

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT – Call for Applications

JHCRS JUNIOR FACULTY CLINICAL RESEARCH SCHOLARS AWARDS

Description

The Johns Hopkins University is seeking applications for **Johns Hopkins Clinical Research Scholars Awards** to support the career development of individuals dedicated toward a career in clinical investigation and who aspire to develop into future leaders in clinical research. Sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (KL2 mechanism), these awards provide support for clinical research training and career development of persons in relevant disciplines and professions (including but not limited to internal medicine, surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy, statistics, nursing, epidemiology and behavioral sciences psychology, and engineering) and their various specialties and sub-specialties.

Clinical research includes: 1) patient-oriented research, 2) epidemiology and behavioral studies and 3) outcomes research and health services research. For example, epidemiologic and natural history studies, translational research, patient-oriented research, clinical trials, and outcomes research are all possible types of research supported through this award. Clinical research embraces a spectrum of scientific disciplines (medicine, surgery, dentistry, nursing, pharmacology, statistics, psychology, and engineering) that are employed by health professionals, often in specialties and sub-specialties (e.g., internal medicine, surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, oncology, cardiology, nephrology, and others) using a variety of study methodologies (e.g., epidemiology, observational, experimental, and others). Clinical research is a complex endeavor that is ideally performed by a multidisciplinary team using an integrated team approach. A multidisciplinary approach brings experts from diverse disciplines (for example, clinician, clinical researcher, clinical trialist, statistician, medicinal chemist, and pharmacologist) to address collectively a common complex problem. There is a well-recognized shortage of well-trained physicians and other health professionals performing clinical research in a rigorous, highly collaborative, team-oriented environment.

Fundamental elements of the training and career development with this award include: structured, core didactic coursework for at least one year; practical training in various aspects of the design, conduct, and analysis of clinical research in team settings (e.g., protocol development, preparation of IRB applications, clinical research/trial management including patient accrual, data collection, analysis and manuscript writing); “hands on” conduct of a research project under the supervision of mentors and; engagement in related career development activities (e.g. seminars, conferences, grant writing).

Training Oversight and Application Due Date

The Johns Hopkins **Clinical Research Scholars Award** is a joint effort of the *Welch Center for Prevention, Epidemiology and Clinical Research* and the *Graduate Training Program in Clinical Investigation (GTPCI)*, both multidisciplinary enterprises of the Johns Hopkins Schools of Medicine and Public Health. These two entities will provide the funding and career development support including rigorous didactic training in a supportive work environment for at least 6 junior faculty awards within the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions for the next

academic year, beginning July 1, 2009. An Advisory Committees will review applications and select awardees. Nominations from mentors or program/divisional directors are **due by 5:00 PM on December 5, 2008**. We anticipate that awards will be announced by early March 2009.

Eligibility

To be eligible applicants must have:

- a) An M.D., D.O. or D.D.S. degree, or other clinical doctoral degree including but not limited to D.P.H, Pharm D, PhD, Psy.D, as well as epidemiologists, behavioral scientists and nurses with doctoral degrees;
- b) An appointment at the Instructor or Assistant Professor level within an academic unit of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions or Howard University at least by the time of the start of the award, but not for no more than 5 years;
- c) >80% protected time available for research and/or research training for the next three years [lower requirements for some surgical fields];
- d) A commitment to a career focused on clinical investigation;
- e) Acceptance into an advanced didactic training program in clinical research (GTPCI, Clinical Epidemiology or Biostatistics masters or doctoral programs or equivalent program at JHMI) OR prior completion of equivalent training with proposed additional coursework [current degree candidates within GTPCI or clinical epidemiology are eligible];
- f) Identification of and support from a faculty mentor active and successful in clinical investigation;
- g) US citizen, non-citizen national* or permanent resident;
- h) Have not served as PI on NIH R01, R29, or subprojects of program project, center or collaborative research grants, or been a recipient of any NIH K-series award. Awardees remain eligible for K08 and K23 submissions unless supported on this or other K-awards for three or more years.

Applications from underrepresented minorities are encouraged.

* Non-citizen nationals are persons born in outlying possessions of the United States (i.e., American Samoa and Swains Island).

Terms of Award

- a) Annual faculty salary support of at least \$75,000 (to \$90,000 - depending on funding levels and number of awards) plus fringe benefits;
- b) Annual allowance of up to \$30,000 for tuition and training support, travel, and/or allowable research costs;
- c) Annual \$5,000 salary support for each of two mentors;

Award Stipulations

- a) The initial award is for two years; extension of support for an additional 1-3 years is possible under exceptional circumstances;
- b) Awardees are expected to complete at least one year of structured, didactic coursework.
- c) Each award is contingent upon a written guarantee of a third year of salary support with \geq 80% protected time for research by the nominating division/department director;

- d) Each award recipient is expected to prepare and submit a K- or R-series NIH grant no later than June 1 of the second year of support;
- e) Continuation of the award in the second year is contingent upon satisfactory progress in career development;
- f) Participation in annual meetings of NIH Clinical Research Scholars is required;
- g) Ongoing participation in program activities over the three year period of support; and
- h) Demonstration of ongoing participation in mentors' clinical research team(s) with emphasis on multidisciplinary teamwork.

