

BTC BUFFALO TRANSLATIONAL CONSORTIUM

Mentored Career Development Award Program

Call for 2017 BTC Scholar's Awards Applications

Important Dates

- Call for applications: September 23, 2016
- Letter Of Intent (LOI) due: October 7, 2016 (2:00 pm)
[Submit applications as a single PDF by email to Dr. S. Gupta (scholar1@buffalo.edu)]
- Full applications invitation: October 10, 2016
- Full applications due: November 30, 2016 (5:00 pm)
[Submit applications as a single PDF by email to Dr. S. Gupta (scholar1@buffalo.edu)] (**No exceptions**)
- Finalists interviews: TBD
- Earliest Starting date: February/March, 2017

A. Overview

The Buffalo Translational Consortium (BTC) offers Mentored Career Development Awards for Clinical and Translational Research Development to outstanding junior faculty and senior fellows transitioning to junior faculty positions. This mentored career development program is funded through the Buffalo Translational Consortium.

The overall goal is training, mentoring and development of an interprofessional, interdisciplinary, and ethnically/racially/culturally diverse clinical and translational workforce with skills to meet the health care and research needs of our underserved community, the region and the nation. The program will engage talented, motivated scholars from different biomedical, bioengineering, clinical and health and science disciplines to join the clinical and translational science workforce to develop new treatments for *diseases and health disparities affecting our communities.*

The Program will provide research training and mentoring in clinical and translational science to outstanding junior faculty in health science professions. Specifically, the Program will develop Scholars' professional skills and facilitate a seamless transition to their next career level within the clinical and translational workforce pipeline, and will guide BTC Scholars, enabling them to mentor students and peers in our community, the region and nationwide.

Each BTC Scholar will receive support to cover partial salary (up to \$75,000 plus fringe benefits towards 75% protected time), and research, tuition and travel costs (\$ 25,000/year) for up to 2 years. Scholars will be required to apply for individual K awards or equivalent mentored awards soon after admission into the program.

Note: *These guidelines parallel the NIH instructions for K-awards applications, in order to facilitate transition from the BTC Scholars award to other individual NIH K-awards. Please refer to the FOA for K01, K08 or K23, as apply to your research and career goals, for recommended content on career development plans, letters of support, research plans and other parts of the application. See links <https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/career-development>.*

B. Program Requirements

1. *Applicants must define and conduct a clinical or translational research project.*
2. *Applicants must identify a multidisciplinary mentoring team with extensive clinical and/or translational research experience where one of the members is willing to serve as the *primary research mentor*.*
3. *Research mentor(s) should have sufficient independent research support to cover the costs of the proposed research project that exceed the scholar research funds provided by the BTC award. In case the mentor(s) does not have sufficient funding in research grants and/or is awaiting award of a competitive renewal, a letter of support from the Department Chair committing to cover the difference in excess costs will be acceptable.*
4. *Applicants must commit 75 % (9 calendar months) of full-time effort on research activities and career development activities associated with the Program. The remaining 3 months' effort can be divided among research, clinical and teaching activities consistent with the proposed goals of the Mentored Career Development Program.*

Note: Scholars in certain clinical specialties (eg., surgery) could commit less than 75 percent effort -- but no less than 50 percent effort -- if sufficiently justified by the need to maintain critical clinical skills.

5. **Preference for funding** will be given to applicants bringing novel approaches towards reducing health disparities in clinical populations and/or applicants with experiences and/or attributes aimed to increasing diversity in the clinical and translational workforce. This includes, but is not limited to being a member of groups traditionally underrepresented in this discipline (eg., African Americans, Hispanic Americans, or Native Americans, Veterans), having lived or worked in diverse and/or socioeconomic disadvantage environments, overcoming physical impairments and/or bringing new and alternative perspectives and approaches to increase educational outcomes and excellence in clinical and translational science.

