

**Block Institute for Clinical and Translational Research at Einstein and Montefiore**

**MENTORED CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS**

**DEADLINES:**      **LETTER OF INTENT:**      **October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**  
**APPLICATION:**      **January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**SUMMARY:** These research career development awards, funded under the K12 mechanism, are sponsored by a Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) from the NIH and the Einstein/Montefiore Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR). Each award will provide support for junior faculty (Instructor or Assistant Professor) with doctoral degrees who will devote the majority of their effort to clinical or translational research and training for 2 to 3 years.

Each Scholar must be supervised by a primary mentor, and a formally designated co-mentor (as described below). Awards provide salary support for the Scholar of up to a maximum of \$100,000 per year (plus fringe) for a minimum of 75% effort devoted to program-related activities, plus up to \$15,000 per year for research training and research related expenses. Funds will be awarded for a one-year period only, with continuation funding for up to 3 years contingent upon written demonstration of adequate progress in career development and availability of funds.

Only applicants whose research and career development plans emphasize translational research will be considered. The spectrum of translational sciences includes preclinical research, clinical research, clinical implementation and public health research; please see: <https://ncats.nih.gov/translation/spectrum>. Increasing emphasis is being given to investigators who will develop as “translational scientists” <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/epdf/10.1021/acspsci.9b00022>, meaning their work will advance our “understanding [of] the scientific and operational principles underlying each step of the translational process.”

Applicants without prior training in clinical/translational research are encouraged to participate in the ICTR’s Clinical Research Training Program (CRTP). *Interested candidates should go to* <https://einsteinmed.edu/centers/ictr/education/clinical-research-training-program/> *for further information on the CRTP.* Specific questions can be sent to the CRTP Director, Dr. Aileen McGinn, at [aileen.mcginn@einsteinmed.edu](mailto:aileen.mcginn@einsteinmed.edu).

Further information about the ICTR career development program can be found at: <https://www.einsteinmed.edu/centers/ictr/mentored-career-development-program/>

Further information about the NIH/CTSA grant that supports this program can be found at: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-21-336.html>

**ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:**

Applicants must have a research or health-professional doctoral degree or its equivalent and a faculty appointment at the level of Instructor or Assistant Professor as of the initiation of the award period (July 1, 2026). In general, 9 person-months (75 percent of full-time professional effort) must be devoted to this program, except for those in surgical specialties, for whom less than 9 person-months (75 percent), but no less than 6 person-months (50 percent), protected time may be devoted to this program, if sufficiently justified and programmatically approved.

At the time of appointment, scholars must not have a pending application for any other PHS mentored career development award (e.g., K07, K08, K22, K23, F99/K00) that duplicates any of the provisions of the K component. Former or current PDs/PIs on any NIH research project grant [this does not include NIH

small grants (R03), Exploratory/Developmental (R21) or SBIR, STTR (R43, R44 grants)] or equivalent non-PHS peer reviewed grants that are over \$100,000 direct costs per year, or project leaders on sub-projects of Program project (P01) or center grants (P50) are NOT eligible to participate as scholars. Appointed scholars are encouraged to apply for individual mentored K awards (e.g., K07, K08, K22, K23) and independent awards (R01, R03, R21); if successful, the K12 appointment would be terminated, when funding is received from the new individual K or R award. Scholars to be supported by the institutional career development program must be at the career level for which the planned program is intended. In keeping with the type of mentoring and career development being provided by the CTSA, a scholar candidate who is already in the process of applying for a P01 grant, or R01 grant is likely too senior for the K12 award.

Candidates selected for this program may be eligible for the Loan Repayment Program (LRP) for clinical investigators that provides for repayment of the educational plan loan debt of physicians and dentists. Information regarding the eligibility requirements and benefits for the program may be obtained via the LRP website (<http://www.lrp.nih.gov/>).

We encourage applications from members of underserved and under-represented minority and ethnic populations, [from disadvantaged backgrounds](#), and with other-than-medical (i.e., non-MD/DO) doctoral degrees.

**PRIORITY AREAS: The proposed research project must fit within the NIH definition of [clinical or translational research](#), and must have clear and demonstrable applications to human health and/or disease.**

While the NIH/CTSA-supported Einstein-Montefiore Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR) and all the programs it supports (including this career development program) are non-categorical and “disease agnostic,” based on our institutional strengths and priorities we have identified the following research priority areas:

1. HEALTH EQUITY
2. BRAIN SCIENCES (which includes investigations within the disciplines of neuroscience, neurology, neurosurgery, psychiatry, and the behavioral sciences)

While we require that all applicants address their application’s **potential impact on Health Equity** (item #12 in the Application Instructions below), **priority area 2 is *not* required** – we invite applicants doing research in all health and disease and disciplinary areas, provided their work fits within the rubric of clinical or translational science. An application within a priority area does not receive special consideration during peer review – i.e., priority areas are not a ‘scorable item’ – but may be taken into consideration when funding decisions are made (insofar as a well-reviewed applicant that misses the funding cutoff but is in a priority area *could* be considered for additional institutional sources of funding).

**MENTORS:** Primary mentors must have a **full-time** faculty appointment at Einstein and should have independent current NIH funding and a track record of success as a mentor. **To encourage translational investigation and multidisciplinary mentoring, a co-mentor must be named, representing a different discipline from the Primary mentor.** (For example, if the primary mentor is a clinical scientist, the co-mentor should be a laboratory or population scientist.) At least one mentor should have a clinical background. We encourage co-mentors with Einstein faculty appointments, but an extra-institutional co-mentor may be named if adequately justified.

