REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)
2020 Advanced Pathways to Research Program (A-PReP)

Program Overview

- Seeking University of Minnesota doctoral-level professional health sciences students (DDS, DNP, DVM, MD, PharmD, etc.) and early-PhD* students with an interest in clinical or translational research for a full-time summer research program
- Stipend of $600/week provided for full-time engagement (40-hours/week), 12 weeks between June 1** – August 21, 2020
- Up to 10 students selected
- Funding for travel to present at a scientific conference for outstanding projects
- UMN doctoral-level professional health sciences and early-PhD students are eligible regardless of citizenship or immigration status
- Applications due February 3, 2020 by 11:59 p.m.

I. NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THIS RFA

The purpose of the Advanced Pathways to Research Program is to introduce eligible doctoral-level professional health sciences students (DDS, DNP, DVM, MD, PharmD, etc.) and early-PhD* students, 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 the fall 2020. 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 scholar will work on a project related to the mentor’s ongoing research programs.

This training program is an introduction to research and intended for students with limited research experience.

*PhD 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.

**Medical Students are permitted to start on June 29 and complete 8 weeks of the program.
2. ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must be University of Minnesota doctoral-level professional health sciences students (DDS, DNP, DVM, MD, PharmD, etc.) and early-PhD students with an interest in clinical or translational research. PhD student eligibility is limited to those within the 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.

- Applicants who are scheduled to graduate in May 2020 are eligible but should include a description of their plans for 6-months post-graduation in their personal essay

- Ability to commit to a full-time (40-hours/week) research experience during the program. Scholars cannot hold a concurrent RA or TA position, ongoing didactic or clinical training responsibilities, or other UMN jobs.

- Candidates are eligible regardless of citizenship or immigration status

3. SELECTION CRITERIA

- Interest in human health, clinical and/or translational research 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

4. EXPECTATIONS OF SCHOLARS

- Commit to full-time (40 hours/week), on-site research training for 12 weeks during the 2020 summer. Medical students are permitted to start on June 29 and complete 8 weeks of the program.

- 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 the fall 2020
5. 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.

6. EXPECTATIONS OF MENTORS

- Complete required training course by May 29, 2020 Course link: http://z.umn.edu/mentortrain
- Attend Mentor Orientation
- 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 the fall 2020

7. TIMELINE AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Complete and submit an online application and upload all required documents through the submission link on the CTSI A-PReP website by 11:59 p.m. on February 3, 2020. The submission system will automatically close at 12:00 a.m. Late or partially completed applications will not be accepted, please plan accordingly.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

- December 2019 RFA released
- February 3, 2020 Applications due (11:59 p.m.)
- March 2020 Successful candidates contacted for interviews/Interviews conducted
- March 2020 Successful candidates contacted
- June 1, 2020 First Day Orientation
- June 2, 2020 First day with Mentor
- June 29, 2020 Medical Student Orientation
- June 30, 2020 Medical Student First day with Mentor
- August 21, 2020 Program ends
- Fall 2020 CTSI Poster Session
**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

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

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<table>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1.</strong> Scholar Applicant Information</td>
<td>online form at z.umn.edu/aprep</td>
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<td><strong>2.</strong> Personal Essay (single space, 12-point font)</td>
<td>up to 4 pages</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>● Research Plan Overview: background, sample, clearly stated hypothesis*, and methodology (not to exceed 2 pages, further instructions provided on page 5)</td>
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<td>* applications without a clearly stated hypothesis will not be scored</td>
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<td><strong>3.</strong> Curriculum Vitae</td>
<td>up to 4 pages</td>
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<td><strong>4.</strong> All transcripts from undergraduate school and your current program (unofficial copy acceptable)</td>
<td>Letters must be submitted by the letter writer to: <a href="https://z.umn.edu/apreplettersofrecommendation">https://z.umn.edu/apreplettersofrecommendation</a></td>
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<td><strong>5.</strong> Two letters of recommendation</td>
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<td><strong>6.</strong> Letter of support from proposed mentor</td>
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<td><strong>7.</strong> Proposed mentor’s current NIH biosketch</td>
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<td><strong>8.</strong> Proposed Mentor Training Experience Form</td>
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<td><strong>9.</strong> Mentor-Mentee Compact</td>
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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Angela Merrifield, MPA  
CTSI-Ed Summer Programs Manager  
ctpsieduc@umn.edu  
612-626-1566

Find more information at http://z.umn.edu/aprep
RESEARCH PLAN OVERVIEW INSTRUCTIONS

This is a 12 week training program (8 weeks for Medical students) designed to assist students 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 or 12 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 8 or 12 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.