



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO



RUSH



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY



INSTITUTE FOR TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS CTSA KL2 Clinical and Translational Scholar Awards

Applications Due by 11:59 pm CST Sunday, October 26, 2025

The Institute for Translational Medicine announces funding for CTSA KL2 Clinical and Translational Scholar Awards that provide substantial salary support (up to \$100,000 plus fringe) plus research funding support for faculty-level clinical and translational scientists near the beginning of their investigative careers. Applications are for funding in 2026, with appointments beginning as early as April 1, 2026. Appointments are for two years and we anticipate making 1-2 awards. Eligible candidates may be from any ITM-affiliated institution (UChicago, Rush, Loyola, NorthShore, IIT, Advocate), must hold a doctoral degree and must have a faculty-level appointment during the period of support. Graduate students or post-doctoral trainees are not eligible.

OVERVIEW OF THE CTSA KL2 MECHANISM

CTSA KL2 Scholars are to be relatively new investigators, at the faculty level of Assistant Professor or Instructor, who are committed to a career in clinical/translational research or translational science. In certain circumstances, Associate Professors can apply if they are newly entering these fields. The goal of the CTSA KL2 Scholar mechanism is to produce accomplished researchers capable of utilizing the tools of clinical and/or basic research to improve the understanding or treatment of human disease.

- The KL2 award provides up to \$100,000 salary support plus fringe per year to cover 75% of the awardee's effort. Awardees **must** devote 75% of their effort to their research project and training plan during the two years of their appointment. For awardees in surgical disciplines, the effort requirement is reduced to 50%.
 - If a scholar's salary exceeds \$133,334 such that the support from this award will not cover their required effort, the department must guarantee that the remaining support up to the required minimum effort will come from departmental funds without imposing additional responsibilities on the scholar.
- The KL2 award also provides \$30,000 per year (\$60,000 total) in research support funds. These funds are to be used by the scholar to support their research project and training plan and may include any expenses allowable under NIH Grants Policy. Examples of allowable costs include supplies (e.g., computer, laboratory, or office supplies), travel to scholarly meetings, publication costs, salary support for research staff, animal testing, incentives paid to research participants, etc. Applicants must provide a budget and justification for how they intend to spend their research funds as part of their application.
- KL2 scholars are also given the opportunity to participate in targeted training, workshops, seminars and programming sponsored by the ITM, aimed at helping them acquire the skills needed to become independent, funded investigators.

ELIGIBILITY

U.S. citizen or permanent resident with research or clinical doctoral degree and a faculty appointment at their institution.

For more information visit https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/HTML5/section_12/12.3.4_citizenship.htm

To be eligible for appointment to the KL2 program, scholars must not have an application pending for any other PHS mentored career development award (e.g. K07, K08, K22, K23) that duplicates any of the provisions of the K component. If a scholar applies for any other K award before being appointed to the program, it will make them ineligible, and the award will be withdrawn.

Former or current PDs/PIs on any NIH research project grant [this does not include NIH small grants (R03), exploratory Developmental (R21) or SBIR, STTR (R43, R44 grants)] or equivalent non-PHS peer reviewed 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 for this program.

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 done, making it faster, more efficient, and more impactful. The National Center for Advancing Translational Science (NCATS) defines translational science projects as those that exhibit one or more of the Translational Science Principles.

[Translational Science Principles | National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences \(nih.gov\)](#)

The ITM seeks to advance translational science at the same time it supports translational research through its career development program. KL2 applicants are expected to explain how their research project advances the field of Translational Science through its alignment with one or more of the Translational Science Principles.

EXPECTATIONS OF CTSA KL2 SCHOLARS

- Candidates are expected to assemble a multidisciplinary mentoring committee of senior advisors/mentors and meet with their mentors regularly.
- All KL2 Scholars are expected to participate in the monthly ITM Clinical Scholar Seminar Series, as well as ITM Outcomes Research Workshops or other ITM educational seminars, as appropriate to their areas of study.
- A crucial expectation of the awardees is that preliminary data will be developed which will serve as the basis for an NIH grant application (or equivalent) in clinical and/or translational research.
- Awardees will be expected to submit reports on a yearly basis or more frequently as requested by ITM leadership.

KL2 SCHOLAR APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online using the [KL2 Career Development Program Application \(https://redcap.uchicago.edu/surveys/?s=7W4CWLMD3D\)](https://redcap.uchicago.edu/surveys/?s=7W4CWLMD3D) by Sunday, October 26, 2025 at 11:59:59 pm. Applications **will not** be accepted after the deadline, so please start early and plan for questions and last-minute submission problems.

