CTSC MASTER’S DEGREE APPLICATIONS IN
CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL INVESTIGATION

DUE BY 5PM ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2017
Courses Begin in August 2017
CLICK TO INITIATE APPLICATION

View Eligibility Requirements and Application Instructions

The CTSC Master's Degree track is comprised of a didactic curriculum that includes core and elective courses and a mentored clinical research project. During the first year, trainees work with their mentors to develop their research project. In the second year and third year (if needed), trainees will utilize the skills acquired from the didactic curriculum to conduct their research project, at 75% time and effort (50% for surgeons).

Projects must have a translational or clinical research focus. Pre-clinical studies should have near-term potential to translate into patient-oriented research. Clinical Trials (phases I or II) are permitted. Emphasis is placed on drug discovery, targeted therapeutics, biomarker or device development and novel technologies; projects focusing on health needs of LGBTI and underserved populations and/or directly impacting health outcomes in the community; pediatric and women’s health studies; life course studies of disease; and studies incorporating biostatistical methodologies and design. Basic research proposals will not be considered for admission.

INVESTIGATORS FROM ALL DISCIPLINES—PRE-CLINICAL, CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL—are welcome to apply.
INDIVIDUALS FROM UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS, DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS AND/OR WITH DISABILITIES are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS
• 75% time and effort (50% for surgeons) devoted to performing and completing a mentored clinical & translational research project during the training period
• Presentation of the mentored research project at a CTSC Research in Progress Luncheon
• 30 credits of didactic curriculum (22 Core and 8 Elective)
• A grant submitted to the NIH or other funding agency requiring peer-reviewed funding with the trainee as the Principal Investigator, or a first author article submitted to a high-quality, peer-reviewed, scientific journal
• A presentation of the mentored research project at the Translational Science National Meeting and at a national/international scientific conference
• Master’s Degree Thesis Defense (Written Thesis and Oral Presentation)

REVIEW CRITERIA
Upon submission to the online application module ePAR, your application will undergo review based on several Application Review Criteria.

APPLICATION PROCESS & TIMELINE
Applications are due by 5pm on Wednesday, March 22, 2017. Candidates will be notified by June 2017 of their applications final disposition. At that time, if selected, the applicant will complete additional required regulatory and compliance documents within 30 days.

The goal of the Clinical & Translational Education Program (CTEP) is to educate and train highly motivated individuals to become successful, independent clinical and translational (C/T) investigators with a strong foundation in the knowledge and practical skills necessary to conduct C/T team research across disciplines and institutions.

Questions? See CTEP FAQs, or email CTSC-Education@med.cornell.edu
Clinical & Translational Science Center
A Weill Cornell Medical College Multi-Institutional Consortium with:

Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences / New York Presbyterian Hospital / Cornell University, Ithaca / Cornell University Cooperative Extension, New York City / Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center / Hospital for Special Surgery / Hunter College of the City University of New York / Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing / Hunter School of Urban Public Health / Hunter Center for Translational and Basic Research / Animal Medical Center and Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine

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CTSC MASTER’S DEGREE IN CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL INVESTIGATION

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications must comply with eligibility and submission requirements

Missing or incomplete documents or information will disqualify your application for review

Program Eligibility - All Candidates

Must be a US Citizen, Non-Citizen National, or Permanent Resident (Proof of legal status required)
Must have the ability to devote full-time 75% effort (50% for surgeons) to the MSCTI
Must have primary appointment or be employed at a Weill Cornell CTSC partner institution
Only one re-submission for each application is allowed
Medical students and Medical Doctors (MDs), MD/PhDs, senior residents, fellows
Veterinarians (DVM), Osteopaths (DO), Dentists (DDS, DMD), or Physical Therapists (DPT)
Post-doctoral PhDs seeking a career in clinical and translational research
Faculty members from any of the partnering Weill Cornell CTSC institutions
PhD candidates in Nursing School, those with Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), and Doctorate of Science in Nursing (DNS) degrees
Certified Physicians’ Assistants and Clinical Research Project Coordinators/Aides

