UT Southwestern CTSA Program KL2 Clinical and Translational Research Scholars

The UT Southwestern CTSA Program is currently accepting applications for up to three new KL2 Scholars beginning September 15, 2025 pending NIH funding. The RFA, with full details, follows this cover letter. Applications are due by **June 9, 2025**.

What is it?

This two-year program is designed for junior faculty who show great promise towards becoming successful independently funded clinical and translational science investigators, and their salary is supported partially by the CTSA KL2 grant (KL2TR003981).

Program Highlights

We expect KL2 Mentored Clinical and Translational Research Scholars will complete the program equipped with the skillset and passion to become successful, independent investigators who make contributions across the entire spectrum of clinical and translational research.

- Two years with significant protected time to focus on research, publications and grant submissions.
- Emphasis on mentoring
- Customized Individual Career Development Plan
- The Scholar will:
    - Develop clinical and translational research competencies
    - Develop an individualized educational development plan
    - Develop critical thinking skills
    - Receive formalized coaching on scientific communication
    - Develop leadership skills
    - Develop a stepwise approach to development of NIH K award applications
    - Participate in intensive training and career development for transitioning from K-type to R-type awards after program completion

Program Faculty

The Scholars program has a broad base of outstanding faculty. It is co-directed by senior faculty MPIs who have complementary strengths in the full spectrum of clinical and translational research and have long standing track records for mentoring and career development of junior research scientists.

Financial Support

KL2 Scholars will receive 75% of their UT Southwestern institutional base salary (up to the KL2 specific NIH cap of $160,000). This translates to up to $120,000 plus fringes for each Scholar per year.

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (updated 03.21.2025)

The KL2 MENTORED CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH SCHOLARS CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Supported by the **UT Southwestern Clinical and Translational Science Award Program** (UTSW CTSA Program), funded by the NIH/NCATS.

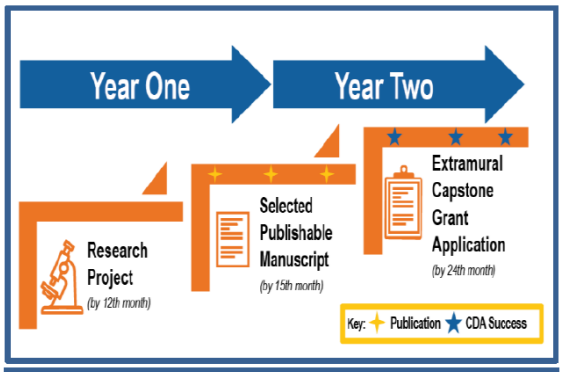


Figure I. Scholar 2-Year Research Practica Timeline. Suggested grant application and manuscript submission timelines during training are indicated. The most impactful publishable manuscript and extramural capstone grant application (typically a career development award, CDA) are submitted to fulfill program completion requirements.

OVERVIEW. UT Southwestern is transforming its clinical and translational research infrastructure to build a stronger foundation for the future. This initiative, spearheaded by W.P. Andrew Lee MD, Provost and Dean of the Medical School, and Eric Peterson MD, MPH, Vice-Provost and Senior Associate Dean of Clinical Research, will be accelerated by the funding of the NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award to Robert Toto, MD, Associate Dean of Translational Research and Education. This 5-year CTSA award has two linked components:

- **UL1TR003163** Clinical and Translational Science Award Supports Comprehensive Translational and Clinical Research and Administrative Cores.
- **KL2TR003981** Clinical and Translational Research Scholar Career Development Award.

We are currently soliciting applications for qualified individuals from UT Southwestern and our CTSA Program partner institutions to apply as KL2 Scholars. Application deadline: June 9, 2025. ***Please submit your application using this link:*** **https://redcap.link/KL2Applications2025**

ELIGIBILITY. The KL2 is open to applicants from broad academic disciplines from UT Southwestern *as well as our CTSA Program partner institutions.* To be considered, the applicant must:

- Have a doctorate degree (e.g., MD, PhD, DO, among others).
- Must be a US citizen or permanent resident as per NIH funding guidelines.
- Be committed to actively participate in the Program with 75% protected time for research for two consecutive years. (Note: individuals in certain surgical specialties may request permission for reduced research time to 50% pending NIH approval).
- Have a full-time position at UT Southwestern, or one of the UT Southwestern CTSA Program partner Institutions.
- Have commitment from his/her sponsoring Department Chair or Center Director. In the case of applicants from CTSA Program partner institutions, please also include a letter from your Dean.
- Have prior clinical and translational research experience.
- Have a proposed research plan and identified mentors.
- Not be, nor have ever been, a principal investigator on an R01, R29, or subproject of a Program Project (P01), Center (P50, P60, U54) or mentored career development (K-series) grants or equivalent. R03 and R21 grants are permitted.

