

**University of Illinois at Chicago's
Center for Clinical and Translational Science Scholars Program**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 30, 2008

All applicants should refer to the MS in Clinical and Translational Science curriculum at www.crtf.uic.edu for examples of didactic coursework that may be included in the "Nature of Training Program" section of the application.

For questions regarding the program, please contact Jack Zwanziger at 312/996-1062 or jzwanzig@uic.edu or Phillip Marucha at 312/413-1160 or marucha@uic.edu.

For questions regarding the application process, please contact Susan Lynch at 312/413-5429 or slynch2@uic.edu.

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTCALL FOR APPLICATIONS

See www.crtf.uic.edu for information and application forms.

The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) invites applications for the 2008 Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) Scholars Awards to support the research efforts and career development of scientists dedicated to patient oriented research. Grants will support clinical research training and career development for individuals in clinical disciplines and professions, including medicine, dentistry, nursing, psychology, pharmacy, and physical and occupational therapy. The grant program seeks to develop well-structured and well-recognized career development pathways that lead to the exploration of new approaches in patient-oriented, epidemiological, behavioral, health services, and outcomes research. As a CCTS Scholar, individuals will be provided 75 percent release time (50 percent for surgical specialties) to take relevant courses and conduct research under the CCTS Scholars Program for a period of 2-5 years. In addition, they will receive \$50,000 in total (\$25,000/year in each of the first two years of their appointment) to support their scholarly activities. We intend to select up to two scholars in this round.

Goals of the Scholars Program

The CCTS Scholars Program is intended to accelerate career progression in clinical and translational research of clinicians who have demonstrated a commitment to research. The CCTS Scholars Program will pair scholars with mentors who will provide appropriate guidance in developing individualized curricula and career plans to help them become national leaders in interdisciplinary clinical and translational research. Guidance will be provided in all aspects of clinical and translational research including developing a research project, competitively garnering external support, developing and managing a research team, and integrating within interdisciplinary teams/centers.

UIC is dedicated to increasing the participation of individuals currently underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral, and social sciences. This includes underrepresented racial, ethnic, social, cultural, economic, or educational backgrounds that may have inhibited an

individual's ability to pursue a career in health-related research up to this point. UIC acknowledges that diversifying the student and faculty bodies improves the quality of the training and educational environment.

Curriculum Overview

A Mentoring Committee will be developed from an interdisciplinary assemblage of UIC faculty with a demonstrated commitment to mentoring. These mentors will provide curricular, methodological, scientific, and career guidance for the scholar, enhancing interdisciplinary support. Scholars will meet with their mentoring team to review the scholar's experience and interests to develop a detailed individualized research career development plan. Once finalized, the plan will serve as a guide through the CCTS Scholars Program experience. One element of this individualized plan is to ensure that the scholar will have the skills and knowledge required to succeed in a career in clinical and translational research (as defined by the MS in Clinical Translational Science) that recognizes their existing knowledge, skill level, and research interests.

The second component of the CCTS Scholars Program Plan is mentored research. Research experiences may be gained in a range of settings, depending on whether the research is basic, clinical, or community-based. The program plan will specify the research questions, study approach, the expected outcome of the research (e.g., publications, preliminary data, etc.), and timeline.

The third component of the Scholars Program Plan is to develop a thorough understanding of the detailed approach required to secure external funding. For the internally funded K12, that could include an application for a K award, (e.g., K08 or K23), R03, R21, R01, or participation on a Center or Program Project grant. By the end of the first two years, scholars will generate and submit a research proposal for a training grant or peer reviewed small-grant funding. Scholars with more formal research training would submit an application to NIH or other peer-reviewed funding source.

The final component of the Scholars Program Plan should be a career plan that would address promotion and tenure issues including time commitments, teaching, and clinical service. The Scholar would be encouraged to meet with members of the mentoring committee regularly, on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. This environment will provide the scholar with continuing access to mentors in order to assure the needed career guidance. Achievements and awards, e.g., publications and grants, will be recorded in the scholar's Career Portfolio, which is developed as the scholar progresses through the program. The Career Portfolio will also include clinical or teaching activities, teaching evaluations, and any other notable achievements. These portfolios are designed to assist scholars as they advance their careers and compete for tenured positions at UIC or elsewhere.

Qualifications for Selection

The primary qualifications for this program include a commitment to a clinical/translational research career, previous academic achievement, research potential, and the availability of appropriate time to devote to the program. Applicants must also have a research and/or health-professional doctoral degree or its equivalent.

To be eligible for the CCTS Scholars Program, applicants must be United States citizens, non-citizen nationals, or individuals lawfully admitted for permanent residence and possess an Alien Registration Receipt Card (I-151 or I-551, or some other verification of legal admission as a permanent resident). Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible for admission. Former or current principal investigators on any NIH research project grant (this does not include NIH Small Grants (R03) or Exploratory/ Developmental (R21) grants or their equivalents) or equivalent non-PHS peer reviewed research 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 K12 scholars.

Application Requirements and Instructions:

- 1. Nomination Letters Written by the Applicant's Department Chair and Dean:** Letters endorsing the applicant's admission to the CCTS Scholars Program. The letters should provide a) explicit release time commitments for the applicant (i.e., 75% (50% for applicants in surgical specialties)) and the duration of the commitment; b) how the applicant's training fits into the mission of the department; c) the commitment to the applicant's career development after the completion of the program; d) the applicant's potential for a successful academic career in clinical/translational research; e) the commitment and/or plans for the applicant should the applicant not be accepted to the CCTS Scholars Program; f) efforts, if any, that have been made for faculty appointment, mentoring, space, and other support.
- 2. Personal Statement:** A statement detailing applicant's accomplishments to date, career goals and plans. Specifically, applicants should address background information relevant to their interest in clinical research, and how additional training through the CCTS Scholars Program would help achieve these goals. The applicant should provide any prior or ongoing research experience and explain how this might interface with the training program. This statement should be no longer than two pages, single-spaced.
- 3. Nature of Training Program:** A description of the applicant's needs for advanced training. Prior completion or recent acceptance into an advanced didactic training program in clinical research or equivalent training (e.g., current degree candidates at a UIC health sciences program).
- 4. Curriculum vitae:** Current curriculum vitae, including any publications.
- 5. Potential Mentor(s) if known:** Provide a list of potential mentors and how they may enhance the applicant's training program.
- 6. Letters of Recommendation:** Two letters of recommendation from faculty or past clinical/research mentors or advisors who can attest to the applicant's ability as a clinical/translational research professional. The letter should address a) the applicant's previous achievements in research, clinical care, and/or academics; b) the applicant's potential for a successful academic career in clinical/translational research; c) analysis of the applicant's career development plans, commitment to research, and how the award would advance these plans.

These letters should be placed in sealed envelopes addressed to the CCTS Scholars Program with a handwritten signature of the recommender over the seal.

7. Copies of Transcripts from all Academic Training: Official undergraduate and any graduate transcripts are required.

8. UIC Center for Clinical Translational Science Scholars Program Application Form.

See www.crtp.uic.edu for more information and to access application forms.

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