admin office to ctsc-education@med.cornell.edu with candidate's name in the subject header. Letters of support will not be accepted until the applicant has initiated an application and completed	☐

the mentor(s) section. ☐

Applicant	Required Letters of Support
ALL Applicants	**Letters from Mentors**: required from all listed mentors. The primary mentor's letter must include a Mentoring Plan (click link for instructions).
Medical Students	**In addition to the mentors' letters, include a separate letter from Dean Cilmi** confirming the student's good academic standing, approving the application, and granting permission to accept the award and fulfill all program requirements.
Graduate Students	**In addition to the mentors' letters, include a separate letter from Graduate School,** co-signed by Graduate School Dean (Dean Eliezer if WCM students) and PhD Program Director, confirming the student has passed ACE exam and in good academic standing, and granting permission to apply and accept the award and fulfill all program requirements.
Post-docs	**In addition to the mentors' letters, include a separate letter from Department Chair/Division Chief** stating that applicant will be guaranteed 100% protected time and effort devoted to the TL1 Training Program.

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 or PDF files for the applicant and mentors.

Transcripts and Test Scores – Upload digital copies of test scores and transcripts with application submission. Upon award acceptance, official documents will be submitted. Test scores (optional) 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) and click on the blue **Submit Application** button.
2. If you do not see the **Submit Application,** please click on the **Run Detailed Completeness Check** link to display items still 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, March 4, 2026. Candidates will be notified in **June 2026** 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 Office of Sponsored Administration will review and sign the agreement and notify the CTSC that funds can be released.

BUDGET NOTES

- A budget is not due at the time of application
- Tuition and fees**:** partial support is available on some pre-doc TL1 awards
- TL1 trainees cannot receive stipend 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 allowable.
- Each year of funding is contingent on satisfactory participation in the CTSI TL1 activities and 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 TL1 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.

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

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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 including frequency of one-on-one and group meetings; 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. The proposed primary mentor must have completed mentor training (refresher, in-person, or online) within the past four years, and this must be documented in the personal statement section of their NIH Biosketch (date, program title and institution). Ideally, all mentors should have completed mentor training within the past 4 years.
2. 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
3. Specific skills to be acquired during the mentoring experience
4. 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)
5. Opportunities to interact with the research team and the role of other investigators who will contribute to the research mentoring should be described in the application
6. The mentoring plan must include instruction in the ethical conduct of research (including training in animal and human subjects' protection, if applicable)
7. 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
8. A description of opportunities that will be provided for the Candidate to participate in writing and publishing scientific papers
9. Describe any planned outside laboratory experiences or collaborations for the Candidate
10. How this experience will help the candidate move toward achieving her/his stated career goals
11. 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)
12. 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, and outcomes of the prior trainees. Describe how these prior mentoring experiences influenced the development/mentorship plan proposed for the current candidate

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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 -** Reviewers should provide their assessment of the likelihood that the proposed research plan will enhance the candidate's potential for a productive, 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 into 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 a scientific research career?

- ✓ **Research Proposal -** Is there a strong scientific premise for the project? Are the proposed research questions, 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, 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 program? Is the proposed Mentoring plan likely to contribute substantially to the scientific and professional development of the candidate, and facilitate their successful transition to a scientific research career? (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?

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 children, the elderly, vulnerable, and disabled populations
  - **Pediatric Health Studies**
  - **Life-course studies of disease**
  - Studies incorporating **Biostatistical Methodology and Design**
  - Inclusion of **Dissemination and Implementation strategies.** To learn more, please refer to the CTSC D&I Science Lecture Series.

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