

## **Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) K12 Training Program: An Investment in Careers Dedicated to the Benefit of Human Health**

### **Goal:**

The goal of NIH-supported career development programs are “to help ensure that a diverse pool of highly trained scientists are available in adequate numbers and in appropriate research areas to address the Nation’s biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research needs” (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-05-143.html>). At The Ohio State University, in support of this national endeavor, the CTSA K12 Training Program will fund scientists in two primary areas.

The first area is patient-oriented research, which is defined as research conducted with human subjects or on material of human origin for which a member of the investigative team directly interacts with human subjects. Patient-oriented research seeks to maximize clinical applications from the research and to form research directions from clinical investigations. Examples of this are research in mechanisms of human disease; therapeutic interventions; clinical trials; the development of new technologies; epidemiologic and behavioral studies; outcomes research; and health services research.

The second area is translational research, which encompasses two components. The first is the process of applying discoveries generated during laboratory research and, in preclinical studies, to the development of clinical trials and studies in humans. The second component of translational research is research aimed at enhancing the adoption of best practices in the community, encompassing the discovery of new knowledge. Career development in either of these areas of emphasis would be responsive to this solicitation.

### **Terms**

The purpose of the CTSA K12 program is to support the career development of investigators who have made a commitment to focus their research endeavors on the areas outlined above. The mechanism provides support for a minimum of two and a maximum of three years of consecutive one-year appointments (annual review and reappointment) of supervised research for individuals who plan on devoting their career to clinical and translational research. Applicants must justify the need for a period of mentored research experience and provide a convincing case that the proposed period of support and career development plan will substantially enhance their careers as independent investigators.

Candidates must possess a doctoral level degree but no clinical degree is required (PhD, DDS, DVM, OD, MD, DO, or PharmD). The program seeks to reward a track record of academic success and clear potential for the future. Selection preference will be given to junior faculty members (less than three years since their appointment), but advanced postdoctoral trainees, research scientists, and clinical fellows with a research track record are eligible to apply. Candidates will be required to commit a minimum of 75% full-time professional effort to the conduct of clinical and/or translational research and the relevant career development activities. Candidates must not have received prior federal career development awards such as K series awards or the equivalent or independent (i.e., non-mentored) federal funding (as Principal Investigator) such as an R award. A prior T32 appointment is acceptable. It is expected that awardees will submit a K or R series award during the K12 award period.

The number of awards, up to a maximum of five, will depend upon the quality, duration, and costs of the applications received as determined by the peer review process and available funds. Each award will provide 75% effort up to the NIH salary cap and \$25,000 per year for research-related expenses.

### **Application Process**

**September 15, 2008** A one-page letter of intent outlining the applicant’s interest in the program including his or her qualifications and long-term career goals must be submitted to Philip Diaz, MD, Chairman of the CTSA K12 Selection Committee (201 Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute; 473 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue; Columbus, Ohio 43210; [Philip.Diaz@osumc.edu](mailto:Philip.Diaz@osumc.edu)).

**October 1, 2008** The Selection Committee invites full applications from among those submitting initial letters of intent.

**November 3, 2008** The full application must be submitted to Dr. Diaz. The full application should be formatted as follows:

- \*Proposed career development plan including coursework and training in the responsible conduct of research (2 pages)
- \*Research plan: specific aims, background and significance, preliminary studies, research design and methods (10 pages)
- \*Two letters of recommendation
- \*Applicant’s biosketch (NIH format)
- \*Statement of career plans (1 page)
- \*Mentor’s letter of support
- \*Mentor’s biosketch (NIH format)
- \*Letter of support from Department Chair guaranteeing 75% protected research time for the duration of the award.

**December 3, 2008** Notification of appointment decisions transmitted to applicants.

**January 1, 2009** Anticipated appointment date of selected trainees who accept the award.