REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)
2017 Advanced Pathways to Research Program (A-PReP)

Program Overview

- Applicants must be University of Minnesota doctoral-level professional health sciences students with interest in clinical or translational research
- Award announced February 2017
- Program start date June 5, 2017
- Up to five students will be selected
- Stipend of approximately $560/week for 8-12 weeks between June 5, 2017 and August 25, 2017 is provided
- Applicants from underrepresented populations are strongly encouraged to apply
- All UMN doctoral-level professional health sciences students are eligible regardless of citizenship or immigration status

Applications due by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Thursday, January 19, 2017

1. NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THIS RFA

The purpose of the Advanced Pathways to Research Program is to introduce eligible doctoral-level health professional students, (MD, PharmD, DNP, DDS, DVM), with limited prior research experience, to clinical and translational research. Awardees will gain an understanding of the translational research spectrum and exposure to academic careers in translational research. This program provides research training through a structured core curriculum including mentored research projects, weekly training seminars, small group discussions, networking events and a research poster presentation at the annual University of Minnesota CTSI Poster Session and Reception held in fall 2017. Scholars will conduct original research under the direct supervision of a University of Minnesota faculty mentor active in clinical or translational research. With input and oversight by the faculty mentor, the scholars will design a research-training plan according to career interests and the mentor’s ongoing research programs.

This program is an introduction to research and intended for professional doctoral students with limited research experience. It is not geared for students in traditional PhD programs. PhD students interested in CTSI translational research opportunities should look to the launching of the TL1 Training Grant in fall 2017.

2. SELECTION CRITERIA

- Interest in clinical or translational and a desire for an academic career
- Two letters of recommendation
- Letter of support from proposed mentor
- Training experience of proposed mentor
• Academic credentials
• Mentor-Mentee Compact
• Quality of essay and research plan
• Candidate interview: Interviews will last approximately 15 minutes and will be conducted via video conference with up to three experienced mentors

3. EXPECTATIONS OF SCHOLARS

• Commit to full-time research training for 8 to 12 weeks during the summer of 2017
• Must not hold concurrent RA or TA position, ongoing didactic or clinical training responsibilities, or other UMN jobs while in this program
• Attend weekly program seminars
• Complete all required trainings for research
• Complete baseline, weekly, and post evaluations
• Prepare a final research poster to present findings and translational component at the CTSI Poster Session and Reception in fall 2017

4. MENTORS

Scholars are expected to seek out and propose a mentor who conducts clinical or translational research in an area of the scholar’s research interest and who has a strong record of successful mentoring experiences. A list of mentors who have participated in past programs is available on the CTSI website. However, scholars can propose to work with any faculty member conducting clinical and translational research at the University of Minnesota. Proposed Mentors must submit a letter of support, mentor training experience form, an updated NIH biosketch, and work with the scholar to complete a Mentor/Mentee Compact.

5. EXPECTATIONS OF MENTORS

• Complete Optimizing the Practice of Mentoring: An Online Curriculum for the Professional Development of Research Mentors by June 2, 2017. Course link: http://z.umn.edu/mentortrain
• Attend new mentor orientation (for new mentors only)
• Complete a Mentor-Mentee Compact with the Scholar (as part of application)
• Hold regular, planned interactions with the Scholar
• Attend the Program Kick-Off event in June and the mid-program event in July with other scholars and mentors
• Complete all evaluation assessments
• Attend and participate in the CTSI Poster Session and Reception in fall 2017

6. APPLICATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

Complete and submit an online application and upload all required documents through the submission link on the CTSI A-PReP website below by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Thursday, January 19, 2017. The submission system will automatically close at 12:01 p.m. Late or partially completed applications will not be accepted, please plan accordingly.
Clinical and Translational Science Institute

PROGRAM TIMELINE

- November 2016  RFA released
- January 19, 2017  Applications due (12 p.m.)
- February 2017  Successful candidates contacted for interviews/Interviews conducted
- February 2017  Successful candidates contacted, placed with mentor
- May 2017  New Scholar Orientation on University of Minnesota - Twin Cities campus
- June 5, 2017  Program begins
- August 25, 2017  Program ends

Complete applications should adhere to the guidelines below and must include:

| 1. Scholar Applicant Information | online form |
| 2. Personal Essay (single space, 12-point font) | up to 4 pages |
|   - Describe any research experience you have had (if applicable) |
|   - Your career goals |
|   - Why you are interested in the training program |
|   - Provide an overview of your proposed work including: background, sample, hypotheses, and methodology (not to exceed 2 pages) |
| 3. Curriculum Vitae | up to 4 pages |
| 4. All transcripts from undergraduate school and your current program (unofficial copy acceptable) |
| 5. Two letters of recommendation |
| 6. Letter of support from proposed mentor |
| 7. Proposed mentor’s current NIH biosketch |
| 8. Proposed Mentor Training Experience Form |
| 9. Mentor-Mentee Compact |

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Find more information at http://z.umn.edu/aprep17