

# **Overview Information**

Funding Opportunity Title	Path to K Mentored Career Development Grant Request for Applications
Funding Opportunity Purpose	The Ohio State University Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI), the Office of Research, and the College of Medicine are seeking applicants to apply for the Path to K Career Development grant, whose purpose is to train clinical and/or translational investigators and prepare them for a successful K grant application. The CTSI, Office of Research, and College of Medicine Path to K Program supports the career development of investigators who have made a commitment to conduct either patient-oriented or translational research. The Path to K Grant is available for a period of up to two years (contingent on satisfactory progress).
	Early career junior faculty on the tenure or clinical track from the following health sciences colleges at the Ohio State University are eligible to apply: College of Dentistry, College of Medicine, College of Nursing, College of Optometry, College of Pharmacy, College of Public Health and College of Veterinary Medicine.
	The CTSI seeks proposals that address scientific questions consistent with the CTSI mission to transform and advance the discipline of clinical and translational research at The Ohio State University. Proposals may come from any stage of research along the path from the biological basis of health and disease to interventions that improve the health of individuals and the public.

# Key Dates\*

Release Date	January 2, 2025	
Letter of Intent Due Date	February 10, 2025, midnight at https://go.osu.edu/pathtokloi	
Full Application Due Date	March 30, 2025, midnight at <a href="https://redcap.link/6hmo6eve">https://redcap.link/6hmo6eve</a>	
Study Section	April 2025	
Notice of Award Date	May 2025	
Funding Period	July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026; renewable for one year thereafter based on satisfactory progress.	

<sup>\*</sup>some dates may vary because of unanticipated circumstances

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Information Session: Path to K Career

**Development Grant** 

Date: January 15, 2025 Time: Noon to 1 p.m. EST

Place: Zoom

Register Here: <a href="https://redcap.link/iogq7rwk">https://redcap.link/iogq7rwk</a>

# Section I. Funding Opportunity Description

### **Purpose**

The Path to K grant is designed to benefit a wide spectrum of clinical and/or translational researchers across Ohio State. The grant provides salary support to ensure protected time for mentored research and didactic training in clinical/ translational research across a wide variety of project topics and academic areas. The overall goal of the program is to equip early career investigators to advance on the path to be competitive for NIH K Career Development Grants (or equivalent).

The CTSI supports the full spectrum of clinical and translational research intended to have human applications. (see NIH NCATS' <u>Translational Science Spectrum</u> for more information.)

**T1:** Preclinical Research. Preclinical research connects the basic science of disease with human medicine. During this stage, scientists develop model interventions to further understand the basis of a disease or disorder and find ways to treat it. Testing is carried out using cell or animal models of disease; samples of human or animal tissues; or computer-assisted simulations of drug, device or diagnostic interactions within living systems.

**T2:** Clinical Research. Clinical research includes studies to better understand a disease in humans and relate this knowledge to findings in cell or animal models; testing and refinement of new technologies in people; testing of interventions for safety and effectiveness in those with or without disease; behavioral and observational studies; and outcomes and health services research. The goal of many clinical trials is to obtain data to support regulatory approval for an intervention.

**T3:** Clinical Implementation. Clinical implementation involves the adoption of interventions that have been demonstrated to be useful in a research environment into routine clinical care for the general population. This stage also includes implementation research to evaluate the results of clinical trials and to identify new clinical questions and gaps in care.

**T4:** Public Health. Public health includes studying health outcomes at the population level to determine the effects of diseases and efforts to prevent, diagnose and treat them. Findings help guide scientists working to assess the effects of current interventions and to develop new ones.

Program preference will be given to junior faculty members on the tenure or clinical track with fewer than three years since their appointment, but junior faculty with three or more years since their appointment are eligible to apply.

