

## Request for Nominations

### UW ICTR Mentored Career Development KL2 Award

Appointment Start Date: July 1, 2026

#### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The KL2 award is intended to train and support early-career faculty at UW Madison who are pursuing clinical and translational research and are committed to developing an independent research program. Typically, the initial appointment is two years, funded by the NIH. An additional, two-year appointment funded internally with financial support from departments is often approved, subject to the scholar's progress and need.

- Awardees must average 75% dedicated time annually (equivalent to 9 calendar months effort) for research and career development activities. (Exceptions can be made for surgeons or procedure-intensive specialties, who may request only 50% dedicated time with strong justification.) Applicants who hold appointments less than 12 months or full-time (e.g., with VA appointments) are eligible, but still must meet the dedicated time requirement.
- Financial support of the KL2 Scholar is shared between ICTR and the respective department or school/college.
  - The annual KL2 package provides 75% of a \$120,000 university base salary (with fringe support) and a \$30,000 annual research stipend for personnel, supplies, travel, tuition and other allowable expenses as they pertain to a research project. If the scholar's UW salary exceeds the \$120,000 salary cap, any amount over that cap will be the responsibility of the scholar's home school/department.
  - The department or school/college must also provide the remaining non-KL2 salary (including base and non-base).
- The annual KL2 appointment period is July 1 through June 30. The award start date for this RFA is July 1, 2026 contingent upon successful non-competitive renewal of the ICTR CTSA award.

#### ELIGIBILITY of APPLICANTS

- Applicants must be an Assistant Professor (tenure-track or CHS). It is acceptable to have a non-faculty title (e.g., post-doctoral fellow, assistant scientist, clinical instructor) at the time of application as long as the applicant will be promoted to a professorial rank by the time of the award (July 1, 2026). This must be clearly indicated in the letter of support from the nominating dean or department chair.
- Comparable junior research investigators at Marshfield Clinic are eligible for this award.
- Applicants must be U.S. citizens or be lawfully admitted for permanent residence.
- Applicants may not simultaneously submit or have pending an application for any PHS mentored career development award (e.g., K08, K23). However, they may have an independent career development award under review at the VA or a foundation.
- Former or current PDs/Pis on any NIH-funded research project grant (or equivalent federal peer-reviewed research grant) that exceeds \$100,000 in direct costs per year, or project leaders on sub-projects of program project (P01) or center grants (P50), **are NOT eligible to apply**. Former/current PI on any grant with \$100,000 or less in direct costs, including NIH Small Grants (R03), Exploratory/ Developmental (R21) or SBIR, STTR (R43, R44 grants), **are eligible to apply**.
- Applicants may have an NIH Small Grant (R03), Exploratory/ Developmental (R21) or SBIR, STTR (R43, R44 grants) application under review at the time of their KL2 application. However, an awarded KL2 scholar may not receive salary support from any other federally funded source for research that overlaps with their KL2 research during the first two years in the program (see below). For research that does not overlap with the



KL2 research project, the scholar may receive salary support but the % effort must be assigned to the 25% non-KL2 effort.

- Applicants may take a leave of absence to work at the VA as long as they can still accommodate the 9 calendar-month dedicated time on their UW appointment.
- A KL2 scholar is allowed to devote effort without salary support on other research grants that include related research between the KL2 and the research grant. In cases where there is scientific overlap, effort on the research grant(s) (no more than 25% total for all grants) is subsumed within the 75% effort of the KL2. Nonetheless, there should not be significant duplication of the scope of the research supported by the KL2 award.

## APPLICATION and SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Applicants must be nominated by their department chair or dean of the school/college of their primary academic appointment. We will send each applicant a unique link for the application. We will hold a Q&A session for all applicants on **August 8th** to assist with completing the application.

### Important Dates

Dean/Chair Nomination Letter Receipt: July **31, 2025**

Information/Q&A Session: **August 8, 2025 from noon to 1 pm via Zoom**

Application Receipt: **October 1, 2025**

Study Section: **December 2025**

Award Selection: **December 2025**

Award JIT: **January 2026**

Award Announcement: **January 2026**

### Nomination Letter (due July 31)

Deans, chairs/division chiefs may nominate **an unlimited number of** candidates. Directors of institutes or centers may NOT submit nominations.

- The letter must acknowledge 75% dedicated time for the applicant (equivalent to 9 calendar months effort), or 50% for surgeons or faculty in procedurally-intensive specialties, with a strong justification for the reduction in protected time. The justification must detail how the applicant's research and career development will not be impaired by this lower effort. The letter needs to include a detailed description of the candidate's duties to demonstrate, if awarded, 75% protected time for research and training activities throughout the applicant's participation in the KL2 Scholars Program.
- The current NCATS funding for the ICTR KL2 Scholars Program ends in July 2027. If the grant is not renewed by that time, departments must be prepared to cost share the KL2 Scholar's second year of support (2027–2028). Should departments provide this interim cost-sharing, ICTR would resume NIH support starting July 2028, contingent upon successful renewal of the NCATS grant. Letters of nomination must include a statement acknowledging this contingency and confirming the department's or school/college's commitment to share financial support of the KL2 Scholar with ICTR. The letter must also stipulate commitment to the long-term career development of the applicant.
- The letter must include a research abstract outlining the long-term goals and short-term specific aims of the applicant's proposed research, with enough detail to identify potential reviewers.
- The letter must include the names of at least two committed mentors (ideally from different disciplines) to assist in the research and career development of the applicant. **The primary mentor must be clearly identified.**
  - Note: Mentors **will be required to document completion of formal mentor training**, either through ICTR, or via an asynchronous method. <http://cimerproject.org/#/resources/index>



- The letter must be signed by the chair or dean and the applicant, copying division chiefs if applicable.
- Deans/chairs/division chiefs must complete the requested information and upload the letter(s) of nomination via the following link: [https://redcap.link/kl2\\_nomination](https://redcap.link/kl2_nomination)

**Application- Due Oct 1 (Specific details to follow)**

- Applicant information, research project details and NIH required information
- Applicant current CV
- Applicant NIH biosketch and other support
- Translational research competency self-evaluation
- Paragraph on how research can be generalizable to other fields
- Career Development Plan/Career Goals & Objectives/Plan to Provide Mentoring
- Research plan
- Human subjects/vertebrate animal protocols
- Mentors' letters of support and commitment
- Mentors' NIH biosketches
- Mentors' documentation of completed mentor training
- Chair's or dean's letter of support (not the nomination letter)
- References letters (2-3)
- Applicant demographics
- Optional Appendix – Scholars may include two of their publications in the proposed KL2 research area.

Questions involving the application or review process should be directed to **Katrina Bell**, [kbell3@wisc.edu](mailto:kbell3@wisc.edu) or (608)265-6306.