Letter of Intent (LOI) for Pre-K Discovery Scholars Program
(Up to 4 awards will be issued for this RFA)

- $50,000 research funds
- 50% time committed to research and research career development
- Two-year mentored career development
- Underrepresented in Medicine (health sciences research) Assistant Professor with salaried appointment (in rank ≤ 4 years), primary mentor, and biostatistician
- Weekly (Wednesdays, 1:15 pm) K Scholar Multidisciplinary Seminar Series
- Individualized educational and training plan
- Start date September 1, 2020

NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THIS LOI and RFA

The Pre-K Discovery Scholars Program is designed to provide mentorship, oversight, and pilot funds to junior faculty underrepresented in medicine (health sciences research). In addition, it is an opportunity to take courses relevant to an individual’s career development needs. For those without the relevant formal coursework, the newly created Certificate in Clinical Research equivalent or coursework in the MS in Clinical Research will be required. Funds for these courses will be provided by CTSI-Ed in addition to the $50,000 award. This two-year program aims to place junior investigators on the path to be competitive for NIH K awards. This RFA will be issued every year. Success of this program will be judged by the number of scholars who go on to secure NIH K awards (including the intramural KL2) grants in the short term, and subsequently, NIH R01, and R01 equivalent funding in the long term in clinical and translational research.

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.)
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 Pre-K 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 Pre-K 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
- Applicant’s CV (not included in page limit)
- Submissions should be submitted online at https://z.umn.edu/prek 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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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial to confirm you meet the eligibility criteria stated above:</td>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Signatures:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Applicant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Division Director or Program Head</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Department Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Primary Mentor</td>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>List type of biostatistical/informatics support your project requires</td>
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<td>Project title</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information about all K and other major grants submitted (For each: submission date,</td>
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</table>
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

Phase II – Invitation to Submit Full Application

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

- $50,000 research funds
- 50% time committed to research and research career development
- Two-year mentored career development
- Underrepresented in Medicine (health sciences research) Assistant Professor with salaried appointment (in rank ≤ 4 years), primary mentor, and biostatistician
- Weekly (Wednesdays, 1:15pm) K Scholar Multidisciplinary Seminar Series with BIRCWH (Women's Health K12) programs, CTSI Pre-K Scholars, and Individual K awardees
- Individualized educational and training plan
- Application due Wednesday, April 29 (11:59pm)
- Interviews for highly rated applicants held June 2020
- Award announced June 2020
- Start date September 1, 2020
- Up to 4 awards will be issued for this RFA

ELIGIBILITY

Awardees will be selected based on the following criteria:

1. United States citizens and permanent residents
2. Individual from group identified as underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral and social sciences (Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders)
3. Conduct human relevant clinical and/or translational research
4. Have a clinical doctorate, PhD or its equivalent (MD, PhD, DO, DDS, DVM, OD, DC, PharmD, DNP)
5. Be Assistant Professor in rank ≤ 4 years and have the potential to establish their own funded research programs in clinical/translational science. Applicants must have paid faculty appointments (rank of Assistant Professor 9403, Clinical Assistant Professor 9403C, or Research Assistant Professor 9403R) OR have signed and accepted offer letter at 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.

6. Application must identify a primary mentor (ideally with the rank of Professor, but Associate Professors will be allowed in certain cases), and a biostatistician as a secondary mentor. The primary mentor will co-sign the application indicating they have read the application agreeing to serve as a mentor. For questions, contact Michelle Lamere (Assistant Director, CTSI-Ed) at mlamere@umn.edu or 612-624-0619. The CTSI-Ed program is directed by David Ingbar, MD.

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), mentored career development grants (K-series), or other equivalent research grant awards or career development awards such as those from ACS, ADA, AHA, etc. at the time of the application. Those serving as PI of an NIH R03 and/or R21 grant are eligible to apply for this Pre-K grant.

8. Commitment to a minimum of 2 years of research, with a minimum of 50% protected time.

9. Participants are required to submit a K award application within the first 12 months of their support.

**FUNDING**

1. $50,000 in pilot funds for technical assistance or supplies to assist in obtaining data
2. Funds for formal coursework, up to the completion of the Certificate in Clinical Research or other approved courses
3. No carry forward after two years will be allowed

The funds are for the direct support of the research and cannot be used for faculty salaries (except biostatistician effort). Small equipment purchases that are directly required for the research are appropriate (i.e. < $5,000 in total). In general, funds should be primarily used for supplies and support of research personnel (graduate students or technicians). Travel is limited to the $2,000 provided as travel funds, unless otherwise approved by program.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

Scholars:

1. A 2-year career development and training plan with support of a primary mentor, and mentoring team
2. Multidisciplinary nature of mentoring team (i.e., primary and secondary mentors must be from different disciplines – any questions, please contact Dr. Ingbar (ingba001@umn.edu)
3. Long-term career plan with milestones for later evaluation by advisory committee
4. Research study including hypothesis to be tested, aims, significance, innovation, translation plan, incorporation of Biostatistical analysis and potential for building a career
5. Plans for interacting with mentors
6. Previous research and academic experience
7. Passion for research and contemplated career trajectory
8. After formal review of the applications, the top rated applicants will be interviewed by CTSI-Ed leadership and final decisions will be made based upon a combination of the grant review score, the interview and having balance and diversity in the program.

Department:
1. Commitment of 50% protected time for the scholar
2. Plan for integration of the scholar into the unit’s activities

Primary Mentor:
1. Plan for supporting and facilitating a long-term career path for the candidate
2. Experience with research theme proposed by the candidate
3. Plans for interaction with scholar and integration with mentoring team
4. Listing of NIH funding record (current and past)
5. Clinical or translational research publication record
6. Previous and current mentoring experience and success

Supporting mentor(s):
1. Experience with research theme
2. Plans for interaction and career development of scholars
3. Previous and current mentoring experience and success
4. 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