
Request for Nominations

UW ICTR Mentored Career Development K12 Award

Appointment Start 2027

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The K12 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. The initial appointment is two years, funded by the NIH. **An additional year of appointment, if needed, is funded fully by the scholar's department, and is conditional on the scholar's progress and need and availability of funds.**

- Awardees must average 75% dedicated time per award period (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 K12 Scholar is shared between ICTR and the respective department or school/college.
 - The annual K12 package provides 75% of a \$120,000 university base salary (plus fringe support) and \$20,000 of annual research support for personnel, supplies, travel, tuition and other allowable expenses as they pertain to a research project and career progress. 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-K12 salary (including base and non-base), if applicable.
 - As mentioned above, a third year in the K12 program is fully funded by the scholar's department.
- Typically, the annual K12 appointment period is July 1 through June 30. The award start date for this RFA is contingent upon successful funding of the ICTR CTSA UM1 and K12 awards.
- The current NCATS funding for the ICTR K12 Scholars Program ends in June 2027. The program is anticipated to transition to a K12 program in summer 2027.

ELIGIBILITY of APPLICANTS

- The K12 grant program is designed for early-stage faculty who will complete the two years of the program funded by NIH. Thus, those applicants who already are competitive for an R01-type grant should contact the program to determine eligibility.
- Applicants must be an Assistant Professor (tenure-track or CHS) at the time of appointment. It is acceptable to have a non-faculty title (e.g., post-doctoral fellow, assistant scientist, clinical instructor) at the time of application provided the applicant will be promoted to a professorial rank by the time of the award. 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 a similar application for any PHS mentored career development award (e.g., K01, K08, K23). Nonetheless, they may have an independent career development award under review at the VA or a foundation.

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- 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 PIs 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**.
- An awarded K12 scholar may not receive salary support from any other federally funded source for **research that overlaps** scientifically with their K12 project during the first two years in the program. In cases where a scholar is awarded a research grant that does overlap with their K12 research, the scholar's effort on the grant(s) (no more than 25% total for all grants) will be covered by the 75% effort funded by the K12. In other words, this grant effort is subsumed within the K12 support. Nonetheless, there should not be significant duplication of the scope of the research supported by the K12 award.
- For research that **does not overlap** with the K12 research project, the scholar may receive salary support from the grant, but this effort must be assigned to their 25% non-K12 effort.
- Applicants may take a leave of absence to work at the VA as long as they can still accommodate the 9 calendar-month required effort within their UW appointment.

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 **November 6** to assist with completing the application.

Important Dates

Dean/Chair Nomination Letter Deadline: **October 30, 2026**

Information/Q&A Session: **November 6, 2026 from noon to 1 pm via Zoom**

Application Deadline: **January 4, 2027**

Study Section: **February 2027**

Award Selection: **April 2027**

Award JIT: **April 2027 (contingent on successful renewal of U and K12 grants)**

Award Announcement: **July 2027 (contingent on successful funding of ICTR UM1 and K12 grants)**

Nomination Letter

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 K12 Scholars Program.
- Letters of nomination must include a statement acknowledging and confirming the department's or school/college's commitment to share financial support of the K12 Scholar with ICTR, including supporting a 3rd year of 75% protected time if needed and contingent on the scholar reaching pre-specified milestones (e.g. submitting an independent K grant). The letter must also stipulate commitment to the long-term career development of the applicant.

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- 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: All mentors **are required to complete formal mentor training before the scholar is appointed**, either through ICTR, or via an asynchronous method:
<http://cimerproject.org/#/resources/index>. Documentation of training completion must be provided in the Mentor Letter of Commitment in the full application.
- 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 letters of nomination via the following link: https://redcap.link/ictr_kl2_nominations

Application Requirements

Below is an outline of the documents required for the K12 application. Detailed application instructions will be shared after the nomination letter from your department has been received.

- Applicant information, research project details and NIH required information
- Applicant NIH biosketch and other support
- Translational research competency self-evaluation
- 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 K12 research area.

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

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