It is anticipated that up to four grants will be made:

- Up to one grant will be awarded to applicants from the Colleges of Dentistry, Nursing, Optometry, Pharmacy, Public Health and Veterinary Medicine. The funds for these awards are courtesy of the Ohio State Office of Research.
- Up to one grant will be awarded to physician-scientists from the College of Medicine. These grants are funded by the College of Medicine Office of Research and the Richard P. and Marie R. Bremer Medical Research Fund and the William H. Davis Endowment for Basic Medical Research.

Applicants will be selected based on a competitive application process in which the following will be key review considerations that determine funding:

- The transdisciplinary/translational science and quality of the research project
- The qualification of the applicant
- The experience of the mentorship team
- The quality of the training plan
- The probability of the proposed project developing into a competitive K grant application

A Study Section will make recommendations to the CTSI K12 Career Development External Advisory Board for the funding of up to two scholars. All applicants will receive reviewer comments on their applications.

Please note the following requirements:

- To be considered, all applicants must submit the required Letter of Intent form by 11:59 p.m. EST on the date noted above using the online form indicated above.
- Applicants must complete all sections of the entire application. Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. EST on the date noted above using the online form indicated above.
- No late LOI or applications will be accepted.

(Note: The CTSI fund two career development programs for junior faculty: the Path to K and the K12 Awards. See Appendix 1 of this document for a comparison of the two programs.)

Please direct all questions to the Program Manager, Stuart Hobbs at 614-685-5972 or <a href="mailto:stuart.hobbs@osumc.edu">stuart.hobbs@osumc.edu</a>

#### Benefits of the Path to K Grant

- Funds up to \$32,000 per year to cover:
  - Salary support for up to a 10% FTE appointment to this grant (up to salary cap of \$15,000 maximum) for the applicant plus relevant fringe.
- A 10% match of salary and fringe from the applicant's home department/division/college to create a total of 20% release time from clinical and other duties to devote to research and training
- Research funds of \$14,000 to pay for supplies, core services, research staff, research related travel and publication expenses, etc.
- Individualized career development and mentorship from the trainee's own appointed scientific committee.
- Automatic participation in the Launch to K Grant Writing workshop that meets May to September annually. <a href="https://CTSI.osu.edu/content/launch-k-grant-writing-workshop?highlight=launch%20to%20k">https://CTSI.osu.edu/content/launch-k-grant-writing-workshop?highlight=launch%20to%20k</a>
- The CTSI will be providing other project resources. These include, but are not limited to:
  - o Project management
  - Infrastructure services
  - o Problem-solving
  - Financial tracking
  - Opportunities to disseminate research (posters and presentations)
  - Tools of the Trade seminars
  - Lunch and Learn seminars

### **Expectations of Path to K Grantees**

- Commit 20% of your effort to the Path to K Grant.
- Your participation in various CTSI/Path to K activities will be required:
  - o A monthly Lunch and Learn program—currently held the third Tuesday of the month
  - o Attendance at The Business of Science, a three-day workshop held during Fall Semester

- Attendance at least one annual meeting of the Association for Clinical and Translational Science (ACTS, typically held in April in Washington, DC)
- o Participation in the Annual CTSI Scientific Meeting
- Mentor training for your Lead Mentor, if your mentor has not already participated in the CTSI training
- Grantees will have the opportunity to attend CTSI Tools of the Trade workshops relevant to their career development needs and will be strongly encouraged to attend one of the College of Medicine-supported Office of Research grant writing workshops or K workshops.
- Interim progress reports and a final project closure report must be submitted to the CTSI. These will include:
  - Responses to reviewer criticisms stated in your award letter must be addressed in these reports.
  - Your progress in meeting the milestones described in your application must also be addressed in these reports.
- Short yearly progress reports will be required each year after the grant for tracking data for the CTSI
  success metrics for three years following the end of the grant. This is required for our NIH metrics of
  success and reports.

