Mount Sinai 2014 Institutional KL2
Clinical & Translational Research Career Development Awards

KL2 PhD Candidates Award

Goal: The Institutes for Translational Sciences at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (CONDUITS) offers a KL2 PhD Candidate Award for Clinical and Translational Research Career Development for outstanding candidates for a PhD in Clinical Research. This career development program is funded through the Institution’s Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA), and is administered by the Center for Patient-Oriented Research, Training, Education and Development (CePORTED). Specific objectives of this program are to:

- Identify and support talented junior faculty interested in obtaining a PhD in Clinical Research at Mount Sinai and who are committed to academic careers in multidisciplinary patient-centered clinical/translational (C/T) research.
- Assure that award recipients have at least 75% protected time for their research career development (exceptions may be made for surgeons who can document that their clinical competence may be diminished by restricting clinical activities to 25%).
- Enable award recipients to design, implement, analyze, and publish rigorous studies in patient-centered C/T research.
- Stimulate multidisciplinary mentorship and promote the development and implementation of an individually tailored career development plan.
- Enable award recipients to plan, write, submit and acquire funding for an externally funded career development award (K award or equivalent) or independent research grant (e.g., R01)

Summary of PhD KL2 Program:
Award Recipients will receive a stipend for three years. The stipend will be up to $75,000 in year 1 and up to $50,000 in years 2 and 3 (plus fringe benefits) to support a 75% effort each year. An additional $20,000 per year is available to support research efforts in years 2 and 3. KL2 Awardees must commit to completing all coursework leading to the PhD in Clinical Research during their award period, and completing the degree in a timely manner, preferably within the period of the award. All necessary tuition costs are covered by the KL2 program. Up to two first-year PhD Candidate KL2 Awards are being offered for 2014.

The intent of the career development award program is to assist departmental and institute leadership at Mount Sinai and its affiliated institutions in supporting individuals that they have
identified as premier candidates for careers in C/T research. As such, this program requires a commitment from the appropriate Departmental and or Institute leadership (Chairs, Chiefs, Institute Directors) to (1) supplement (as appropriate) the salary provided by the KL2 award for 75% KL2 effort; and (2) fund the remaining 25% of the KL2 recipient’s salary, for the duration of the KL2 Award. Scholars should not be subjected to salary reduction because of their participation in the KL2 award program.

Application Deadline, Review, and Award Notification Timeline

- Email structured letter of intent (LOI) to KL2-App@mssm.edu by 4 PM on October 21st, 2013
- Full Applications are due at 4PM on November 18th, 2013. Electronic (email) submission is required (KL2-App@mssm.edu). Please see the “Application Submission Requirements” section for details regarding the complete application.
- Notification of awards will be made by end of January, 2014
- Funding will begin on July 1, 2014

Definition of Patient-Oriented, Clinical/Translational Research

For this award, the research proposed by the applicant can span the entire translational spectrum from “bench to bedside” to community implementation research. This includes laboratory-based applied research, as well as research performed in Clinical Research Center (CRC), clinic, hospital, and community. Research classified as clinical research, health services research, community participatory research, and basic research that is disease focused with direct application to the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment all qualify as patient-centered, clinical translational research for this award.

The results of C/T research should 1) facilitate the application of discoveries from basic laboratory and pre-clinical research to studies in humans (e.g. clinical trials), 2) enhance translation of research findings into practice and policy, or 3) facilitate and evaluate the dissemination of best practices into the community.

Definition of Multidisciplinary Research Approach

A multidisciplinary approach brings experts from diverse disciplines, e.g. clinical medicine, epidemiology, statistics, outcomes research, social science, and basic science (among others) to collectively address a complex problem. Successful applicants will have considered which disciplines to bring together to address their research topic and develop their career; this should be reflected in the choice of the two mentors for the program as well as in other sections of the application.