Applications must include the following:

1. An NIH Biosketch.
2. A one-page description of the candidate's commitment to an academic career in patient-oriented research. Include a description of all professional responsibilities and show their relation to the proposed activities on the career award.
3. A one-page detailed, structured training plan that includes at least some specific, didactic training to be undertaken during the appointment period.
4. A seven-page research plan including Specific Aims (1 page) and Research Strategy (6 pages), the latter including Significance, Innovation, Approach, Impact, and Preliminary Studies. In addition (no page restriction), please include Literature Cited and information regarding Human Subjects and Vertebrate Animals as appropriate.
5. A description of how the research project furthers Translational Science by addressing or exhibiting one or more of the Translational Science Principles (2 page maximum).
6. A budget and justification explaining how the applicant intends to spend \$30,000 per year for two years in support of their research project and training plan.
7. A brief letter from the Department Chair or Section Leader addressing:
 - a. The candidate's prospects for development into an independently funded clinical/translational scientist;
 - b. The Department's assurance that at least 75% of the candidate's time will be protected for research career development and devoted to her/his role as a K12 Scholar (at least 50% for surgeons);
 - c. Names of the proposed mentors who will constitute a multidisciplinary mentoring committee for the Scholar (a minimum of two disciplines must be represented)
8. A brief letter from the candidate's mentors, indicating their commitment to the candidate and endorsement of the candidate's training plan.
9. An attestation by the applicant that, at the time of their application, they do not have an application pending for any other PHS mentored career development award (e.g. K07, K08, K22, K23) that scientifically duplicates any part of their proposed research project.
10. For projects that involve human subjects research, the following documentation must also be included in the application
 - a. While the protocol does not yet have to have IRB approval, the IRB application must have been submitted to the IRB. Applicants from the University of Chicago must list "ISAP" as a reviewing committee in answering question 2.1.2 of their IRB application in AURA. The ITM pilot application must list the project's AURA-IRB number. For applications coming from outside the University of Chicago, a copy of the complete IRB application, including all documents, must be submitted.
 - b. A completed Protection of Human Subjects document, following the instructions in the NIH's Supplemental Instructions for Preparing the Human Subjects Section of the Research Plan (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/SupplementalInstructions.pdf>).
 - c. List of Eligibility Criteria, including Age Limits
 - d. Inclusion plan for Women and Minorities
 - e. Plan for the Inclusion of Individuals Across the Lifespan
 - f. Recruitment and Retention Plan
 - g. Study Timeline
 - h. Targeted Enrollment Table or Inclusion Data Record
 - i. Data and Safety Monitoring Plan
 - j. Proof of Human Subjects Research and Good Clinical Practice training for all study personnel

Projects that meet the NIH Definition of a Clinical Trial must also submit the following:

- k. Narrative Study Description
- l. Statement of the Primary Purpose of the Study
- m. Description of the Study Interventions
- n. Study Phase
- o. Description of the Intervention Model
- p. Description of Study Masking/Blinding
- q. Description of Study Allocation/Randomization
- r. Description of Study Outcome Measures
- s. Description of the Study's Statistical Power and Design
- t. Description of the Study Subject Participation Duration
- u. IND/IDE Paperwork or FDA Determination
- v. Dissemination Plan

Projects that are deemed by the IRB to be Exempt must provide a letter of exemption from the IRB, citing the exemption category.

Please see the [NIH's directions on completing the PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information Form](#) for detailed instructions on the documents required in Step 10, above.

PLEASE NOTE: All applications involving human subjects research must undergo a regulatory review prior to receiving permission to expend research funds. Failure to provide the requested human subjects research documentation may result in your application being rejected from review.

All uploaded application documents must be in PDF format, with a minimum ½" margins and 11 pt. Font.

Applications by women, underrepresented minorities, individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, and individuals with disabilities remain a high priority for funding. The academic and intellectual background, motivation, and commitment of the candidate to pursue clinical and/or translational research will be evaluated.

The criteria for selecting awardees will include assessment of the candidate's potential, the dedication to clinical and/or translational research, the degree of support from the Department, and the extent to which the candidate's research project exhibits Translational Science Principles.

NEED HELP WITH YOUR APPLICATION?

The ITM offers a 10-week summer workshop to help you write a K application. Led by senior investigators and NIH reviewers, the ITM's K Writing Workshop meets for ninety minutes each week and provides hands-on help with how to best organize and write a K application. Workshop participants actually work on their applications during the course and receive targeted, constructive feedback on their drafts.

Visit the [ITM Website \(https://chicagoitm.org/itm-university-of-chicago-grant-writing-feedback-for-researchers/\)](https://chicagoitm.org/itm-university-of-chicago-grant-writing-feedback-for-researchers/) for more information or to enroll.

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