REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)
2019 Advanced Pathways to Research Program (A-PReP)

Program Overview

- Applicants must be University of Minnesota doctoral or professional health sciences students with interest in clinical or translational research
  - Doctoral student eligibility is limited to those within their first 12 months of starting their pre-doc program and with limited past research experience. Questions regarding level of research experience should be sent to ctsieduc@umn.edu with CV attached.
- Health Professional applicants who are scheduled to graduate in May 2019 are eligible but should include a description of their plans for 6-months post-graduation in their personal essay
- Award announced March 2019
- Program dates: June 3 – August 23, 2019
- Up to ten students will be selected
- Stipend of approximately $560/week for 8-12 weeks
- 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 are due by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Monday, February 11, 2019

1. NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THIS RFA
The purpose of the Advanced Pathways to Research Program is to introduce eligible doctoral and health professional students, (MD, PharmD, DNP, DDS, DVM), with limited prior research experience, to human health and/or 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 2019. 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 training program is an introduction to research and intended for students with limited research experience.

2. SELECTION CRITERIA
- Interest in human health, clinical and/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 2019
• 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 2019

4. MENTORS
Scholars are expected to seek out and propose a mentor who conducts human health and/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.

Mentors can also propose potential project without having a scholar yet in mind and CTSI staff can assist in making a potential match of interests and does not commit the mentor to having a student.

5. EXPECTATIONS OF MENTORS
• Complete Optimizing the Practice of Mentoring: An Online Curriculum for the Professional Development of Research Mentors by May 31, 2019. 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 2019

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 Monday, February 11, 2019. The submission
system will automatically close at 12:01 p.m. Late or partially completed applications will not be accepted, please plan accordingly.

**PROGRAM TIMELINE**

- December 2018  
  RFA released
- February 11, 2019  
  Applications due (12 p.m.)
- February 2019  
  Successful candidates contacted for interviews/Interviews conducted
- March 2019  
  Successful candidates contacted
- May 2019  
  Program Orientation on University of Minnesota - Twin Cities campus
- June 3, 2019  
  Program begins
- August 23, 2019  
  Program ends
- Fall 2019  
  CTSI Poster Session

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

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Scholar Applicant Information</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Personal Essay (single space, 12-point font)</td>
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<td>- Describe any research experience you have had (if applicable)</td>
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<td>- Your career goals</td>
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<td>- Why you are interested in the training program</td>
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<td>- Provide an overview of your research plan: background, sample, clearly stated hypothesis*, and methodology (not to exceed 2 pages, further instructions provided on page 4)</td>
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<td>*applications without a clearly stated hypothesis will not be scored</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Curriculum Vitae</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>All transcripts from undergraduate school and your current program (unofficial copy acceptable)</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Two letters of recommendation</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Letter of support from proposed mentor</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Proposed mentor’s current NIH biosketch</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Proposed Mentor Training Experience Form</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Mentor-Mentee Compact</td>
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RESEARCH PLAN INSTRUCTIONS
This is a 12 to 8-week training program designed to assist a student in understanding the scope of translational science. To that end, each student is paired with a mentor conducting translational research. Within that mentor-mentee relationship, students may be conducting a narrowly defined project that can be completed in 8 weeks, or interface in some way with a larger on-going research project. Both are equally acceptable. A detailed methodology section is not required as the science will not be evaluated. The application should avoid making broad, sweeping, or grandiose goals for the student. Expectations should be achievable within eight weeks.

For interfacing with a larger on-going project:

- In a few paragraphs, the student should provide a brief introduction to the research problem being addressed.
- In a few sentences, the student should describe the overall goal of the research project.
- The student should describe the hypothesis and relevant specific aims of the project that relate to their involvement.
- The student should clearly state how they expect to interface with the research project and list their activities.

For a narrowly defined research project:

- In a few paragraphs, the student should provide a brief introduction to the research problem being addressed.
- A research hypothesis should be provided.
- The student should describe their role and describe their activities within the research project.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Angela Merrifield, MPA  
CTSI-Ed Program Associate  
ctsieduc@umn.edu  
612-626-1566

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