KL2 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS. We expect that our Scholars will complete the program equipped with the skillset and passion to become successful, independent investigators who make contributions across the entire spectrum of clinical and translational research.

- **Two years with significant protected time** to focus on research, publications, and grant submissions (**Figure 1, APPENDIX A**).
- **Emphasis on mentoring.** Scholars will develop a productive relationship with a mentoring team that includes the primary research mentor(s), near-peer mentors, career mentors and Program Directors.
- **Customized Individual Career Development Plan.** We will work with each Scholar and his/her mentors to develop a training portfolio uniquely tailored to meet the Scholar's short and long-term goals.
- The Scholar will:
    a) **Develop clinical and translational research competencies** through completion of required

practica and core courses.

b) **Develop an individualized educational development plans** created to address each Scholar's unique educational needs and chosen career path.

c) **Refine critical thinking skills** through small group discussions, interactive scientific presentations, and by completing written practica, manuscripts, and grant proposals.

d) **Formalized coaching on scientific communication**.

e) **Develop leadership skills** that are critically important for navigating clinical research process and leading multidisciplinary teams.

f) **Stepwise approach to development of NIH K awards** via practical coursework and writing workshops within the CTSA.

g) **Intensive training and career development for transitioning from K type to R type awards after program completion** to become independent investigators and drive the clinical research transformation as envisioned by the Office of the Provost and Dean (**APPENDIX B**).

PROGRAM FACULTY. The Scholars program has a broad base of outstanding faculty from UT Southwestern and our CTSA Program partner institutions. It is co-directed by three senior faculty MPIs who have complementary strengths in the full spectrum of clinical and translational research and have long standing track records for mentoring and career development of junior research scientists. They are:

- Helen Yin, PhD, Professor in Biomedical Science, Associate Dean of Women's Careers, co-Director NIH UTSW-UTD FIRST Research Study
- Madhukar Trivedi, MD, Professor of Psychiatry, and Director, Center for Depression Research and Clinical Care
- Heidi Jacobe, MD, MSCS, Professor of Dermatology, Director of the CTSA Workforce Development Core, and co-Director of the Masters of Clinical Science Program. She was a KL2 Scholar graduate and will guide Scholars to design their customized curriculum/training plan

FINANCIAL SUPPORT (pending NIH funding)

UT Southwestern KL2 Scholars will receive 75% of their institutional base salary, up to the NIH KL2 specific salary cap ($160,000). Additionally, KL2 Scholars will receive a budget for associated coursework, research funds including pilot awards, and access to biostatistics and epidemiological support from the UT Southwestern CTSA Program Cores. Scholars will be supported for two years; renewal of the second year of support will depend on a year-end review of the Scholar's progress and adherence to deliverable milestones (as outlined in **Figure 1**). We will also accept KL2 applicants from **CTSA Program partner institutions** that commit to support the salary of their own faculty. In this case, the **CTSA Program partner institution** supported Scholars have the same expectations as the KL2 Scholars in terms of the curriculum, however, their salary is not funded from the KL2 Grant.

SCHOLAR APPLICATION

Please submit your application using this link: https://redcap.link/KL2Applications2025

Deadline: June 9, 2025

Required components to be uploaded into the redcap link include:

1. A curriculum vitae in the standard UT Southwestern promotion & tenure format (at intranet W:\PUB\SMSDEAN\Promotion and Tenure). Applicants from **CTSA Program partner institutions** should also send a CV approved by their institutions. Include past and current grant support at the bottom of the CV.
2. A personal statement (*500 words or less).* Tell us how you arrived at this place in your career. A career in clinical and translational research has many opportunities and challenges. Why are you committed to this career?
3. A NIH Specific Aims page describing research you will be conducting as a Scholar. *Please* include title of your proposed research program.
4. Your career development and training plan as a Scholar in **1000 words or less**. Please include:
   a) Current area(s) of clinical and translational research

b) A proposed training plan during your two years as a Scholar. Include information about additional training you need, what you hope to gain from the mentoring and career development opportunities, what courses you think will be most beneficial to your success, and career goals.