#### Other Requirements

- No Path to K scholar or mentor will be permitted to work on any project involving live vertebrate animals
  or human subjects that has not been approved by the IACUC and/or IRB, as appropriate. If any scholar
  undertakes a project that includes human subject research studies, these must conform to the NIH
  policies on the inclusion of women, minorities and children in study populations. Funds for non-compliant
  projects will be withheld.
- IRB or IACUC approval (if required) must be obtained prior to release of funds. If IRB/IACUC is not in place, regulatory approval must be obtained within 60 days of grant start date noted at the top of this RFA.
- Ohio State CITI training in Human Subjects Protection and Responsible Conduct of Research as well as
  Good Clinical Practice certification must be completed by all research personnel who have access to
  personally identifiable data collected as part of this study. This requirement includes the Path to K Scholar,
  as well as research staff funded by the award, if any. These modules are available at
  <a href="http://orrp.osu.edu/irb/training-requirements/">http://orrp.osu.edu/irb/training-requirements/</a>
- Grant recipients must promote objectivity in research by establishing standards that provide a reasonable expectation that the design, conduct and reporting of research funded by the grant will be free from bias resulting from an Investigator's Financial Conflict of Interest.
- All scholars appointed to this grant who are involved with human subjects must have completed
  education on the protection of human subjects and Good Clinical Practice (GCP) in accordance with NIH
  policy.
- Any individual involved in the design and conduct of a study not included in any certification must satisfy this requirement prior to participating in the project.

# Section II. Eligibility Information

# Eligible Applicants

- Applicants must be considered a principal investigator. Eligibility information can be found at the <u>Ohio State Office of Research website</u>. Residents and clinical and postdoctoral fellows are not eligible.
- Applicants must be from one of the following colleges: College of Dentistry, College of Medicine,
   College of Nursing, College of Optometry, College of Pharmacy, College of Public Health or College of Veterinary Medicine

- College of Medicine applicants, as required by the two endowments funding the College of
  Medicine arm of this program, must have an MD degree with a record of engagement in active
  clinical practice and be physicians credentialed by the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center.
  Individuals with dual degrees are eligible as long as one is an MD (acceptable examples: MD, PhD;
  and MD, MPH; MD, MS; etc.). Candidates must have faculty appointments and PI status at The Ohio
  State University. Residents, clinical fellows and post-doctoral fellows are not eligible to apply.
- Applicants may not have previously been a PI on a NIH individual or institutional K Grant or an R01 or an equivalent non-PHS grant with more than \$100,000 in direct costs
- Applicants must commit to spending 20% effort engaged in conducting the research supported through this grant. The Path to K Grant will compensate 10% of the committed time (up to salary cap of \$150,000), with the remained cost-shared by the college/department/division (as appropriate to the pattern of administration of the grantee's home unit). The dean or department/division chair must sign the signature page agreeing to the release time and cost sharing should the applicant be funded.
- Applicants and mentors must become CTSI members. Go to <a href="https://CTSI.osu.edu/form/become-a-member">https://CTSI.osu.edu/form/become-a-member</a>

# Section III. Application and Submission Information

This grant program involves a two-phased application process: a Letter of Intent to Apply (LOI) and a Full Application.

This funding announcement will serve as the instructions and guidelines for both the LOI and the Full Application submissions.

### Phase One: Letter of Intent

To be eligible, it is required that you indicate your intention to apply via the Letter of Intent through an online REDCap form, which can be found at the text and hyperlinked web address.

The purpose of the Letter of Intent is twofold:

- 1. To let program staff know of your intent to apply for the Path to K Grant in order that they may organize the Study Section.
- 2. Applicants can fill-out the eligibility checklist to know that they are eligible.

All Letters of Intent must be submitted through the online process by 11:59 p.m. EST on the date at the top of this RFA. **No late Letters of Intent will be accepted.** 

The process of completing the eligibility checklist will clearly tell you if you are eligible to go on to apply for the Path to K. You should review carefully the eligibility criteria found at the top of this page before applying.