A. Application Instructions and Checklist – Complete all fields.

1. Trainee Application Form - Click on your current citizenship status to proceed
   a. Personal and demographic information – A valid employer issued/institutional email is required.
   b. If you are not selected for the Master’s Degree program and wish to be considered for the Advanced Certificate Program please check the box notifying the program office (please note, a letter of support from your department chair/division chief is required).
   c. Project Summary – Succinctly describe (250 word or less) your proposed project written in plain language so even a non-scientist can understand the importance of the project. Include the project’s broad, long-term objectives, specific aims, research design, methods, significance, and innovation.
   d. Multidisciplinary Integration - Succinctly describe (250 words or less) how a multidisciplinary approach is integrated into this proposal. A multidisciplinary approach is one that brings experts from traditionally basic biological or physical sciences with non-biological disciplines including biostatistics.
   e. Mentors - Click on [add] and fill in required information. All mentors must have active or recent peer-reviewed (federal or foundation) funding. Mentors cannot be listed on more than 2 active CTSC applications or current awards (including CTSC Seed Awards). Two mentors are required, but no more than 3 mentors can be named on an application. A Primary Mentor must be designated and each mentor’s role must be listed. Of the two proposed mentors:
      • One must be designated to serve as a Clinical mentor and one a Basic Science or Public Health mentor.
      • At least 2 mentors, including the designated primary mentor, must be from different Weill Cornell CTSC partner institutions and from different disciplines. NIH definition of different disciplines will have priority (areas outside biology, e.g., computer science, imaging, chemistry, mathematics, informatics, engineering, behavioral science, health services/outcomes research, and biostatistics).

2. Biosketches: Upload individual PDF files for the applicant and mentors; note the new NIH Biosketch
### B. Supporting Documents – Please Upload Attachments as individual PDF files.

1. **Projects must** have a translational or clinical research focus. Pre-clinical studies should have near-term potential to translate into patient-oriented research. Clinical Trials (phases I or II) are permitted. Emphasis is placed on drug discovery, targeted therapeutics, biomarker or device development and novel technologies; projects focusing on health needs of LGBTI and underserved populations and/or directly impacting health outcomes in the community; pediatric and women’s health studies; life course studies of disease; and studies incorporating biostatistical methodologies and design. Limited to 3 single-spaced pages (at least ½ inch margins, no smaller than 11pt Arial font) to include:
   - Hypothesis and specific aims
   - Scientific background for the study, citing appropriate references of work in the area by the investigator(s) and others
   - Research Plan (research team to be involved, experimental design, methods, statistics, timeline, innovation, human subjects and animal issues, if applicable)
   - References and supporting tables, figures, (2-3 additional pages are allowed)

2. **Career Statement** (1 page or less) – Discuss your short and long-term goals and how acceptance to the Master’s program would impact your career and professional development.

3. **Letters** - Must be addressed to “Master’s Degree Admissions Committee”, on departmental letterhead, signed, and emailed directly to ctsc-education@med.cornell.edu:
   a. **Department Chair/Division Chief Letter**: must state a guarantee of 75% protected time (50% for surgeons).
   b. **Mentors Letters**: Required from all mentors and the designated primary mentor’s letter must include a mentoring plan (click link for instructions).

4. **Proof of Legal Status**: Provide verification of legal status (scanned copies acceptable):
   - **Non-Citizen National**: a notary’s signed statement certifying that you have legal verification of such status.
   - **Lawfully Admitted Permanent Resident**: a notary’s signed statement certifying that you have legal verification of such status and scanned copy of Permanent Resident Card (USCIS Form I-551).

5. **Transcripts and Test Scores** – Upload digital copies of test scores and transcripts with application submission. Upon program acceptance, official documents will be required in hardcopy. Test scores include: MCAT, GRE and TOEFL. Transcripts from Undergraduate, graduate and/or medical school.

Questions? See [CTEP FAQs](mailto:CTEPFAQs), or email [CTSC-Education@med.cornell.edu](mailto:CTSC-Education@med.cornell.edu)
MENTORING PLAN INSTRUCTIONS:
(Each mentor’s letter not to exceed 3 pages)

Please provide a detailed mentoring plan for the Candidate that describes the approaches to be used such as frequency of one-on-one and group meeting; oral scientific presentations; instruction on how to critically evaluate the literature and experimental design; training in scientific writing (e.g., grant proposal preparation, manuscripts, and abstracts); designing experiments, etc. Plans to enhance the candidate’s research capabilities should include:

1. Specific skills to be acquired during the mentoring experience
2. Milestones that will be reached during the mentoring experience (e.g., acquisition of preliminary data, new research skills, presentation of research findings at local/national meetings, and publications)
3. Describe how the Candidate will be supported and guaranteed protected time, including how they will ensure that the project will be done in a timely manner
4. Opportunities to interact with research team; The role of other investigators who will contribute to the research mentoring should be described in the application
5. The mentoring plan must include guidance in the ethical conduct of research (including training in animal and human subjects’ protection, if applicable)
6. A plan to acquire presentation and publication skills, and participation in poster or oral presentations in at least one scientific meeting during the award period
7. A plan on how opportunities will be provided for the Candidate to participate in writing and publishing scientific papers
8. Describe any planned outside laboratory experiences or collaborations for the Candidate
9. How this experience will help the candidate move toward achieving her/his stated career goals
10. Mentors and candidate must provide a projected time line delineating specific research milestones and other activities that will be undertaken in an attempt to secure independent research funding (i.e., anticipated publications, training in grantsmanship, timeframe for grant submissions and type of independent research support the candidate seeks)
11. Mentors should provide evidence of mentoring experience and success. Please provide a list containing: (1) Current Trainees, (2) Past Trainees (≤ 10 years). For each of the individuals listed, please provide their current positions and name of institution, outcomes of the prior trainees. Describe how these prior mentoring experiences influenced the development/mentorship plan proposed for the current candidate

Reference NHLBI mentoring guidelines
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APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA

Similar to the NIH process, each proposal is carefully reviewed by at least two independent evaluators for scientific merit based on translational focus and significance. The following criteria are taken into consideration:

- **Overall Impact Score** - Reviewers should provide their assessment of the likelihood that the proposed career development and research plan will enhance the candidate’s potential for a productive, independent scientific research career in a health-related field, taking into consideration the criteria below in determining the overall impact score.

- **Career Dev Plan/Career Goals & Objectives** - What is the likelihood that the plan will contribute substantially to the scientific development of the candidate and lead to a scientific research career and/or scientific independence? Are the candidate’s prior training and research experience appropriate for this award?

- **Research Proposal** - Is there a strong scientific premise for the project? Are the proposed research question, design, and methodology of significant scientific and technical merit? Has the candidate presented strategies to ensure a robust and unbiased approach, as appropriate for the work proposed? Is the research plan of high quality, and does it have potential for advancing the field of study? Is the scientific and technical merit of the proposed research plan of significance? Will the proposed research lead to an independent line of research for the candidate?

- **Mentors and Mentoring Plan** - At least 2 mentors are required. Primary and Secondary mentors must be from CTSC partner institutions. Additional mentors may be from any institution. Are the qualifications of the mentor(s) in the area of the proposed research appropriate? Does the mentor(s) adequately address the candidate’s potential and his/her strengths and areas needing improvement? Is there an adequate description of the mentor’s proposed role in providing guidance and advice to the candidate? Is there evidence of the mentors’ previous experience? Is there evidence of the mentors’ current research productivity and peer-reviewed support? Is there evidence of the mentors’ active/pending research funding? Do the letters from mentors document their willingness to participate in the award program? Is the proposed Mentoring plan likely to contribute substantially to the scientific and professional development of the candidate, and facilitate his/her successful transition to independence? (see Instructions for Mentoring Plan)

- **Environment & Departmental Commitment** - Is there a strong statement of commitment by the department to the levels of effort required to devote directly to the research and career development activities described in the application? Is the departmental commitment to the career development of the candidate appropriately strong? Is the environment for scientific and professional development of the candidate of high quality? Is there assurance that the department intends the candidate to be an integral part of its research program as an independent investigator?
The following areas receive additional priorities for their special relevance to the CTSC mission:

- **Translational and Clinical Research Focus** – Projects aimed at improving research methods and/or incubating novel technologies to accelerate multidisciplinary clinical and translational research.
- **Pre-clinical studies** should have near-term potential to translate into patient-oriented research, clinical trials (phases I or II) are permitted.
- **Emphasis is placed on:**
  - Drug discovery, targeted therapeutics, biomarker or device development and novel technologies.
  - **Comparative effectiveness and health disparities research** - Projects focusing on health needs of LGBTI and underserved populations and/or directly impacting health outcomes in the community.
  - **Pediatric and Women's Health Studies**
  - **Life course studies of disease**
  - Studies incorporating **Biostatistical Methodology and Design**

Questions? See [CTEP FAQs](#), or email [CTSC-Education@med.cornell.edu](mailto:CTSC-Education@med.cornell.edu)