

# Request for Applications

South Carolina Clinical & Translational Research (SCTR) Institute, College of Medicine, Hollings Cancer Center

## Clinical Trialist Training Program

Program Director: Tanya N. Turan, MD MSCR

Program Co-Director: Marc Chimowitz, MBChB

The SCTR Institute, the MUSC College of Medicine (COM) and the Hollings Cancer Center (HCC) announce the Clinical Trialist Training Program (CTTP), a funding opportunity for four COM faculty (two must be within the HCC) for 10% salary support and fringe (of the full salary) for one year of training to become site investigators for multicenter clinical trials that augment their departments' research portfolios.

The goal of the CTTP is to expand the pool of clinicians trained to conduct clinical trials at MUSC as site PIs. The target candidates are busy clinicians who have no or very limited research effort and need a modest amount of salary support (10%) to free them up from some clinical responsibilities to develop a clinical trial portfolio. These faculty typically are not intending to pursue careers as independently funded researchers doing investigator-initiated research.

**This program is targeted to clinicians who have interest in becoming local site investigators for multicenter clinical trials but don't currently have a large portfolio of trials and are limited by clinical workload. Faculty seeking to design and lead investigator-initiated trials and faculty with K grants or other investigator-initiated grants are not eligible to apply.**

The CTTP will provide both didactic training and hands-on trial experience, including:

1. Participation in a "Clinical Trials Bootcamp" (didactic sessions that will review clinical trial opportunities, study initiation workflows, budget preparation and prospective reimbursement analysis, contract execution, IRB application, recruitment, site visits, adverse event reporting, coordinator staff oversight)
2. Quarterly "Meet the Expert" Didactic Sessions with more in-depth training
3. Quarterly Progress Reviews and ongoing mentoring from program leadership
4. Identification of multicenter trials in which to participate as the site principal investigator (PI)
5. Feasibility and financial assessment of trials to determine likelihood of successful implementation and recruitment at MUSC
6. Contract execution and IRB applications for selected trials
7. Recruitment strategies, tools and budgeting for selected trials

The faculty selected for the CTTP will take the lead on selection, start-up and implementation of at least one clinical trial protocol, but will have support from SCTR staff in completing the study activities (listed in 4-7 above). SCTR Research Coordination & Management (RCM) staff are available to assist with subject recruitment and study conduct for selected trials if needed; financial support for RCM would be built into trial budgets. However, awardees may also use their own departmental staff, if available.

The goals for each CTTP awardee are:

- 1) To engage in new clinical trials by the end of the one-year program that will generate continued salary support for the faculty member (of at least 10%) and cover all research costs of the trials (e.g., coordinator support, IRB applications, etc.)

- 2) To develop a clinical trial portfolio, as a site PI, with sustained salary support (beyond 10%) for at least 3 years after the program.

## Key Dates

RFA Release Date:	<b>December 15, 2022</b>
Application Deadline:	<b>February 15, 2023 @ 5:00 pm</b>
Interviews of Shortlisted candidates:	<b>Late March 2023</b>
Scholar Notification:	<b>End of March 2023</b>
Proposed Appointment Term:	<b>July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024</b>

Selected faculty will be notified of their acceptance into the program in late March to provide sufficient time for their departments to adjust for the 10% salary support when finalizing the faculty members' clinical and other commitments in their 2023 – 2024 contracts.

## Eligibility

### Position and Degree Requirements

- **Full-time clinical faculty appointment** (tenure or non-tenure track) **in the College of Medicine** at the rank of Associate Professor or lower at the time of award.
- **Clinical doctoral degree** (MD or DO or foreign equivalent OR PhD for clinical psychologist) or a dual degree (MD/PhD).
- **Board certification in specialty.**
- **Hollings Cancer Center appointment** (if applying for one of the two HCC slots).
- Faculty with K grants or other investigator-initiated grants are not eligible to apply.

### Salary and Time Commitment

- Ability to commit **10% full-time professional effort** for program activities.
  - The 10% effort is based on the entire amount of time worked in a typical week and should be proportionate.

### Citizenship Requirements

- US citizens, Non-citizen nationals, or lawful Permanent Residents.
- Individuals on **temporary visas are eligible** if they intend to remain at MUSC long-term.

There are no limits on the number of faculty in each department that can apply for these positions. Underrepresented minority faculty are strongly encouraged to apply.

### Candidate Factors that will be considered by reviewers:

- Current clinical commitment
- Other academic responsibilities (research, teaching, administrative)
- Current and prior level of involvement in clinical trials
- Level of enthusiasm for becoming a multisite clinical trialist
- Research area(s) of interest to include the patient population(s) of interest to the candidate and their department
- Access to the patient population(s) for the candidate's research area(s) of interest
- Long-term career goals

### Departmental Factors (of candidate) that will be considered by reviewers:

- Research areas of interest
- Current clinical trial portfolio
- Interest in expanding clinical trials portfolio to other research areas
- Gaps in department clinical trials portfolio that this candidate will help cover
- Availability of senior site clinical trialists that are willing to mentor awardees
- Resources available to support candidates (e.g., coordinator support in department, financial and

- administrative support, etc.)
- Intention to support a long-term position for the candidate at MUSC

## Application Instructions

1. Submission of a letter (maximum 3 pages) by applicant that addresses the candidate factors described above, which will be considered in review of your application
2. Submission of a letter by the candidate's department chair (maximum 3 pages) that addresses the department factors described above, which will be considered in review of the application. This letter should state a commitment by the chair to protect 10% of the candidate's time to participate in the program activities and describe how the candidate's clinical and other commitments would be modified to adjust for the 10% salary support, if awarded.
3. Submission of current CV which includes information about Board Certification

**All applications will be submitted online using InfoReady:** <https://musc.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1890012>

**Prior to submitting, all candidates must obtain a Study/Project ID for this funding opportunity in SPARCRequest.** A step-by-step instructional video about this process can be found here:

<https://musc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=19628ac0-4fad-4a5f-9fb8-ac330167142d>.

→ *Please note: If you submit your request as a "Project" rather than a "Study", you will get a Project ID number.*

## More Information

- CTPP webpage <https://research.musc.edu/resources/sctr/funding-opportunities/clinical-trialist>
- Diana Lee-Chavarria, Program Manager  
[leeachar@musc.edu](mailto:leeachar@musc.edu)  
843.792.8205