Staff will use the information you submit about your project to organize the Path to K Study section. The information about your project that you submit in the Letter of Intent will not undergo scientific review. **Do not expect further contact from project staff after submitting the Letter of Intent**. If you answered the eligibility questions accurately, and did not receive an ineligible notice, you should be eligible to apply. If there are any issues in your LOI, CTSI staff will contact you within in seven days.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Program Manager, Stuart Hobbs at 614-685-5972 or stuart.hobbs@osumc.edu.

# Phase Two: Full Application

This funding announcement will serve as the instructions and guidelines for Full Application submissions

Applications and supporting materials are to be submitted by 11:59 p.m. EST on the date noted at the top

#### of this RFA. No late applications will be accepted.

Please read these instructions carefully before going online to apply. The application must be completed and submitted online at the web address noted on page 1 of this document. The application process is designed so that you can save your information and return to it. You will be given a code, so be prepared to save that information.

#### **Format Specifications**

All applications must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Font
  - Use Arial 11 points or larger
- Page Margins
  - O Use at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left and right) for all pages
- Application Paging
  - o The application must be single-spaced.
- Figures, Graphs, Diagrams, Charts, Tables, Figure Legends and Footnotes
  - o You may use a smaller type size, but it must be in black ink, readily legible
  - Do not include figures or other materials that are not inserted directly into the body of the application.
- Documents and file name. All documents asked for in the application must be submitted online in A single combined PDF document. Name your document using the following guideline:
   < lastname\_firstname\_path\_to\_k\_Application\_2025 >

Upon receipt of your application, the CTSI will send you an email confirmation. Please inquire within 24 hours if you do not receive this email. The program will not be responsible for late submissions if not notified.

Investigators are strongly encouraged to visit the CTSI website at <a href="https://CTSI.osu.edu/">https://CTSI.osu.edu/</a> to search for and make use of other CTSI resources relevant to your project.

# **Grant Application Checklist**

The Application consists of several parts. You can use the following as a checklist to help you gather, enter, and complete the application.

□ Personal Information (Includes Employee ID Number, Ohio State name.#)			
Campus Address			
Current University Employment Information (including job title, Department name, tenure track status)			
Administrative departmental contact (name, email)			
Previous CTSI funding			
NIH new investigator or early stage investigator status <a href="http://grants.nih.gov/grants/new_investigators/investigator_policies_faqs.htm#2650">http://grants.nih.gov/grants/new_investigators/investigator_policies_faqs.htm#2650</a>			
Mentor(s) and collaborators (name/title/role on project/department)			
Race, ethnicity and additional such reporting information asked for by the NIH			
Project Title and Abstract (up to 250 words)			

	Pro	oject Description – nine page maximum (to be uploaded to the Application; see these instructions		
	for	r complete details)		
		Personal Statement (one page maximum)		
		☐ Who are you? Why have you chosen a research career?		
		☐ Your previous research experience?		
		☐ What are your clinical privileges and expectations?		
		☐ How you believe this training program will change the trajectory of your career or enhance your movement towards your goals?		
		,		
		☐ The role of your mentor(s) in developing your skills		
		☐ Your strategy for a K-proposal submission within 12 to 18 months.		
		☐ How will you meet the NIH requirements for training in responsible conduct of research		
		Research Plan (six pages maximum). The following topics should be addressed:		
		☐ Specific Aims and hypothesis		
		☐ Significance		
		☐ Innovation		
		□ Preliminary Data		
		□ Approach		
		☐ Milestones		
		References to Scientific Literature (not included in page count.)		
	□ Itemized Project Budget (see below for form) and Budget Justification.			
	NII	H Formatted Biosketches (to be uploaded to the Application)		
		☐ Applicant ☐ Lead Mentor		
		☐ All other mentors		
	Le	tters of support from your:		
		☐ Mentor		
		☐ Other members of your mentoring team.		
	Regulatory (IACUC or IRB) approval (if applicable)			
	Signature of dean or department or division chair agreeing to the release time and cost-sharing should the application be funded			

### **Application Components: Personal Statement**

A one-page personal statement addressing the following points:

- Who are you? Why have you chosen a research career?
- Your previous research experience
- What are your clinical privileges?
- How you believe this training program will change the trajectory of your career or enhance your movement towards your goals

### **Application Components: Mentorship and Career Development Plan**

This section can be up to two pages and should address:

- The role of your mentor(s) in developing your skills
- Your plan for receiving training to develop the additional skills you need to be a physician scientist.