Application Instructions and Submission Process

Complete applications include the required eight components (with the supporting documents) listed below. . It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare/collect all eight components and submit them. **Applications missing any component listed below will not be considered.** Please submit (<http://hcrs.jhmi.edu>) your completed application and supporting documents **by 5:00 PM on December 5, 2008.**

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Required Application Components – NOW AVAILABLE ON-LINE

1. **Face Sheet**
2. **Personal statement (maximum of 3 pages, single spaced, 12 point font)** detailing accomplishments to date plus career goals and plans. This statement should specifically address: a) background information relevant to the applicant's interest in clinical research; b) long-term career goals; c) how the K12 award would advance these goals; d) need for additional training to achieve goals; and d) interactions to date with potential mentors within the sponsoring clinical division or department including any prior or ongoing research experience and/or plans for identifying and selecting a mentor/preceptor for the program's research requirement.
3. **Plans for Proposed Advanced Didactic Training Program (maximum of 2 pages, single-spaced, 12 point font)**. A description of the plans for advanced didactic training must be included. Acceptance into an advanced didactic training program in clinical research (GTPCI, Clinical Epidemiology or Biostatistics masters or doctoral programs or equivalent program at JHMI) OR prior completion of equivalent training [current degree candidates within GTPCI or clinical epidemiology are eligible] is required. An application **separate** from this Clinical Research Scholars application must be made to the degree program in which you will enroll.
 - a) Applicants who are applying to the Biostatistics, Clinical Epidemiology or GTPCI MHS or PhD programs, must submit a separate Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health online application that includes some of these same components in this application no later than **February 1, 2009**. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health applications can be found at <http://www.jhsph.edu/Admissions/index.html>.
 - b) For applicants who have already been accepted into the Biostatistics, Clinical Epidemiology, GTPCI or equivalent degree program at the BSPH a new BSPH application is not required, but a transcript of courses taken and a listing of those

planned to be taken must be included. For those who may have completed relevant coursework outside Johns Hopkins, a detailed description of the coursework previously taken must be included.

4. **Curriculum vitae** including list of publications.
5. **Nomination letter** written by a faculty member or mentor who knows the applicant best or the Division or Department Director*. The letter should address:
 - a) The career development plans for the nominee and how the award would facilitate these plans;
 - b) The candidate's promise for a successful academic career in clinical investigation and listing of any supporting past accomplishments;
 - c) The mentor's/division's commitment to the candidate's career development, including what commitment and/or plans there are for the nominee should a KL2 Award NOT be made
 - d) Assurance of a third year of support and dedicated research time -- a specific commitment to a third year of salary support and $\geq 80\%$ effort for research to complement the two year K12 award, including identifying the likely source of such support.
 - e) What provisions (if any) have been made for faculty advancement, mentoring, space and other support.

This letter should be co-signed by the Division/Department Director if not written by him/her or a separate letter by the Division or Department Director is also acceptable. The letter of department/divisional support must specifically state, "I (we) will guarantee a third year of salary support for Dr. XXX with (indicate source of support, or applications pending) and protect his/her time so that full time is available for the pursuit of formal coursework the first year, and at least 80% time is available for research in the second and third years.

IMPORTANT NOTE: NIH allows faculty from some surgical specialties to request less than 80% protected time for research, if it can be substantiated that more than 20% clinical effort is necessary to maintain clinical skills and privileges. A request for this exception must be made and justified in the application; it cannot be negotiated after an award is made.

6. **Proposed mentor(s)* NIH formatted biosketch including research support.**

Two additional **letters of recommendation and reference form** from faculty or past clinical/research mentors or advisors who can assess the candidate's ability using a provided reference form.

7. Copies of **transcripts** from all academic training (undergraduate AND medical AND any graduate school) are required.
8. Copies of recently published papers, manuscripts accepted for publication, active research protocols developed by the applicant, or research proposals for external funding may be appended, if applicable. **[Optional]**

*Applicants without mentors should submit a letter explaining the situation and outlining potential identifiable mentors.

More Information or Questions?

Applicants and/or nominating sponsors are encouraged to contact the program coordinator or either of the K-12 Program Directors to discuss eligibility requirements, obtain guidance about any special circumstances or discuss other aspects of the award and its terms:

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