Eligibility Requirements (All are needed)

- An appointment as [or acceptance of an unconditional letter of offer for] a Junior faculty (e.g., Instructor/Assistant Professor) at Mount Sinai or an affiliated CTSA institution. Affiliated institutions include the Lienhard School of Nursing at Pace University, Program in Urban Public Health at Hunter College of CUNY, the Lehman School of Nursing of CUNY, Brookhaven National Laboratories, and Baylor Research Institute (Dallas).
- Current enrollment in the Mount Sinai PhD program in Clinical Research or committed to enrolling in this program by September of 2014.
- A research or clinical doctorate (eligible doctorate degrees include, but are not limited to the following: MD, PhD, DMD, DC, DO, DVM, OD, DPM, ScD, EngD, DrPH, DNSc, PharmD, DSW, PsyD as well as a doctorate in nursing research or practice.)
- U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status. Individuals with temporary or student visas are not eligible.
Exclusion Criteria

Applicants cannot be:

- The recipient of a career development award (K08, K12, K23, VA), a career transition award (K02, K99/K00) or similar foundation award. Applicants who were unsuccessful in a prior application for a K-Award or equivalent are eligible to apply.
- Applicants who have submitted a K award or equivalent, pending review, are not eligible to apply for this KL2 Award.
- The PI on a major NIH, VA, or foundation award (e.g., R01, R29, IIR, U01); or
- The project leader of a center/program project grants (e.g., P01, P50, P60, U54).
- Recipients of the KL2 award cannot receive any salary support from any government sponsored grant (e.g. NIH grant) including training grants. Applicants currently supported by such grants will need to indicate on their application that they will give up such support should they receive KL2 funding.

Having a small NIH grant such as an R03 or R21 would not disqualify an applicant.

Program Requirements

- **Commitment of a 75% effort to this KL2-supported career development program:** Surveys with clinical obligations exceeding 25%, necessary to maintain clinical proficiency, may request participation in the program at a lower level of commitment to the KL2 program. Such a request must be made in advance and the commitment cannot be less than 50%.
- **Coursework and PhD:** All tuition costs related to the PhD in Clinical Research are covered by the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and will not be taken out of the KL2 award. All coursework leading to the PhD in Clinical Research must be completed during the time of the award. All of the remaining PhD requirements should be completed in a timely manner, preferably within the award period. The applicant is required to complete the PhD degree in clinical research even if it requires more than 3 years. In that case, the applicant must have the commitment of their Department/Division/Institute to support the applicant with the protected time and tuition needed to finish the thesis work.
- **Leadership Support:** Departmental and Institute leadership (Chairs, Chiefs, Institute Directors) must commit to (1) supplement (as appropriate) the salary of the award recipient for the 75% KL2 time commitment and (2) fund the remaining 25% of the KL2 recipient’s salary, through the duration of the KL2 Award. Departments, Divisions, and Institutes within Mount Sinai and its affiliated institutions are encouraged to collaborate to jointly sponsor award recipients.
- **Multidisciplinary Mentorship:** KL2 award recipients are expected to develop a multidisciplinary mentorship team. The award recipient should identify a primary and a secondary mentor, whose expertise spans the spectrum of translational research. Specifically, one mentor should have expertise in bench to bedside (known as “T1”) research, while the other should have expertise in research involving implementation, testing, or assessment in human subjects, organizations, communities, or populations (known as “T2” or “T3” research). For Scholars using primarily social science methods, T1 mentors may be methodologists or theoreticians within that field (e.g. an organizational theorist for someone looking to assess or change an organizational culture). Mentors should have a track record of successful mentoring in C/T research.
KL2 Selection Criteria

- Commitment of the necessary resources and protected time from the Home Department/Institute and commitment of research mentors and collaborators.
- Likelihood that the KL2 support will contribute to a successful K or R Award application (or equivalent).
- Qualifications and track record of the mentorship team
- Quality and appropriateness of the educational and career plan
- Scientific merit, potential clinical importance, and feasibility of the multidisciplinary research proposal.
- Track record and promise of the candidate for a career in C/T research.

