MENTORED CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

APPLICATION DEADLINE: January 9, 2017

SUMMARY: These research career development awards, referred to as KL2 Mentored Clinical Research Scholar Awards, are sponsored by a Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) from the NIH and the Einstein/Montefiore Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR). Each award will provide support for junior faculty (Instructor or Assistant Professor) with doctoral degrees and employed by Montefiore or Einstein who will devote the majority of their effort to clinical or translational research and training for 2 to 3 years.

Each Scholar must be supervised by a primary mentor, and a formally-designated co-mentor (as described below). Awards provide salary support for the Scholar of up to $75,000 per year (plus fringe), plus up to $15,000 per year for research training and research related expenses.

Only applicants whose research and career development plans emphasize translational research will be considered. The spectrum of translational sciences includes “bench-to-bedside,” or “T1 research,” defined at http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2829707/: “T1 research expedites the movement between basic research and patient-oriented research that leads to new or improved scientific understanding or standards of care.” It also includes patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR) or “T4 research,” that assesses the benefits and harms of preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic, palliative, or health delivery system interventions to inform decision making, defined at http://www.pcori.org/content/patient-centered-outcomes-research.

Applicants without prior training in clinical/translational research or PCOR are encouraged to participate in the ICTR’s Clinical Research Training Program (CRTP). Interested candidates should go to http://einstein.yu.edu/centers/ictr/ret/clinical-research-training-program/ for further information on the CRTP.

In addition, planning is underway to develop new CRTP tracks: one focusing on bench-to-bedside (T1) translational science, and one focusing on PCOR. For more information, you may contact the CRTP Program Director, Dr. Aileen McGinn, at aileen.mcginn@einstein.yu.edu

Further information about the career development program can be found at: http://www.einstein.yu.edu/centers/ictr/ret/career-development/track-1/
ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:
Applicants must have a research or health-professional doctoral degree or its equivalent. Candidates must be able to commit a minimum of 9 calendar months of full-time professional effort for career development and research activities associated with the program. The remaining 3 calendar months’ effort can be divided among other research, clinical and teaching activities only if these activities are consistent with the proposed goals of the KL2 program. We encourage applications from members of underserved and under-represented minority and ethnic populations.

Applicants for KL2 appointments may not simultaneously submit or have pending an application for any other PHS mentored career development award (e.g., K07, K08, K22, K23) that duplicates any of the provisions of the KL2 program. Former or current principal investigators on any NIH research project grant (this does not include NIH Small Grants (R03) or Exploratory/ Developmental (R21) grants or their equivalents) or equivalent non-PHS peer reviewed research grants that are over $100,000 direct costs per year, or project leaders on sub-projects of program project (P01) or center grants (P50) are NOT eligible to participate as KL2 scholars. Appointed KL2 scholars may apply for individual mentored K awards (e.g., K07, K08, K22, K23); if successful, the KL2 appointment would be terminated and funding received from the new individual K award.

Candidates selected for this program may be eligible for the Loan Repayment Program (LRP) for clinical investigators that provides for repayment of the educational plan loan debt of physicians and dentists. Information regarding the eligibility requirements and benefits for the program may be obtained via the LRP website (http://www.lrp.nih.gov/index.aspx).

SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:
- Applicants must be full time employees at Einstein or Montefiore, with a faculty appointment at the level of Instructor or Assistant Professor as of the initiation of the award period (July 1, 2017).
- The proposed research project must fit within the definition of clinical or translational research. “Clinical Research” and “Translational Research” are defined by the NIH, at the following link: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/glossary.htm. Such research must have clear and demonstrable applications to human health and/or disease.
- Applicants proposing clinical investigation in cancer therapeutics are not eligible under this funding mechanism. There is a separate mechanism specific for career development in cancer therapeutics, funded by NCI (R. Perez-Soler, PI); eligible candidates should apply directly to that program.
- Awardees must participate in a monthly workshop, led by faculty of the ICTR, focusing on their research (e.g., works-in-progress presentations, research methods seminars). The Career Development Plan and the Mentor’s statements should both include an acknowledgment of this requirement; the Mentor’s Statement should specifically indicate that the applicant, if successful, will be given the necessary time to participate. Mentors are strongly encouraged to attend their protégés’ works-in-progress presentations.
- The primary mentor and co-mentor are required to participate in a mentoring development program (details will follow upon receipt of the award). The Mentors’ Statements should indicate that the Mentors agree to participate in the program.
MENTORS: Primary mentors must have full-time faculty appointments at Einstein, and should have independent current NIH funding and a track record of success as a mentor. To encourage translational investigation and multidisciplinary mentoring, a Co-Mentor must be named, representing a different discipline from the Primary Mentor. (For example, if the primary mentor is a clinical scientist, the co-mentor should be a laboratory or population scientist.) We encourage co-mentors with Einstein faculty appointments, but an extra-institutional co-mentor may be named if adequately justified.