- How you will meet the NIH requirements for instruction in the responsible conduct of research (see <a href="https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-22-055.html">https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-22-055.html</a> for more information). Note the CITI GCP and RCR training is required also but does not fulfill this requirement.
- Your strategy for a K-proposal submission within 12 to 18 months.

### **Application Components: Research Plan**

This section can be up to six pages and should include:

- Specific Aims and hypothesis of the project. Preferably no more than two aims
- <u>Significance</u> of the problem and how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge and/or change the field of study.
- <u>Innovation</u> Explain how the proposed project challenges current practice or creates a novel approach to the problem.
- <u>Preliminary Data</u> Any research findings that help demonstrate the feasibility of your project; figures can be multi-panel if addressing a common theme; fully self-explanatory legends. Preliminary data can be integrated within various sections and does not have to constitute an independent section.
- Approach Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the
  specific aims of the project, noting how it is clinical and/or translational. Schematic illustrations desired.
  Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the
  aims. For materials and methods, highlight powerful non-routine approaches, summarize routine
  approaches, and address statistical approach.
- Milestones A list of milestones to be met and set dates for meeting.
- References to Scientific Literature This section is not included in the six-page limit

### **Application Components: Itemized Project Budget and Justification**

Use budget worksheet provided at: https://CTSI.osu.edu/content/path-k-program

The Path to K grant has a budget of up to \$32,750. Allowable costs:

- Salary support for the Path to K Pl up to a 10% FTE appointment to this grant (capped at \$15,000 maximum) for the applicant, plus appropriate fringe.
- Research funds of up to \$14,000
  - Salary and fringe support for research staff, including undergraduate or graduate students, clinical trainees, post-doctoral and clinical fellows, is permitted.
  - Research supplies and other expenses needed for carrying out the project, such as research beds, nursing or bionutrition staff, and routine laboratory measures.
  - Travel funds needed for study conduct (e.g. participant travel or reimbursement for mileage for the conduct of community-engaged research) are allowable expenses. Funds to travel to the Association for Clinical and Translational Science (ACTS) meeting in Washington, DC, in April should be included in your budget ~\$2,500).
  - Equipment that is essential for the study, and is not otherwise available, may be requested, but large equipment expenditures (over \$5,000) are not allowed.

The budget justification should briefly provide explanation for line items within each category, such as roles and responsibilities for personnel, how supplies relate to your aims. If requesting equipment, the justification must explain why the current equipment is insufficient to accomplish the proposed research and how the new equipment's use will be allocated specifically to the proposed research. Finally, describe any overlap with submitted or funded applications, and existing funding including start-up

### **Application Components: Scientific Mentorship Team**

Your Scientific Mentorship Team must consist of at least three members. Your team must include among its membership a Lead Mentor, a statistical mentor, and one other mentor (additional mentors are optional).

<u>Lead Mentor</u>. The applicant will identify a faculty member mentor in his or her area of clinical or translational research. Your mentor (or each co-mentor) is responsible for:

- Providing career development and counseling;
- Guiding and encouraging the design and execution of an original, high quality, research project;
- Collaborating with the mentorship team to support the Path to K Scholar.
- Attending CTSI sponsored events including a mentor training program and an on-boarding session, as well as other meetings with program leaders and administrators as needed.

The letter of support from your lead mentor should acknowledge his or her understanding of these requirements and describe their mentoring plan for your development. The letter should also describe the Mentors experience with mentoring, including the number of mentees.