Promoting and Supporting Diversity

Mount Sinai seeks to attract individuals of diverse backgrounds who have the ability and potential to become accomplished C/T scientists. The KL2 program complies with the affirmative action policy of Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai by considering all applicants to the Program on the basis of their total merit. The Program does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, creed, religion, age, national origin, disability, veteran status, marital status, or sexual orientation, in accordance with institutional policy and in compliance with the requirements of the Civil Rights Act, the Education Amendments, the Rehabilitation Act, the Age Discrimination Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Successful Transition to a K-Award or R-Award: The Mount Sinai KL2 is intended to be an early career award that will be used to facilitate the KL2 Awardees’ success in securing extramural funding (either career development or independent research grant). Applicants are required to submit a K-award (or equivalent) or independent research award (e.g. R01), as appropriate, before the end of the three year KL2 Award. If a K Award (or equivalent extramural grant) is funded during the 3 years of the Program, support from the Mount Sinai KL2 Program will terminate when the K award begins.

Application Submission Requirements:

- Structured Letter of Intent (LOI): Complete the attached structured LOI and submit to KL2-App@mssm.edu by 4PM on October 21st 2013.

- Full Application Components: The complete application should include the following components in a single PDF file, in the order listed below and should be submitted by November 18th, 2013:

  - Cover letter: the cover letter should include the name of the applicant, the type of award the applicant is seeking (Faculty or PhD award), a list of all the names of the recommenders providing letters of support (e.g., mentors, Department Chairs, Institute Directors). Applicants should indicate next to each name whether the letter will be delivered in hard copy or emailed directly by the recommender to the program office. It is the applicant’s responsibility to assure that all letters have been received by the program office before the application deadline. Additional comments from applicants concerning their application should be included in the cover letter. If the applicant is including an acceptance of an unconditional letter of offer for a Junior faculty position as part of their application, this should be indicated in the cover letter.

  - NIH Biosketch: An NIH Biosketch must be provided including a section on “Other Support”, outlining both past and present other support.
• **Research Plan:** The proposal should follow the standard NIH grant format and be single-spaced in Arial 11 point font with 1 inch margins (left, right, top and bottom). The research should be designed to be completed within the time of the Award. The work is expected to generate sufficient data to allow the KL2 award recipient to submit an externally funded career development or independent research project award application.
  - **Research Abstract:** (1 page maximum) Summarize the research project and career development proposal.
  - **Research Proposal:** (Maximum of 9 pages for Sections A through D)
    - A. Specific Aims and Hypotheses (1 page max)
    - B. Background and Significance (2 pages max)
    - C. Preliminary Studies (1 page max): Applications are not required to have significant preliminary data for the proposed plan, but supportive data justifying the design and methods should be included where appropriate.
    - D. Research Design and Methods (including strengths and limitations of the proposed approach) (5 pages max)
    - E. Human Subjects (not included in page limit)
    - F. Literature Cited (not included in page limit)

• **Career Development Plan:** (2 pages max) State reasons for pursuing a PhD in Clinical Research. Describe background, interests and experiences that prepare the candidate for the award; plans for meeting educational and career development goals during the award, and how the research project and career/educational plan will facilitate overall longer term career development goals. Indicate how this career development plan will make the applicant a more attractive candidate for such future funding.
  
  Applicants who have submitted unsuccessful career development awards (K-Award or equivalent grants) must also:
  
  - Provide a copy of the most recent Summary Statement containing the score, percentile, and review comments.
  - Include in the “Career Development” section a discussion of how the KL2 proposal is related to the career award that was previously reviewed.
  - Indicate resubmission plans, and briefly explain how this KL2 award will help you successfully obtain an externally funded career award or investigator initiated grant, and include a short summary of your responses to the main review criticisms.

  You may use an extra page (if needed) in your “Career Development” section (total of 3 pages max) to answer the additional questions above focused on how this KL2 proposal relates to a prior externally funded career award application.

• **Budget:** A separate budget for each of the 2 years detailing your research expenses using the Budget form provided.

• **Budget Justification:** provide a budget justification explaining in detail each item included in the budget.
• Current Grant Support: List all current sources of grant support

• **Timeline:** (1 page max) schedule for research and career development activity during award period.

• **Updated Structured LOI (optional)**

• **Mentor Commitment Letters:** Letter of support and commitment from the primary and secondary faculty member who will serve as the research mentors, including a description of the faculty member’s mentoring experience and a discussion of the mentoring plan (frequency of meetings, expectations regarding submission of application for extramural funding, manuscripts, etc). Include each mentor’s NIH biographical sketch. The letter from the primary mentor should indicate that in combination with resources that the mentor will make available, the KL2 Award will provide sufficient resources to complete the proposed research project.

