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Request for Applications (1 trainee, 1 trainer)
ICTR TL1 Predoctoral Training Program
July 1, 2024 Appointment Start Date
Application Deadline: March 11, 2024

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The ICTR TL1 program is a 2-year mentored research training program in translational science for predoctoral students. This program brings together a cross-disciplinary cohort of emerging researchers and provides them with specific training, career development opportunities, and team science skills to help them function effectively within research teams that translate science into human health.

The TL1 program is open to applicants from all disciplines and backgrounds who meet the eligibility criteria outlined below. Special consideration will be given to applicants seeking to conduct research that will reduce health disparities.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The **TL1 Predoctoral Training Program** trains and supports future **clinical and translational leaders** in their earliest years of earning either the Clinical Investigation PhD or another PhD that incorporates a Clinical and Translational Science focus. The TL1 funding mechanism is sponsored by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), a center of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). TL1 trainees are appointed in one-year increments, for a maximum of two years, contingent on continued NIH funding to ICTR. Each appointment encompasses 12 continuous months (three semesters, including Summer).

The major components of the TL1 program are:

- **Research and training time**: TL1 trainees commit to full-time effort towards their translational research during their appointment.
- **Interactive seminars**: The program provides targeted training on scientific writing, responsible conduct of research, team science, dissemination and implementation sciences, and mentee skills.
- **Translational coursework**: Trainees supplement their normal course of study with additional courses aimed at broadening their translational skillset.
- **Culturally Appropriate Mentorship**: Trainees receive additional mentorship from TL1 faculty to complement their career development in translational science.

By the end of their appointment, Trainees can be expected to be able to:

- Participate in data collection, management, and analysis with a transdisciplinary research team.
- Coordinate their own research with that of a larger team
- Disseminate their research with confidence to a research audience
- Communicate research effectively to a non-scientific audience
- Articulate how their research can lead to reduced health disparities

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FUNDING

Contingent upon available NIH funding, the ICTR TL1 program supports trainees with the following:

- **Stipend**: Trainees receive monthly predoctoral stipends, which are uniformly set for all trainees by the National Institutes of Health.
- **Tuition and Segregated Fees**: The TL1 program will pay full-time tuition during the period of appointment.
- **Travel funds**: Trainees will receive a small amount of funds for travel, but mentors will be expected to support most of travel costs for at least one meeting during the training period.

Trainees will need to secure funding from alternative sources (F30 or F31 awards, the trainer's funding, teaching assistantships) following their appointment in the TL1 program.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The TL1 program welcomes applications from students seeking a PhD or combined PhD/health professional degree at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. **Trainees must have pre-dissertator status at the time of appointment** and take a full graduate course load (at least 8 credits in Fall and Spring, 2 credits in Summer).

Current and prospective TL1 predoctoral trainers (mentors) are encouraged strongly to support well-qualified applicants who meet the NIH definition of Traditionally Underrepresented Groups. Trainers are expected to complete mentor training and participate in the mentor meetings with TL1 directors. **All trainers must present evidence of formal mentor training**, either through ICTR-sponsored training or online asynchronous training (i.e., University of Minnesota).

Eligible Students must:

- Hold a bachelor's degree at the start of the TL1 appointment
- Be a **U.S. citizen or permanent resident** in the U.S.
- Be enrolled in the PhD Graduate Program in Clinical Investigation or other PhD degree program that incorporates clinical and translational research
- Secure a faculty mentor (trainer) with a clinical or translational project who is committed to participating in the structured training program. A second faculty mentor is highly recommended.
- Commit to pursuing research training in clinical or translational science. Students interested in basic science training are advised to seek support from another UW-Madison T32 grant

Applicants must not:

- Receive salary support from other federal sources during TL1 training
- Have previously received five years or more of NRSA support in aggregate at the predoctoral level, including any combination of support from institutional training grants and individual fellowship awards (six years for dual degree students)

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COURSEWORK

Trainees will select from several training options based on their prior course work, area of study, and career goals (see required courses below, listed under certificate and non-certificate options). TL1 trainees will pursue their terminal PhD degrees while also incorporating the TL1 curriculum.

CORE AREA	TL1 with FCR* Certificate	TL1 with CI* PhD minor	TL1 with ISCHO* Certificate	TL1 Non-Certificate Training Options		
				Bioinformatics	Science Communication	Science Entrepreneurship
Biostatistics	Intro to Biostats, e.g., BMI 541 (1-3 cr)	Intro to Biostats, e.g., BMI 541 (1-3 cr)	Elective within: Qual Methods Relevant to Translat & Outcomes Res cluster (3 cr)	Intro to Biostats, e.g., BMI 541 (1-3 cr)	Intro to Biostats, e.g., BMI 541 (1-3 cr)	Intro to Biostats, e.g., BMI 541 (1-3 cr)
Population science	Clinical Research I BMI 542 (3 cr)	Clinical Research I BMI 542 (3 cr)	Transl Outcomes Res PHS 709 (3 cr)	Clin Res Informatics BMI 773 (3 cr)	Risk Communication LSC 625 *or* Intro to Commun Theory LSC 720 (3 cr)	Clinical Research I BMI 542 (3 cr)
Responsible conduct of research	RCR (2 cr)	RCR (2 cr)	RCR (2 cr)	RCR (2 cr)	RCR (2 cr)	RCR (2 cr)
Additional targeted courses or electives	Intro to Epidemiol PHS 797 (3 cr)	Intro to Epidemiol PHS 797 *or* Clinical Res II BMI 544 *or* Clin Res Informatics BMI 773 (3 cr)	Elective within: Working with Communities cluster (2-3 cr)	Bioinformatics Elective (3 cr)	Colloq in Life Sci Commun LSC 700 (1 cr)	Clinical Res II BMI 544 *or* Science entrepreneurship elective, e.g., Intell Prop, Innov and Technol MHR 540 (3 cr)
	Clinical Res II BMI 544 *or* Clin Res Informatics BMI 773 (3 cr)	Methods, Biostats elective (3 cr)	Seminar (1 cr)	Bioinformatics Elective, 3 cr	Two electives in Life Science Commun (5 cr)	Science entrepreneurship elective (3 cr)
			Project (2 cr)			Biotech or industry externship (optional)
Total required credits	12-14 credits	12-14 credits	13-14 credits	12-14 credits	12-14 credits	12-14 credits
Additional TL1 training modules	**Scientific Writing Workshop** (required; 11 sessions), **Launching a Translational Research Career** (required; 9 sessions), **F Grant Boot Camp** (optional, 6 sessions)					

FCR = Fundamentals of Clinical Research Certificate. CI = Clinical Investigation. ISCHO = Implementation Science and Community Outcomes.

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HOW TO APPLY

If you would like to learn more, please send an email to **Peggy Hatfield, pmhatfie@wisc.edu**.

Key Dates:

The application deadline: March 11, 2024
Finalist Interviews: Early May 2024
Program Start: July 1, 2024

SELECTION PROCESS

Important components of the TL1 application are the strength of the mentor-mentee relationship and the clinical and translational project description. The TL1 program is committed to support a wide range of research projects across the T0-T4 translational spectrum. Special consideration will be given to applications from scholars who embrace an interdisciplinary approach to health equity research which may include personal experience with an underrepresented population, and/or genuine engagement of community partners and stakeholders.

Information about current TL1 Trainees is on the ICTR website.

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