<u>Biostatistician</u>. Your mentorship team must include one statistician who will help you to develop a research plan that meets the highest standards of rigor and reproducibility. The biostatistician will also biostatistical analysis of data and mentor you in biostatistical analysis. If your department or division does not provide access to biostatistical support, you can arrange for a consultation with the Center for Biostatistics. Go to the Center's project request form at:

https://medicine.osu.edu/departments/biostatistics/service-request-form

At least one additional member of the mentorship team. The Mentorship Team provides additional expertise in the scientific area of research chosen for the project, complementary to the interests of the lead mentor. It is highly desirable that the other member of your Mentorship Team be drawn from another discipline so that he or she can provide transdisciplinary input into your project. Your mentorship team members may also include a university faculty member who is not a regular member of the graduate faculty (e.g., an adjunct professor), a university staff member or a qualified individual outside the university who can provide expertise in your discipline.

### **Mentor Letters of Support**

Letters of support are required: (1) from Lead mentor; and (2) from the other members of your mentoring team. Include these letters in your application PDF.

The Mentors should acknowledge awareness and support of the project and address the role and qualifications of the mentor for the project. The statistical mentor should give a rough count of how many projects he or she has supported with statistical issues similar to your project. The other mentor(s) should describe their experience with mentoring, including the number of mentees.

Address the letters to:

K. Luan Phan, MD The Ohio State University 376 W 10th Ave STE 260 Columbus, OH 43210

**Application Components: NIH Biosketches** 

You must upload (as PDFs) NIH formatted biosketches of yourself, your lead mentor and all other mentors.

Biosketch Instructions, samples and format pages can be found here: <a href="https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm">https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm</a>

### **Application Components: Signature Page**

Your dean or department/division chair must sign the signature page agreeing to the release time and cost sharing should you be funded. The pattern of administration in your unit will determine who the signing individual is. It should be the person who has ultimate authority for your time.

# Section IV. Application Review Information

Three reviewers will read each application. Applications will receive an Impact Score (NIH 1-9 scale). Individual components will also be scored 1-9. The overall impact will reflect an evaluation of the trainee, the mentoring team, the training plan and the proposed research. All are equally weighted, and the study section will assess the overall fit of the components together.

# Section V. Integrating Special Populations

Though this is not a scored category, applicants are encouraged to design research projects that address the needs of special populations; devise recruitment and retention plans that will optimize the participation of one or more special population; or pursue other strategies that integrate underrepresented groups into clinical and translational research.

The term "Special Populations" encompasses a multitude of groups and communities that are commonly underrepresented in clinical and translational research, and the CTSI is actively working to correct this problem. These groups include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Fetuses, neonates and children
- Pregnant or nursing women
- Older adults
- Individuals with physical disabilities
- Individuals with communication or sensory impairments (hearing, vision)
- Racial, ethnic or cultural minorities
- Non-English-speaking individuals
- Underinsured or socioeconomically disadvantaged patients
- Gender or sexual minorities (LGBTQ+)
- Individuals with intellectual disabilities
- Isolated urban or rural communities

Socioeconomic or demographic factors may contribute to the systematic underrepresentation of special populations, regardless of whether these groups are explicitly targeted for research participation. Historical cases of research misconduct have also ingrained a deep-rooted mistrust of the medical establishment in certain communities. Investigators often encounter additional challenges when recruiting or retaining special populations for research, such as how to effectively obtain informed consent for individuals with intellectual disabilities or how to ensure success for a study requiring multiple clinic visits for individuals with limited physical mobility. All these factors contribute to the underrepresentation in research of specific populations.

# Section VI. Grant Administration Information

### **Grant Notices**

Meritorious applications will receive formal notice in the form of a Letter of Offer provided to the applicant. A completed and signed CTSI Grant Acceptance Letter is required before the start date.

# Reporting

You will provide brief interim progress reports three times per year and an annual progress report at the end of the year in which you will report on the progress of meeting the project milestones you listed in your application. The annual report will also include a brief presentation about your experience as a Path to K scholar to the CTSI K12 External Advisory Board.

