

## Block Institute for Clinical and Translational Research at Einstein and Montefiore

### MENTORED CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

**DEADLINES:**     **APPLICATION: PART 1 (Letter of Intent) December 4, 2023**  
                          **APPLICATION: PART 2 February 12, 2024**

**SUMMARY:** These research career development awards, funded under a K12 mechanism, 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 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 \$100,000 per year (plus fringe) for a minimum of 75% effort devoted to program-related activities, 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 preclinical research, clinical research, clinical implementation and public health research please see: <https://ncats.nih.gov/translation/spectrum>. Increasing emphasis is being given to investigators who will develop as “translational scientists” <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/epdf/10.1021/acsptsci.9b00022>, meaning their work will advance our “understanding [of] the scientific and operational principles underlying each step of the translational process.”

Applicants without prior training in clinical/translational research are encouraged to participate in the ICTR’s Clinical Research Training Program (CRTP). *Interested candidates should go to <https://einsteinmed.edu/centers/ictr/education/clinical-research-training-program/> for further information on the CRTP.* Specific questions can be sent to the CRTP Director, Dr. Aileen McGinn, at [aileen.mcginn@einsteinmed.edu](mailto:aileen.mcginn@einsteinmed.edu).

Further information about the ICTR career development program can be found at: <https://www.einsteinmed.edu/centers/ictr/mentored-career-development-program/>

Further information about the NIH/CTSA grant that supports this program can be found at: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-21-336.html>

#### **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:**

Applicants must have a research or health-professional doctoral degree or its equivalent. In general, 9 person-months (75 percent of full-time professional effort) must be devoted to this program, except for those in surgical specialties, for whom less than 9 person-months (75 percent), but no less than 6 person-months (50 percent), protected time may be devoted this program if sufficiently justified and programmatically approved. 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 program.

At the time of appointment, scholars must not have a pending application for any other PHS mentored career development award (e.g., K07, K08, K22, K23, F99/K00) that duplicates any of the provisions of the K component. Former or current PDs/PIs on any NIH research project grant [this does not include NIH small grants (R03), Exploratory/Developmental (R21) or SBIR, STTR (R43, R44 grants)] or equivalent non-PHS peer reviewed 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 scholars. Appointed scholars are encouraged to apply for individual mentored K awards (e.g., K07, K08, K22, K23) and independent awards (R01, R03, R21); if successful, the K12 appointment would be terminated, and funding received from the new

individual K or R award. Scholars to be supported by the institutional career development program must be at the career level for which the planned program is intended. In keeping with the type of mentoring and career development being provided by the CTSA, a scholar candidate who is already in the process of applying for a P01 grant, or R01 grant is likely too senior for the K12 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/>).

We encourage applications from members of underserved and under-represented minority and ethnic populations, [from disadvantaged backgrounds](#), and with other-than-medical (i.e., non-MD/DO) doctoral degrees.

#### **SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

- Applicants must have a faculty appointment at the level of Instructor or Assistant Professor as of the initiation of the award period (July 1, 2024).
- 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: <https://ncats.nih.gov/about/about-translational-science/spectrum>. Such research must have clear and demonstrable applications to human health and/or disease.

#### **PRIORITY AREAS**

While the NIH/CTSA-supported Einstein-Montefiore Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR) and all the programs it supports (including this career development program) are non-categorical and “disease agnostic,” based on our institutional strengths and priorities we have identified the following research priority areas:

1. BRAIN SCIENCES (which includes investigations within the disciplines of neuroscience, neurology, neurosurgery, psychiatry, and the behavioral sciences); and
2. HEALTH EQUITY

Priority area 1 is *not* required – we invite applicants doing research in all health and disease and disciplinary areas, provided their work fits within the rubric of clinical or translational science. An application within a priority area does not receive special consideration during peer review – i.e., priority areas are not a ‘scorable item’ – but may be taken into consideration when funding decisions are made (insofar as a well-reviewed applicant that misses the funding cutoff but is in a priority area *could* be considered for additional institutional sources of funding). However, we require that all applicants address their application’s potential impact on Health Equity (item #8 in the Application Instructions below).

#### **OTHER PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

- Awardees will submit progress reports and annual budgets as requested.
- Awardees, mentors, and departmental representatives will meet with program leadership at least annually.
- Awardees must participate in twice a month workshops, 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.) At least one mentor should have a clinical background. We encourage co-mentors with Einstein faculty appointments, but an extra-institutional co-mentor may be named if adequately justified.

