Research Education, Training and Career Development (CTSI-Ed)

Letter of Intent (LOI) for

K-R01 Transition to Independence Program
(Up to 4 awards will be issued for this RFA)

- $50,000 in research funds to be expended over 2 years
- Receive specialized career development geared towards facilitating submission of R01 or R01-like application
- Must be an assistant professor (in rank 7 years or less) or associate professor (in rank 4 years or less) with a primary mentor and biostatistician
- Applicants must have held an active K award for at least one year at the time of application OR successfully concluded a K award on or after February 18, 2019
- Start date September 1, 2020

NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THIS LOI and RFA:
The Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) K-R01 Transition to Independence Program is designed to support faculty by providing mentorship, oversight, programming, and pilot funds. Programming includes structured discussions to critique and provide feedback on the plan for submitting an R type grant, individualized critique sessions, and constructing a timeline for R submission. This two-year program aims to place junior investigators with K awards further on the path toward R01 awards. This RFA will be issued annually. Success of this program will be judged by the number of awardees who move forward to secure NIH R01 grants and R01 equivalent funding for clinical and translational research. The K-R01 program is directed by Esam El-Fakahany, PhD.

Applications from underrepresented populations are strongly encouraged and are welcome to seek assistance in their applications by contacting Michelle Lamere, MPA, ACC at mlamere@umn.edu.

IMPORTANT DATES

Announcement Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2020
LOI Deadline: Monday, March 9, 2020 (by 11:59 p.m.)
Application Deadline: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 (by 11:59 p.m.) (by invitation only - Invitations sent by Thursday, March 12, 2020)
Award Notification: June 2020
Start Date: September 1, 2020
**Phase I – Request for Letters of Intent (LOI)**

The CTSI-Ed program announces a request for Letters of Intent from eligible junior faculty interested in applying for the K-R01 transition program. See page 3 for eligibility criteria. Selected applicants will be invited by CTSI-Ed Leadership to complete a full application. Applicants must adhere to LOI submission guidelines and use the template.

**CTSI K-R01 2020 LOI Submission Guidelines**

The LOIs should be no more than three pages in length. Use the following table and include the following:

- Signatures are required at time of sending the LOI from: applicant, primary mentor, division director/program head, and department chair
- Applicants are required to include their ORCiD ID in the online submission. For more information: [https://www.lib.umn.edu/researchsupport/orcid](https://www.lib.umn.edu/researchsupport/orcid)
- Applicant’s CV (not included in page limit)
- Submissions should be submitted online at [z.umn.edu/KtoR_LOI](z.umn.edu/KtoR_LOI) by **11:59 p.m. Monday, March 9, 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOI Template – may adjust formatting as needed, but provide response to each item</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial to confirm you meet the eligibility criteria stated above:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholar Name, Rank &amp; Faculty track, # of years on faculty, Department/Division, School/College Primary Work Site (if not UMN Twin Cities)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Signatures:</strong></td>
</tr>
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| 1. Applicant  
2. Division Director or Program Head  
3. Department Chair  
4. Primary Mentor |
| Planned mentoring team, including Name, Faculty rank, Department/Division, School/College of each team member. Does not require biostatistical mentor to be named until full application. |
| List type of biostatistical/informatics support your project requires |
| Project title |
| Information about all K and other major grants submitted (For each: submission date, mechanism, outcome, score on original and resubmissions) |
### Draft of Specific Aims AND up to three sentences describing the significance of the proposed research

**Short paragraph addressing why participation in this career development program will help you to become a successful independent investigator**

**Short paragraph on how your non-professional traits, experience or background will contribute to our diverse scholars’ community**

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**Phase II – Invitation to Submit Full Application**

**Administered by the CTSI – Research Education, Training and Career Development (CTSI-Ed)**

- $50,000 in research funds to be expended over 2 years
- Receive specialized career development geared towards developing your RO1 proposal
- Must be an assistant professor (in rank 7 years or less) or associate professor (in rank 4 years or less) with a primary mentor and biostatistician
- Applicants must have held an active K award for at least one year at the time of application OR successfully concluded a K award on or after February 18, 2019
- Up to 4 awards will be issued for this RFA
- Applications due 11:59 p.m. on April 29, 2020
- Interviews for highly rated applicants will be held in June 2020
- Start date September 1, 2020

**ELIGIBILITY**

1. United States citizen, permanent or non-permanent resident
2. Conduct clinical and/or translational research relevant to human health
3. Have a clinical doctorate, PhD, or equivalent
4. Be an Assistant Professor in rank ≤ 7 years or Associate Professor in rank ≤ 4 years at time of application and have the potential to establish own funded research programs in clinical and translational science. Applicants must have paid faculty appointments (rank of Assistant Professor 9403, Clinical Assistant Professor 9403C, Research Assistant Professor 9403R, Associate Professor 9402, Clinical Associate Professor 9402C, or Research Associate Professor 9402R) OR have signed and accepted offer letter from the University of Minnesota at the time of application with a start date before the start of the grant (must provide copy in application). Eligibility includes affiliated faculty at the VA, Hennepin Healthcare, Regions Hospital, and the Children’s Hospitals of Minnesota. Faculty members holding adjunct appointments are ineligible.
5. Have an active K award at the time of application (KL2, BIRCWH, MCC, K12, CHRCDA K12, Independent K award (K23, K07,etc), or have successfully concluded a K award on or after February 18, 2019.
6. LOI must identify a primary mentor (ideally at Professor rank, but Associate Professors are allowed in certain cases with proper justification). Another mentor with complementary research expertise may be named as needed. A biostatistics mentor must be on the mentoring team (name not needed for the
Primary mentor will co-sign the LOI indicating they have read the LOI and agree to mentoring requirements.

7. Not be, or have been, a principal investigator on an R01, R29 or subproject of a Program Project (P01), Center Grant (P30, P60, U54), or other equivalent research grant awards or career development awards such as those from ACS, ADA, AHA, etc., at the time of the application.

8. Commitment to a minimum of 2 years of research with a minimum of 50% protected time if K-R01 funding extends beyond K award funding.

9. Participants are required to submit an R01 or R01 equivalent (e.g., American Heart Association, national American Cancer Society, or national American Diabetes Association) application by the first half of their second year of support.

For questions, contact Michelle Lamere, Assistant Director, CTSI-Ed at mlamere@umn.edu or 612-624-0619.

FUNDING

1. $50,000 over two years in pilot funds for technical assistance or supplies to assist in generating data
2. No carry forward after two years will be allowed
3. Up to 4 awards will be made on this cycle

The funds are for the direct support of the research and cannot be used for faculty salaries. In general, funds should be primarily used for supplies and support of research personnel (effort for biostatistician, graduate students and/or technicians). Small equipment purchases that are directly required for the research are appropriate (i.e. < $5,000 in total). Travel to research meetings or training and tuition/fees for courses is also permitted.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Scholars:
1. Previous research and academic experience
2. Passion for research and contemplated career trajectory in clinical or translational research
3. Clinical relevance, potential for future funding, and reasonableness of project
4. Goals and ambitions fit with the K-R01 program

Department:
1. Consent to support full application

Primary Mentor:
1. Listing of NIH funding record (current and past)
2. Clinical or translational research publication record
3. Previous and current mentoring experience and success, including placement of past trainees

Supporting mentors:
1. Previous and current mentoring experience and success, including placement of past trainees
2. Listing of NIH funding record (current and past)

QUESTIONS

Questions may be directed to:
Michelle Lamere, MPA, ACC – Assistant Director, CTSI Research Education, Training, and Career Development mlamere@umn.edu