Trainees, Lead Mentors and the Program Directors will meet every six months to review progress on the scholars Training Plan.

### **Citation Requirements:**

All investigators must acknowledge the CTSI, the Office of Research and/or the College of Medicine in all publications, posters and presentations resulting from the supported studies. Where applicable, please include one of the following texts:

For awardees from a health science college other than Medicine:

The project described was supported by a Path to K award from the Ohio State University Office of Research and the Center for Clinical and Translational Science. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the university, or the Center for Clinical and Translational Science.

For College of Medicine awardees:

The project described was supported by a Path to K award from the Ohio State University College of Medicine Office of Research and the Center for Clinical and Translational Science through the Richard P. and Marie R. Bremer Medical Research Fund and William H. Davis Endowment for Basic Medical Research. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the Davis/Bremer Research Fund, the Center for Clinical and Translational Science, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center or the university.

# Section VII. Agency Contacts

### **Grant Management Contact**

If you have any questions regarding this RFA, please contact:

#### Stuart D. Hobbs, PhD, MBA

Associate Director, Research Education, Training and Career Development Center for Clinical and Translational Science
Ste. 260 Prior Hall, 376 W. 10th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210
614-685-5972 Office
stuart.hobbs@osumc.edu CTSI.osu.edu

# **Program Co-Directors**

Cynthia Carnes, PharmD, PhD

Path to K Program Director

Senior Associate Vice President of Research
Operations, Office of Research
Professor, Outcomes and Translational Sciences

Loren Wold, PhD, FAHA
Path to K Co-Director
Professor of Nursing and Medicine
Assistant Dean for Biological Health Research
College of Nursing

Associate Dean for Research Operations and Compliance, College of Medicine wold.5@osu.edu

### Signature: Protected Time and Salary Coverage

I acknowledge that this individual is qualified for this program and will receive support for all requirements for protected time and financial needs according to the RFA, and specifically:

- 1. I agree that if this applicant is awarded a Path to K grant, this individual will receive the required 20% protected time beginning July 1, 2025, and continuing until June 30, 2026, assuming satisfactory progress as determined by the CTSI.
- 2. I agree that the department and/or college will provide the amount of salary and benefits not covered by this grant beginning with the award date and continuing for up to two years. The grant covers 10% of salary up to a salary cap of \$150,000 (i.e. 10% of \$150,000 = \$15,000), plus relevant fringe benefits.

Signature	Date
Printed Name and Title:	
Note: The above should be signed by you appropriate person to make these commi	ur College Dean or your Department or Division chair: whoever is the itments.
Signature Applicant	
,	true and complete to the best of my knowledge, and that I will and conditions governing my potential appointment.
Applicant's signature	

### **Appendix 1: CTSI Career Development Awards Compared**

#### Path to K Grant

- For early career physician-scientists and other health science investigators who have not previously been a PI on an NIH individual or institutional K, or R01 Award or received a pilot award from the CTSI.
- For clinical and translational researchers with a research or health-professional doctoral degree in one of the seven Ohio State health science colleges.
- Provides salary and fringe support for up to a 10% FTE (capped at \$15,000)
- Approximately \$14,000 in research expense support for one year.
- Aims to place junior scientists on the path to be competitive for NIH K Career Development Awards.
- WHO SHOULD APPLY? If you picture yourself using the data from your project to apply for a K award in one year, apply for the Path to K Grant.

#### K12 Grant

- For junior faculty who have not yet been a PI on a major federal or private sector research grant or who have not previously received a K award.
- For clinical and translational researchers with a research or health-professional doctoral degree from any Ohio State college.
- Provides 75% salary support and research funding for three years (two years CTSI support; one year home college support). (Capped at \$120K)
- Up to \$15,000 annually in research expense support.
- Support to develop an R grant or individual K grant to fund research at the conclusion of the K12 funding.
- WHO SHOULD APPLY? If you picture yourself using the data from the proposed project to apply for an R grant in two to three years, apply for the K12.