#### **OTHER PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

1. Awardees will submit annual progress reports and budgets.
2. Awardees, mentors, and departmental representatives will meet with program leadership at least annually.
3. Awardees must participate in twice a month workshops, led by faculty of the ICTR (i.e., [works-in-progress presentations](#) and [TRANSCEND seminars](#)). The Career Development Plan and the mentor’s statements should both include an acknowledgment of this requirement. Mentors are strongly encouraged to attend their mentees’ works-in-progress presentations.

- The primary mentor and co-mentor are required to participate in a [mentoring development program](#) (details will follow upon receipt of the award). The mentors' statements should indicate that the mentors agree to participate in the program.

#### APPLICATION INFORMATION:

[Please click here to create a login to  
your Application Portal](#)

The application has two parts. After you create your account on the Application Portal, you will have access to [Letter of Intent](#). After you submit LOI, you will receive an email with a link to Application.

#### Letter of Intent. Due October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, 5pm

- Applicant Information:** Name, Contact information, Demographics
- Professional Information:** Department, Division, Current level of training, Doctoral degree(s), Name and email of your department administrator responsible for your financials., NIH, eRA Commons Username and number.
- Proposed Project Information:** Name and Specialty of your Primary Mentor, Name and Specialty of your Co-Mentor(s), Working title for your proposed project, Preliminary Specific Aims, Three pertinent anticipated career development activities.

#### Application – Complete application. Due January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 5pm

The required information/documents listed below **MUST** be **combined into a single PDF following the same order** and submitted as your Grant Proposal. It is developed to be consistent with the components of an NIH K grant. All page limitations, following NIH standards, refer to single spaced with standard margins and 11-point Arial font.

- Cover Page:** Title of application, Names/Degrees of applicant and mentors
- Abstract:** (1 page max)
- [RESUBMISSIONS ONLY] Introduction to the Revised Application** (1 page max)
  - Summary of substantial additions, deletions, and changes to the application
  - Responses to the issues and criticism raised in the summary statement
- Specific Aims** (1 page max)
- Research Strategy** (9 pages max)
- Career Development Proposal** (3 pages max)
  - Candidate's Background**
  - Career Goals and Objectives**
  - Career Development/Training Activities During Award Period**  
Career development plan should address how this award will help the candidate develop the fundamental characteristics of a translational scientist
- Biosketches of Applicant, mentor, and co-mentor**, in [NIH format](#). Include "Research Support" for mentor and co-mentor.
- Statements by mentor and co-mentor** describing their commitment to the candidate's career development, their specific role and responsibilities, and an agreement to participate in our [mentoring development program](#)
- Institutional Commitment to Candidate's Research Career Development** (Letter from Chair).  
If salary support is insufficient for the proposed time commitment, the Chair's letter must indicate a commitment to provide the additional funding required using non-Federal funds. Awardees must devote at least 75% effort to research, and educational activities directly related to the proposed career development program.
- Description of Institutional Environment**
- Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research** (1 page max)
- How your scientific work will help advance health equity** (1 page max)
- Protection of Human Subjects**
- Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Individuals across the Lifespan**

15. Targeted/Planned Enrollment
16. Budget and justification for OTPS (\$15,000)
17. Literature Cited

For more information on any of these sections, follow the guidance provided by the NIH in the following document: [Career Development Instructions for NIH and other PHS Agencies](#)

## REVIEW PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA:

### The Scholar:

- Scope and quality of clinical and research background;
- Likelihood of success in a clinical or translational investigative career;
- Adequacy of the assurance that candidate can devote sufficient effort to clinical/translational research and training activities throughout the period of this award.

### Mentors:

- A well-developed and feasible interdisciplinary co-mentoring plan;
- Evidence of understanding of the importance of the mentors' role;
- Mentors' track records of research productivity and funding;
- Mentors' track record of mentoring.

### Career Development Plan:

- Adequacy of the didactic training in clinical and translational research (For example, the scholar may apply to enroll in the CRTP [information available at <http://www.einsteinmed.edu/centers/ictr/crtp/>] or provide evidence of other formal ongoing training during the period of award);
- Adequacy of the nature and duration of research experiences;
- Adequacy of the nature and duration of any specialized didactic course work, research forums, or research experiences;
- Evidence of multi-disciplinary training experiences;
- Likelihood of helping awardee develop the [characteristics of a translational scientist](#);
- Likelihood that awardee's research career will help advance health equity; and
- Appropriate use of Einstein-related resources.

### Research Plan:

- Importance of the research question;
- Adequacy of the background to support hypotheses;
- Soundness of the methods;
- Innovation;
- Feasibility of the research plan;
- Likelihood that the research will contribute to a sustainable, independent, investigative career;
- Likelihood that the research will contribute to advancing health equity; and
- Evidence that the research fits within the NIH definition of clinical research or constitutes translational research.

### Institutional Environment and Commitment:

- A research environment likely to contribute to the Scholar's career development including (as appropriate) adequate support infrastructure, funding, data, research seminars;
- Clear evidence of institutional and departmental support, including specific delineation of clinical responsibilities and financial support as needed to meet the requirements of this career development program.

Dr. Deepa Rastogi, Director of the K12 program and Dr. Sylvia Suadican, will hold an Informational Zoom Webinar on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. [Please click here to register.](#)

Administrative questions should be addressed to Ms. Nancy Marte, [nancy.marte@einsteinmed.edu](mailto:nancy.marte@einsteinmed.edu), or (718) 430-4008. Programmatic questions should be addressed to the program director: Dr. Deepa Rastogi, MBBS, MS, Professor of Pediatrics, Pathology and Genetics, [deepa.rastogi@einsteinmed.edu](mailto:deepa.rastogi@einsteinmed.edu), or 718-839-7653.