



Mount Sinai 2017 Institutional KL2 Clinical & Translational Research Career Development Awards

KL2 Scholars Award

Goal: The Institutes for Translational Sciences at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (CONDUITS) offers a *KL2 Scholars Award for Clinical and Translational Research Career Development* for outstanding junior faculty and Postdoctoral fellows. 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 and Postdoctoral fellows at Mount Sinai 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.
- Provide Scholars with multidisciplinary mentorship and promote the development and implementation of an individually tailored career development plan.
- Enable scholars to plan, write, submit and acquire funding for an externally sponsored career development award (K award or equivalent) or independent research grant (e.g., R01).

Summary of KL2 Scholars Program:

Award Recipients will receive a stipend for two years. The stipend will be up to \$100,000 per year (plus fringe benefits) to support a 75% effort each year. An additional \$27,500 per year for 2 years is available to support research and education/training expenses that comply with NIH guidelines. Scholars are expected to take courses at Mount Sinai as needed to fulfill their educational development plan. Coursework will be decided upon jointly by the program leadership and Scholar. **Two to three KL2 fellowships will be awarded through this RFA.**

The intent of the career development award program is to assist Departmental and Institute leadership at Mount Sinai and its affiliated institutions in the support of junior faculty and Postdoctoral fellows 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 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 December 5th, 2016
- Full Applications are due at **4PM on February 3rd 2017**. 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 the end of August 2017
- **Funding will begin on November 1st 2017**

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. In particular, 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)

- Individuals applying as faculty are required to have their Mount Sinai faculty appointments in place on or before the date that the KL2 award would begin. Individuals applying as post doctoral fellows in a department or institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai or the School of Biomedical Sciences at Mount Sinai must have a guarantee from their department that they will be hired as junior faculty before the completion of the KL2 training.
- 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 :

- have received a federally funded career development award (K08, K12, K23, VA), a career transition award (K02, K99/R00) or similar foundation award. Applicants who were unsuccessful in a prior application for a K-Award or equivalent are eligible to apply.
- have submitted a K award or equivalent, pending review, are not eligible to apply for this KL2 Award.
- have been 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).

Having received a small NIH grant such as an R03 or R21 would not disqualify an applicant. Recipients of the KL2 award cannot receive any other salary support from a government sponsored grant (e.g. NIH grant) including training grants during the term of the KL2 award . 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.

Program Requirements

- **Commitment of a 75% effort to this KL2-supported career development program:** Surgeons 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%.
- **Leadership Support:** The leadership of the applicant's departmental or Institute (Chairs, Chiefs, Institute Directors) must commit to funding 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 with complementary expertise in the spectrum of translational research. 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 Mount Sinai School of Medicine 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 an early career development award intended to facilitate the acquisition of individual extramural funding (either career development or independent research grant) by the awardee. **Applicants are required to submit an independent K proposal (or equivalent) or project research grant (e.g. R01), as PI, before the end of the two year KL2 Award.** If any such awards are funded during the period of KL2 support, KL2 Program support will terminate when the new 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 December 5th 2016.

-Full Application Components: The complete application should include all of the following components in a single PDF file, in the order listed below and should be submitted by February 3rd 2017:

- **Cover letter:** the cover letter should include the name of the applicant, 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.
- **Resume:** A CV must be provided in the standard Mount Sinai format (see accompanying attachment) outlining educational and clinical academic training if applicable (residency and fellowship), research experience, awards, honors, publications, and extramural grant support (including role, % salary 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 support an application for extramural career development or 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)
 - Specific Aims and Hypotheses (1 page max)
 - Background and Significance (2 pages max)
 - 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.
 - Research Design and Methods (including strengths and limitations of the proposed approach) (5 pages max)
 - Human Subjects (not included in page limit)
 - Literature Cited (not included in page limit)
- **Career Development Plan:** (2 pages max) State reasons for pursuing a career in C/T 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 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:
 - Explicitly indicate the commitment to protect the required 75% of the candidate’s time for the duration of the KL2 program. The effort devoted to the program will be monitored by the KL2 program and Dean’s office
 - for individuals applying as faculty, the letter must guarantee a faculty appointment prior to the start of the KL2 support. For post-doctoral applicants, the letter must guarantee a faculty appointment prior to completion of the KL2 training program.

- acknowledge and accept the requirement that in aggregate the Clinical, Teaching, and Administrative responsibilities of their KL2 award recipient can not 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%.]
 - acknowledge that the awardee will not be subjected to a reduction in total salary as a result of participating in the KL2 program.
 - 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.
- **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 December 5th 2016 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 February 3rdth 2017. **All signed and sealed letters of recommendation should be submitted to Christine Acevedo within a single large envelope by 4PM on February 3rd 2017.** As an alternative, recommenders may directly send PDF versions of their letters by email to KL2-App@mssm.edu by February 3rd. 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 before the application deadline.
Please Follow All Instructions: Proposals that do not abide by this RFA may be deemed non-responsive and disqualified.

Questions about application process:

Please contact Fatima Nabizada-Pace or Christine Acevedo with any questions at: (212) 824-7014 or email KL2-App@mssm.edu

KL2 Leadership includes:

Director:	Alan J. Moskowitz, MD,	alan.moskowitz@mssm.edu
Co-Director:	Inga Peter, PhD	inga.peter@mssm.edu
Co-Director:	Gary Butts, MD	gary.butts@mssm.edu
Co-Director:	Janice Gabrilove, MD	janice.gabrilove@mssm.edu

Application Checklist:

- LOI submitted by 12/5/16
- Full application submitted by 2/3/2017 should include the items below:
 - Cover letter
 - Resume / CV

- 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 ect...) 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**