• **Department Chair, Institute Director, and Division Chief Letters:** Applicants who are members of Departments that have Divisional structures will need separate letters from both their Department Chair and Division Chief. When appropriate letters from the Translational Research Institute Director should also be included. Each letter should:
  o Explicitly indicate the leader’s commitment to protect the required 75% of the candidate’s time for completion of the PhD requirements and research.
  o acknowledge and accept the requirement that in aggregate the Clinical, Teaching, and Administrative responsibilities of their KL2 award recipient cannot exceed 25% effort. [For surgeons with appropriate justification and prior approval of the KL2 program leadership, the 75% effort may be lowered to no less than 50%].
  o acknowledge the commitment to provide the difference in salary support between the KL2 stipend and the faculty member’s total salary as a measure of their commitment and investment in the proposed candidate. In no instance, should the awardee be subjected to a reduction in total salary as a result of participating in the KL2 program.
  o specify the commitment of the Department /Division/Institute to see the applicant through to the completion of the PhD in clinical research, by providing the necessary protected time and tuition support for thesis research should the applicant require more than 3 years to finish the degree.
  o specifically assess the candidate’s promise as an independent C/T investigator, the quality and adequacy of the proposed multidisciplinary mentorship team, and the candidate’s likelihood of success in applying for an externally funded career development (K-award or equivalent) or R award by the end of the KL2 support.
  o For those applicants who are not part of a Departmental structure, equivalent evidence of time and commitment should be provided in letters written by one or more supervisors or otherwise appropriate individuals.

• **Additional Letter of Supports (Optional: No more than 2):** Applicants may also solicit letters of recommendation from other persons who can comment on the applicant’s academic work, clinical skills, intellectual ability, research experience, and/or academic potential. It is highly encouraged that recommendation letters from previous research mentors be forwarded for review.

---

**Application Deadline and Submission Information**
- Letters of intent are due by 4 PM on October 21st, 2013 and should be sent to: KL2-App@mssm.edu
- The full application must contain each component listed above (absent sealed letters of recommendation) and must be emailed as one combined PDF file to KL2-App@mssm.edu by 4PM on November 18th, 2013. All signed and sealed letters of recommendation should be submitted to Fatima Nabizada-Pace within a single large envelope by 4PM on November 18th, 2013. As an alternative, recommenders may directly send PDF versions of their letters by email to KL2-App@mssm.edu by November 18th. If a recommender plans to send a letter electronically, the applicant should note this on the cover letter. It is the applicant's responsibility to assure that all letters have been received by the program office before the application deadline.

Please Follow All Instructions: Proposals that do not abide by this RFA may be deemed non-responsive and disqualified.

Questions and Application Advice:
Please contact Fatima Nabizada-Pace with any questions at: (212) 824-7264 or KL2-App@mssm.edu

KL2 Leadership includes:
- Director: Alan J. Moskowitz, MD alan.moskowitz@mssm.edu
- Co-Director: Janice Gabrilove, MD janice.gabrilove@mssm.edu
- Co-Director: Juan Wisnivesky, MD, DrPH juan.wisnivesky@mssm.edu

Application Checklist:
- □ LOI submitted by 10/21
- □ Full application submitted by 11/18 should include the items below:
  - □ Cover letter
  - □ NIH Biosketch
  - □ Research Plan
  - □ Career Development Plan
  - □ Copy of Summary
  - □ Statement of prior unsuccessful career development award application (if applicable)
  - □ Budget
  - □ Budget Justification
  - □ Current Grant Support
  - □ Timeline
  - □ Updated LOI (optional)
  - □ Primary Mentor's and secondary mentor's commitment letters
  - □ Department Chair's letter (required), Institutional Director and Division Chief letter (if applicable)
☐ Additional Letter of Support (optional, up to 2)
☐ One PDF file with all the components of the application (not including letters from mentors, chairs etc....) emailed to KL2-App@mssm.edu
☐ Letters sealed with envelopes signed submitted in one large envelope and/or letters emailed directly by recommender to KL2-App@mssm.edu