Mentored Clinical Research Training Program

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Program summary
A collaborative initiative by Weill Cornell Medical College (WCMC) in New York City and The Methodist Hospital (TMH) in Houston, the Mentored Clinical Research Training Program (MCRTP) offers junior physicians a fast-track program to acquire the skillset to develop a clinical research project proposal and embark on a clinical research career pathway. The program is aimed at WCMC and TMH early career physicians who have a strong interest in clinical research but who currently lack the time to participate in comprehensive clinical research training, such as the certificate and Master’s programs in clinical investigation of Weill Cornell’s Clinical and Translational Research Center (CTSC), for which the MCRTP program is a fitting possible preparation.

The MCRTP begins with an intensive, four-day workshop, to be held from July 17 through July 20, 2013 in New York City at the Cornell Club. Drawing on courses adapted from the CTSC, small group sessions, and invited speakers, the workshop will provide participants with an introduction or refresher to the foundations of clinical research, including research design and methodologies, data management and analysis, and the regulatory process (see Supporting Documents for the link to the workshop schedule).

Throughout the year following the workshop, trainees will develop their own clinical research project proposal under mentorship guidance from experienced clinical researchers at WCMC and/or TMH. The final product will be an IRB-submission-ready research proposal to be sent to an external funding agency for consideration.

It is the expectation that the trainees will devote at least 10 percent of their time to the program during the one-year mentored proposal development phase, and this effort allocation should be described in the Departmental/Divisional commitment letter (see Required Documents). MCRTP program costs are fully covered for the trainees, including flight and hotel expenses for TMH participants related to the workshop.

Applicants should seek to identify a mentor prior to applying to the program, if possible. To encourage cross-institutional linkages, TMH applicants are strongly encouraged to identify mentors at WCMC, and vice versa; it is also feasible to have two mentors, one at each institution. The mentor(s) and trainee do not necessarily have to belong to the same research discipline or have a similar research focus. Applicants can contact MCRTP leadership to request help in identifying possible mentors:

- John P. Leonard, MD, Associate Dean for Clinical Research, Weill Cornell Medical College (jpleonar@med.cornell.edu)
- Timothy B. Boone, MD, PhD, Co-Director, Institute for Academic Medicine, The Methodist Hospital (TBoone3@tmhs.org)
Eligibility requirements
Those eligible to apply are WCMC or TMH early career physicians who are up to seven years post residency/fellowship training when they start the program.

Required documents
Notification of Intent – A completed NoI form is due Monday, March 18, 2013. Please email the completed NoI form to Eelco Slagter at eas2008@med.cornell.edu. Eligible applicants who have fulfilled the requirements of the NoI will be invited to submit a full application. See Supporting Documents for the link to the NoI form.

Full application package – The following documents need to be submitted as part of the full application package by Friday, May 3, 2013:
• Application form
• Applicant’s NIH biosketch/CV
• Applicant’s career development plan (1 page limit):
  o Describe career goals, plan to obtain experience and skills for an independent career in clinical research, and future coursework planned, if any.
• Applicant’s statement of interest (2 page limit):
  o Describe research idea; explain how current or planned clinical or research activities would contribute to realizing this research idea.
• Mentor’s NIH biosketch/CV, including track record of mentorship – if applicable
• Mentor’s statement of support – if applicable (1 page limit):
  o Describe track record with the applicant, information on mentors’ qualifications in the research area, experience in mentoring other investigators, plans to mentor and support the program, details of planned meetings and interactions with the applicant, resources available to the project.
• Departmental/Divisional commitment letter (1 page limit):
  o Describe the applicant’s clinical, research, educational and administrative responsibilities, and assurance that the applicant will have time allocated for participation in the program.

Timeline
Notification of Intent due March 18, 2013
Invitation for applications March 20, 2013
Application due May 3, 2013
Award notification date May 10, 2013
Four-day workshop July 17-20, 2013
One-year mentored program July 2013 - June 2014
Presentation final proposal July 2014
Selection criteria
Each application will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- Applicant’s personal qualifications, as assessed by the biosketch/CV, and potential for academic success, as assessed by the career development plan.
- The originality, feasibility, clinical importance and scientific merit of the applicant’s research idea, as described in the applicant’s statement of interest, as well as the potential impact of the MCRTP on the career development of the applicant and WCMC/TMH programs.
- The mentor’s experience and plans for supporting the applicant, as assessed by the biosketch/CV, statement of support, and track record of mentorship.
- A written review and critique of the application will be provided to each applicant along with their mentor and division chief/department chair. Unselected applicants will be potentially followed up to provide advice, support and encouragement.

Supporting documents
Supporting documents, including this RFP, the workshop schedule, and Notification of Intent form, can be downloaded from:
http://ctscd4.ctsc.med.cornell.edu/ctsc/training_and_education/mentored_training_program.html

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