5. Name and title of individuals who will be submitting letters of recommendation. These must include: your Department Chair/Center Director with a statement of commitment (75% protected time; except for surgeons at 50% time), your primary scientific mentor(s) who will oversee your research project and an additional professional reference. Letters of reference should be submitted directly to the Program Directors (as per instructions in the redcap document). Additionally, for Applicants from **CTSA Program partner institutions**, please also list the name of your Dean who will be supporting this application.

Highlights of Scholar Application and Selection Timeline
Call for applications issued: **March 25, 2025** Application deadline: **June 9, 2025** Interviews with members of the Scholars Admission Committee and give a short presentation (10 min. plus 20 min. Q/A). Candidate acceptance of offer must be received within a week of official offer. Scholar appointment and program start date: **September 15, 2025**

APPENDIX A. SCHOLAR PROGRAM CORE CURRICULUM

The following are required:

- Regular frequent meetings with the primary research mentor(s). In addition, meet with the larger mentoring team at least three times a year in Scholar Year 1 and twice in Scholar Year 2.
- Tailored didactic course work (see **APPENDIX C**). The KL2 program is not a degree nor certificate program. It has limited required courses and workshops and will require a few elective courses.
    - Required courses include Responsible Conduct of Research, Ethics in Clinical Science, Biostatistics or medical informatics, Clinical Research Management and Leadership and Grant Writing & Funding Strategies.
    - Elective courses on an as need basis.
- Three interrelated research practica **(Figure 1)**
    - A Clinical and Translational Research Project (chosen by the scholar and mentors).
    - A publishable research manuscript (selected among several).
    - A Capstone extramural research grant application such as those in the NIH K- or R-series or equivalent by the second year.
- Interactive seminars/small group meetings
    - Present a works-in-progress seminar once a year at the weekly Translational Science Forum attended by CTSA Program mentors, faculty, Scholars, Chairs and Division Chiefs.
    - Scholar Round Table Group Meetings every two months, to network, to update progress, and/or to discuss professional development topics such as career development, team science, and mentor/mentee relations.
    - Annual KL2 Scholar and Dean's Scholar Symposium

APPENDIX B. Example of Clinical and Translational Science Course Offerings from the CTM, School of Health Professions (ACR) and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (HI). Note that the CTSA course offerings are currently being revamped, so the below examples are subject to change. Also, KL2 Scholars are only required to take a limited number of courses and/or workshops as this is not a certificate or degree program.

Course #	***Course Name***	***Credit Hours***	***Course Description***
CTM 5107	Responsible Conduct of Research **Required** (Heitman)	1	***Short course***. Regulatory requirements of clinical research (IRB, GCP, HIPAA, and investigational filings), ensuring patient safety, interactions with government and industry, contract negotiations, successful strategies, and tactics.

ACR 5301	Conceptual Biostatistics for the Clinical Investigator **Required, unless opt out** (Wang)	3	Conceptual approach to statistical analysis of biomedical data.
CTM 5105	Ethics in Clinical Science **Required** (Heitman)	1	This course is a systematic examination of the ethical concepts. and standards of responsible conduct of research in biomedical science and clinical investigation.
CTM 5106	Grant Writing & Funding Strategies **Required** (Toto)	1	This course reviews the different types of federal grant mechanisms as well as grants or contracts from research foundations, advocacy organizations and industry. How to write a persuasive, well-reasoned application will be the focus of the course including the budget, resources and environment, preliminary data, and the research plan.
CTM 5208	Essentials of Management & Leadership for Researchers **Required** (Argenbright)	2	This course is a structured review and discussion of the basics of management and leadership theory and practice. Topics include project management and budgeting, information systems, leadership style, effective interviewing and hiring techniques, conflict resolution, and the basics of organizational culture. Predominant theories and research, as well as shared experiences of the instructor and the group will be discussed to enhance each participant's effectiveness as a manager and leader.
CTM 5209	Practical Clinical & Translational Research Protocol Development **Highly Recommended** (Jacobe)	2	This course is the practical application of the concepts taught in Introduction to Principles & Methods of Clinical & Translational Research. We will apply our understanding of team science, foundations of clinical and translational research, and clinical research design and analysis to the creation of a written research proposal, an oral research presentation, and elevator talk. Prerequisite: CTM 5301 and CTM 5106 or instructor consent.