#### APPLICATION INFORMATION:

[Please click here to login to  
the Application Portal](#)

The application is broken up into two parts. After you enter the Application Portal and create your account, you will have access to *Part 1, Letter of Intent*. After you submit *Part 1, Letter of Intent*, you will receive an email with a link to Part 2.

#### **Application, Part 1 (Letter of Intent). Deadline December 4, 2023**

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- **Applicant Information:** Name, Contact Information, Demographics
- **Professional Information:** Department, Division, Current Level of Training, Professional Background, Name of your department administrator responsible for your financials, NIH eRA Commons Information
- **Proposed Project Information:** Name and Specialty of your Primary Mentor, Name and Specialty of your Co-Mentor(s), Working title for your proposed project, Brief description of your anticipated research proposal, Brief description of your anticipated career development activities.

#### **Application, Part 2. Deadline February 12, 2024**

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What follows is a list of the required information/documents that you will **combine into a single PDF** and submit as your Proposed Project Document. The application **MUST** consist of the following sections (developed to be consistent with the components of an NIH K grant.)

#### **PAGE LIMITATIONS** (Following NIH standards)

All page limitations refer to single spaced with standard margins and 11-point Arial font.

Please note: Sections 4-7 should be no more than 12 pages combined.

1. **Cover Page:** Title of application, Names/Degrees of applicant and mentors, Abstract (1 page max)
2. **Specific Aims** (1 page max)
3. **[RESUBMISSIONS ONLY] Introduction to the Revised Application** (1 page max)
  - a. Summary of substantial additions, deletions, and changes to the application
  - b. Responses to the issues and criticism raised in the summary statement
4. **Career Development Proposal (12 pages max)**
  - a. **Candidate's Background**
  - b. **Career Goals and Objectives**
  - c. **Career Development/Training Activities During Award Period**
  - d. **Research Strategy**

Career development plan should address how this award will help the candidate develop the fundamental characteristics of a translational scientist
5. **Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research** (1 page max)
6. **How your scientific work will help advance health equity** (1 page max)
7. **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
8. **Description of Institutional Environment**
9. **Institutional Commitment to Candidate's Research Career Development** (Letter from Chair)

10. **Protection of Human Subjects**
11. **Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Individuals across the Lifespan**
12. **Targeted/Planned Enrollment**
13. **Literature Cited**
14. **Biosketches of Applicant, mentor, and co-mentor**, in NIH format. Include “Research Support” for mentor and co-mentor.

For more information on any of these sections, follow the guidance provided by the NIH in the following document: [Career Development Instructions for NIH and other PHS Agencies](#)

**TERMS OF AWARD:** Funding for the Scholar will provide up to \$100,000 in salary support (plus fringe benefits), for a minimum of 75% effort to this program (or 50% if from a procedural discipline and adequately justified). If this amount is insufficient for the proposed time commitment (e.g., any faculty earning more than \$133,333 per year), the Chair’s letter must indicate a commitment to provide the additional funding required using non-Federal funds. 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). *Budgets will be requested from applicants selected for these awards and must be submitted prior to the initiation of funding; budgets are not required as part of the application itself.*

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.

#### **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.einsteinmed.edu/centers/ictr/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;
- Likelihood of helping awardee develop the [characteristics of a translational scientist](#);
- Likelihood that awardee’s research career will help advance health equity; and
- 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;
- Likelihood that the research will contribute to advancing health equity; and
- 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.

The Co-Directors of the program, Dr. Michal Melamed and Dr. Paul Marantz, will hold an Informational Zoom Webinar on November 13th from 5:00-6:00 pm. [Please click here to register.](#)

Administrative questions should be addressed to Ms. Nancy Marte, [nancy.marte@einsteinmed.edu](mailto:nancy.marte@einsteinmed.edu), or 718-430-4008.

Programmatic questions should be addressed to the program co-directors: Michal Melamed, MD, MHS, Professor of Medicine, [michal.melamed@einsteinmed.edu](mailto:michal.melamed@einsteinmed.edu) 718-430-2304; or Paul Marantz, MD, MPH, Associate Dean for Clinical Research Education, [paul.marantz@einsteinmed.edu](mailto:paul.marantz@einsteinmed.edu), 718-430-4187.