

Request for Applications

SCTR TL1 (T32) Pre-doctoral Clinical & Translational Research Training Program

LEADERSHIP

Program Director: Carol Feghali-Bostwick, PhD

Associate Director: Andreama Benitez, PhD

The SCTR TL1 is an **NIH-funded mentored research training program for pre-doctoral students** in PhD or dual-degree programs. It is designed for students with a strong interest in pursuing a career in clinical and/or translational research. The program provides early exposure to clinical and translational research methodology through experiential training opportunities and an instructive curriculum, along with many professional development opportunities.

TL1 trainees devote **100% time and effort** to research training and may not work outside of their research area during the appointment period (12 months).

BENEFITS

Trainees in the TL1 program receive:

Research Funding

- Annual stipend per [NRSA-established levels](#) for predoctoral trainees (trainee department must supplement difference between TL1 and CGS-specified stipend)
- Tuition fees up to **\$16,000** for PhD students (Fall & Spring only); up to **\$21,000** for dual-degree students
- **\$4,550** of project funds & training expenses (includes health insurance)
- **\$1,500** in travel funds to attend the national Association for Clinical and Translational Science (ACTS) meeting. Trainees supported for a second year may attend the national meeting of their choice at the program's expense.
- **\$2,500** in childcare costs for each trainee in addition to training funds
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-21-177.html>

Research Career Development

- Customized Individual Development Plan (IDP) to guide career progress
- Support with writing a competitive extramural fellowship grant application
- Training and support in preparing scientific presentations

CURRICULUM

The TL1 program expands on the CGS curriculum through research-focused coursework and experiential learning. Along with standard courses in proposal writing, rigor and reproducibility, and basic concepts in biomedical science, **TL1 trainees take supplemental courses to expand their translational research training experience.**

Research Experience

- Real-world clinical exposure working alongside clinical mentors in their field of research
- A novel team-based journal club that explores the translation of basic science into practice
- Opportunities to present your research before peers and thought leaders
- Attendance and networking at the annual ACTS meeting

Research Guidance

- Mentorship in your area of research
- Support and regular updates with program leadership
- Access to SCTR services and support staff, including free research navigation consults

Trainees in the TL1 program do not incur any extra time for completion of their graduation requirements and successfully complete their degree programs in the same amount of time as non-TL1 trainees (5 years).

ELIGIBILITY

Students must be **enrolled in a program leading to a PhD or combined degree (MD/PhD, PharmD/PhD*, DMD/PhD*)** and have a strong interest in clinical and/or translational research. All appointees must be **citizens, non-citizen nationals, or lawful permanent residents of the United States.**

Eligibility is contingent upon passing your college's qualifying exam.

Letter of intent: While not required, a letter of intent that includes the project title, your mentor's name and department, a 2-3 sentence narrative and a list of your dissertation committee members is highly encouraged to be sent to the program coordinator, burgstei@musc.edu by May 24, 2024. Submitting a letter of intent will allow the Steering Committee enough time to identify reviewers with appropriate expertise. Current first-year TL1 trainees are eligible to compete for a second year as long as their graduation date is after May 31, 2025.

** TL1 trainees are not eligible to hold two SCTR grants that have scientific overlap and/or propose the same specific aims (i.e. T/K Collaborative grant). Students are ineligible if they are in their first or last year of graduate school, or if they have already received a doctoral degree as part of a dual-degree program. Please contact Kristen Briggman (burgstei@musc.edu) prior to applying if you are in the PharmD/PhD or DMD/PhD program.*

KEY DATES

Release Date:	March 2024
Letter of Intent:	May 24, 2024 (optional, but strongly recommended)
Application Deadline:	June 14, 2024 @ 11:59 pm
Notification by:	August 1, 2024
Appointment Term:	September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025



APPLICATIONS

All applications will be submitted online using the InfoReady application portal. **Prior to submission, all candidates must create a study in SPARC and obtain a Study ID.** Detailed information about the steps to obtain a Study ID can be found on the TL1 webpage under “How to Apply”.

Submission Requirements

- Current NIH biosketch (5-page limit)
- Updated CV
- Primary mentor’s NIH biosketch (5 pages) and training table
- Summary of Undergraduate/Graduate Research Experience
- Career Development Plan (1 page)
- Research Plan (3 pages)
- Letters of Support from primary mentor and department division chair (1 page/each)
- Essay of Interest (1 page)
- Progress Report* (up to 3 pages) – **trainees applying for a second year only*

For more information about the TL1 program, requirements, expectations, and application process, visit:

<https://research.musc.edu/resources/sctr/funding-opportunities/training-program>

CONTACT

Kristen Briggman, TL1 Program Coordinator – burgstei@musc.edu 843.792.8446