TERMS OF AWARD: Funding for the Scholar will provide up to $75,000 in salary support (plus fringe benefits). If this amount is insufficient for the proposed time commitment, the Chair’s letter must provide a commitment to provide requisite funding. Awardees must devote at least 75% effort in research and educational activities directly related to the proposed career development program. Scholars may also request—with adequate justification—modest funding for research training and other research related expenses (up to $15,000 per year). Funding may be requested for a period of 2 - 3 years; funds will be awarded for a one-year period only, with continuation funding contingent upon written demonstration of adequate progress in career development and availability of funds.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES:
The application MUST consist of the following sections (developed to be consistent with the components of an NIH K grant):

1. Cover Page: title of application, names/degrees of applicant and mentors, abstract
2. Introduction to Application (for Resubmissions only, 1 page max)
3. Candidate’s Background
4. Career Goals and Objectives
5. Career Development/Training Activities During Award Period
6. Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research
7. Specific Aims (1 page max)
8. Research Strategy
9. Statements by Mentor and Co-mentor describing their commitment to the candidate’s career development, their specific role and responsibilities, and an agreement to participate in our mentoring development program.
10. Description of Institutional Environment
11. Institutional Commitment to Candidate’s Research Career Development (Letter from Chair)
12. Protection of Human Subjects
13. Inclusion of Women and Minorities
14. Targeted/Planned Enrollment
15. Inclusion of Children
16. Literature Cited
17. Biosketches of Applicant, Mentor, and Co-Mentor (in NIH format)

PAGE LIMITATIONS (note all page limitations refer to single spaced with standard margins and11-point Arial font):

Sections 3 – 6 + 8 are limited to no more than 12 pages in total, with Sections 1, 2 (optional) and 7 limited to one additional page each. These page limitations are the
maximum allowed, following NIH standards; applicants for this intramural review are encouraged to provide succinct applications (6-8 pages), if possible. For more information on any of these sections, follow the guidance provided by the NIH in the following document:

REVIEW PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA:

Review criteria include:

The Scholar:
- Scope and quality of clinical and research background;
- Likelihood of success in a clinical or translational investigative career;
- Evidence of strong departmental and institutional commitments;
- Adequacy of the assurance that candidate can devote sufficient effort to clinical/translational research and training activities throughout the period of this award.

Mentors:
- A well-developed and feasible interdisciplinary co-mentoring plan;
- Evidence of understanding of the importance of the mentors’ role;
- Mentors’ track records of research productivity and funding;
- Mentors’ track record of mentoring

Career Development Plan:
- Adequacy of the didactic training in clinical and translational research (For example, the scholar may apply to enroll in the CRTP [information available at http://www.einstein.yu.edu/centers/ict/crtp/] or provide evidence of other formal ongoing training during the period of award;
- Adequacy of the nature and duration of research experiences;
- Adequacy of the nature and duration of any specialized didactic course work, research forums, or research experiences;
- Evidence of multi-disciplinary training experiences;
- Appropriate use of Einstein-related resources.

Research Plan:
- Importance of the research question;
- Adequacy of the background to support hypotheses;
- Soundness of the methods;
- Innovation;
- Feasibility of the research plan;
- Likelihood that the research will contribute to a sustainable, independent, investigative career;
- Evidence that the research fits within the NIH definition of clinical research, or constitutes translational research.
Institutional Environment and Commitment:

- A research environment likely to contribute to the Scholar’s career development including (as appropriate) adequate support infrastructure, funding, data, research seminars;
- Clear evidence of institutional and departmental support, including specific delineation of clinical responsibilities and financial support as needed to meet the requirements of this career development program.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

Applications must be formatted by the applicant into a single document PDF format. The application must be uploaded via our web-based system NO LATER THAN NOON on January 9, 2017, through the portal at: http://informatics.ric.einstein.yu.edu/grants/ric_cda.login

Administrative questions should be addressed to Ms. Catherine Yankou, catherine.yankou@einstein.yu.edu, or 718-430-3234. Programmatic questions should be addressed to Paul Marantz, MD, MPH, Associate Dean for Clinical Research Education, paul.marantz@einstein.yu.edu, or 718-430-4187.