Important note: You can apply for one or the other, but not both of these awards at the same time.

#### More information can be found at the CTSI website:

### Path to K Grant

https://ctsi.osu.edu/career-development/early-career-faculty/path-k

#### K12 Grant

https://ctsi.osu.edu/career-development/early-career-faculty/k12-early-career-training-grant

### Appendix 2: Options for Fulfilling Requirements in Responsible Conduct of Research

All K12 scholars must receive instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research, per NIH guidelines. The NIH policy outlines requirements for the format of instruction, frequency and timing, and subject matter. These should be reviewed here: <a href="https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-22-055.html">https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-22-055.html</a> (accessed June 2025)

In response, the Office of Research at Ohio State produced the "Institutional Responsible Conduct of Research Training Plan" that can be found at <a href="https://research.osu.edu/sites/default/files/2025-01/ORC\_Institutional-Responsible-Conduct-of-Research-Training-Plan\_508.pdf">https://research.osu.edu/sites/default/files/2025-01/ORC\_Institutional-Responsible-Conduct-of-Research-Training-Plan\_508.pdf</a> (accessed June 2025)

Among other topics, Ohio State training plan outlines university training requirements for faculty on various funding sources and those on training grants. The K12 requires at least eight contact hours of instruction. The following fulfill both the content and contact requirements of the NIH for this training:

#### Graduate School 8000: Responsible Conduct of Research (Course ID 37106)

This course was specifically designed to meet NIH requirements in RCR training. The course provides a practical overview of the rules, regulations and professional practices that define the responsible conduct of research. Covers all the topics required by the National Institutes of Health. The course features weekly facilitated discussions from experts across campus. 1 Credit. Offered Spring term. Registration through BuckeyeLink.

### Pharmacy 8520 - Research Ethics

Basic concepts of integrity in the process of research. The course covers all areas of responsible conduct of research including mentor/trainee roles, data management, animal use, human subjects. Offered the first four weeks of summer term. The course fulfills NIH requirement for research ethics. Dr. Cynthia Carnes, instructor. 1 credit

### Responsible Conduct of Research Training at Nationwide Children's Hospital

Nationwide Children's Hospital offers a Responsible Conduct of Research Training Series at various times during the year. The course fulfills NIH requirements.

For details, contact Michelle.Abraham@nationwidechildrens.org

The Ohio State Institutional Plan includes a list of several other courses whose syllabi indicate they would meet NIH requirements for subject area, format, and duration. However, these courses have not been formally reviewed or audited for their fulfillment of NIH requirements, and ethics courses alone typically are not sufficient to meet RCR .

#### Options for ongoing training.

On their own, the following to not meet the NIH or Ohio State RCR training requirements but provide excellent opportunities to continue your training. For example, the NIH program noted below provides a forum for clinical researchers to go more deeply into ethical issues that they might confront.

### NIH Fall Ethical and Regulatory Aspects of Clinical Research Annual Forum

This is a seven-week annual presentation (typically offered September to November) by the NIH Bioethics program regarding various ethical issues of conducting human subject research. Presentations are via NIH VideoCast live and recordings may be accessed about 48 hours after the presentation via their Archive portal. Participants may request either a Certificate of Completion or Nursing CEUs by pre-registering Online and attending a set number of programs. You can find more information at the program website: <a href="https://www.cc.nih.gov/bioethics/courses/ethical-regulatory-aspects">https://www.cc.nih.gov/bioethics/courses/ethical-regulatory-aspects</a>

#### Conversations about Research Ethics (CARE) Training Program

The Center for Ethics and Human Values (CEHV) offers a semester-long, multidisciplinary, and discussion-based program on research ethics called the CARE Training Program. It involves eight hour-long sessions led by CEHV ethicists. The program does not fulfill all the NIH requirements but is an excellent refresher on research ethics topics. Details here: <a href="https://cehv.osu.edu/care-training-program">https://cehv.osu.edu/care-training-program</a> (accessed December 2025)