

**Opportunity for a Career Development Award:
Request for Proposals for Funding as a KL2 or Institutional
Scholar for Early-Career Clinical or Translational Investigators
at UTHHealth and Affiliated CTSA Institutions
*Proposals due by January 10, 2022, for funding July 1, 2022***

The KL2 and Institutional Scholar programs provide career development awards to outstanding early-career faculty members who aspire to become future leaders in clinical or translational research. Upon funding, each awardee will participate in a formal program of research training and mentorship, conduct a major clinical or translational study,^a and receive salary support for 75% protected time^b (50% for surgeons) and \$25,000/yr for 1-3 yrs.

To be eligible, you must be a US citizen or permanent resident (green card holder) and an instructor or assistant professor at UTHHealth or an affiliated CTSA institution with an MD, DO, DSN, DDS, Ph.D., DrPH, or PharmD degree. Some restrictions may apply. ^c Applications are due no later than **5 pm January 10, 2022**. We plan to notify finalists by email on February 14, 2022. They will be asked to give a 10 minute presentation of their proposal to the UTH KL2 selection committee on **February 21, 2022** (in-person/ virtual TBD). Provided IRB approval has been obtained for the specific project. Funding is expected to begin July 1, 2022.

The application form and instructions are attached. The instructions and the footnoted below should be read carefully. Potential applicants with questions may email or call Micky Titus (Micquelyn.Titus@uth.tmc.edu; 713-500-5651), Charles "Trey" Miller, Ph.D. (Charles.C.Miller@uth.tmc.edu; Jon Tyson, MD, MPH Jon.E.Tyson@uth.tmc.edu; 713-500-5651)

If you submit a proposal is most likely to be funded if it involves

- a) an experienced, federally funded mentor highly committed to supervising your research and individualized career development plan;
- b) a methodologically strong proposal for research that is likely to be feasible during the 2 -year funding period and that addresses a novel or important clinical or translational question (proposals for research involving only animals are not acceptable);
- c) a productive track record of publishing clinical or translational research (productivity to be assessed in relation to clinical responsibilities and interval since you completed your training).
- d) a demonstrated commitment to securing formal training and advanced clinical or translational research skills as evident from participation in a Clinical Research Curriculum, an MS degree program in translational, clinical, health services, epidemiological research, or other similar or more advanced educational programs.

To remain in good standing, each awardee must successfully complete each course of the Clinical Research Curriculum in the order they are given except when similar courses taken elsewhere have been approved by Dr. Miller or Tyson as appropriate substitutes. If appropriate to their career goals, applicants would also take more advanced courses or obtain an MS degree in Clinical Research or other degrees. Each awardee will be required to submit a progress report at 6 weeks and 3 months after funding begins and at 6 month intervals thereafter demonstrating satisfactory progress during the funding period and thereafter provide an updated biosketch and publications annually to the Director of the KL2 Program.

^a The NIH defines Clinical Research as:

(1) Patient-oriented research. Research conducted with human subjects (or on the material of human origins such as tissues, specimens, and cognitive phenomena) for which an investigator (or colleague) directly interacts with human subjects. Excluded from this definition are in vitro studies

that utilize human tissues that cannot be linked to a living individual. Patient-oriented research includes: (a) mechanisms of human disease, (b) therapeutic interventions, (c) clinical trials, or (d) development of new technologies.

(2) Epidemiologic and behavioral studies.

(3) Outcomes research and health services research.

Translational research involves 1) applying discoveries generated in the laboratory and in preclinical studies to the development of studies in humans or 2) conducting research to enhance the adoption of best practices in the community.

Research involving only laboratory studies of animal models are not acceptable for this award.

^b In calculating the percent protected time, the NIH has indicated that the denominator includes "total institutional activities for which an individual is compensated by a UT Institution." This includes any time in house for patient care/call at night and on weekends or holidays. .

This definition is strictly enforced for KL2 Scholars. It is important to understand that % effort is not calculated on a 40-hour workweek or any other standard workweek. In addition, total effort must equal 100%. For example, if an individual averages 80 hours per week during the reporting period, 75% protected time requires that a mean of 60 hrs/wk be devoted to the KL2. Effort reporting is calculated over a 6-month window. It allows for periods of time when effort may be selectively applied to one activity or another but requires that the average effort over the 6 month window be as committed.

^c These funds may be spent in the way that best promotes the research and career development of the awardee (expenditures for any foreign travel must be preapproved.)

^d Total salary support from any source cannot exceed 100%. The grant support provides a maximum of \$120K (plus benefits) for salary support of the awardee. A KL2 scholar may not simultaneously have received any other PHS mentored career development award (e.g., K07, K08, K22, K23), that duplicated any of the provisions of the KL2 program. Former or current principal investigators on any NIH research project grant (this does not include NIH Small Grants (R03) Exploratory/Developmental (R21) grants or their equivalent non-PHS peer reviewed research grants that are over \$100,000 direct costs per year, or project leaders on sub-projects of program project (P01) or center grants (P50) are NOT eligible to participate as KL2 scholars. KL2 applicants who have such proposal(s) in review should indicate this in their proposal.