C. Applicant Eligibility

1. Applicant must have a research or health-professional doctoral degree or its equivalent, i.e., MD, MD/PhD, DO, DDS, DMD, PharmD, DNP, or PhD.
2. All candidates must be US citizens, naturalized citizens, or permanent residents. Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible.
3. Applicants who are postdoctoral, or senior research fellows, must include a letter from the division chief/department chair/dean agreeing to appoint the BTC Scholar as faculty member on or before the award start date.
4. Applicants are **not eligible** for the BTC Scholar award if they:
 - a. Have simultaneously submitted or have a pending - application for any other PHS mentored career development awards (e.g., K07, K08, K12, K22, K23, other) that duplicates any of the provisions of the BTC Mentored Career Development Award Program.

- b. Have been or are a current principal investigators (PI) 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.
 - c. Have been or are project leaders on sub-projects of program project (P01) or center grants (P50, P60, US54).
 - d. Have been or are currently principal investigators on an NIH individual mentored career development award, e.g. K01, K07, K08, K23 or K99 award.
5. Applicants **are still eligible** for the BTC Scholar award if they had support on a NRSA grant (F or T) or have been PI of an NIH small grant (R03 or R21).
 6. **Funding from the BTC Scholar award will be for a maximum of 2 (two) years**, after which Scholars are expected to have salary support from an individual K award, R01, R21 or equivalent, from the department, school, mentor or a combination.
 7. Appointed BTC Scholars are strongly encouraged to apply for individual mentored K awards (e.g. K07, K08, K22, and K23) or R awards (R01, R21, R03) during year one. If successful, in obtaining a K award or R award the BTC Scholar appointment will be terminated. Salary funding will be then received from the individual K award, or R award.

D. Application Materials

D1. Letter of Intent

The Letter of Intent (LOI) must include the following items (1 page, Biosketches not included):

1. *Name of Applicant and affiliation* [attach new NIH-style Biosketch]
2. *Name of Primary Research Mentor and affiliation* [attach new NIH-style Biosketch]
3. *Title of mentored award research project.*
4. *Research project: overall hypothesis, specific aims and relevance to health disparities.*
5. *Career development award goals* (please number and describe briefly).
6. *Signed Eligibility Statement: I attest that I comply with the grant award eligibility conditions described under C4a-d (not included in page limit).*

LOI must be submitted as a single PDF via email to Dr. S. Gupta (scholar1@buffalo.edu) by 2 pm on October 7, 2016. LOIs will be reviewed and the selected candidates will be invited to submit the full application by October 10, 2016.

D2. Complete Full Application Components

Applications must be assembled in the order described below, complied with page limits, and be submitted in a single PDF via email to Dr. S. Gupta (scholar1@buffalo.edu) by 5 pm on November 30, 2016.

1. **Cover Page:** should include the name of the applicant, title of proposal, names of primary research mentors, and a list of all individuals providing letters of support (e.g., mentors, Department Chairs, Institute Directors, etc). Cover letter need to be endorsed by the applicant's Department Chair

2. **NIH Biosketch:** An NIH-style Biosketch in the new format must be provided including a section on “Other Support”, outlining both past and present other support.
3. **Proof of US citizenship or permanent residency.**
4. **Transcript documenting degree.**
5. **Research Plan:** Arial 11-point font with 0.5 inch margins (left, right, top and bottom). The research should be designed to be completed within the 2-year time of the Award. The work is expected to generate sufficient data to allow the KL2 award recipient to submit an externally funded career development or independent research project award application.
 - o **Research Abstract:** (1 page). Summarize the research project and career development goals.
 - o **Research Strategy**
 - ✓ *Specific Aims, including hypotheses and significance* (1 page)
 - ✓ *Research Plan* (6 pages)
 - *Background, significance and innovation*
 - *Preliminary Studies* (if available):
 - *Research Design and Methods* (including strengths and limitations of the proposed approach)
 - ✓ *Training in Responsible Conduct of Research* (1 page)
 - ✓ *Human Subjects* (not included in page limit)
 - o *Note: Although the IRB protocol can be listed as pending no research funds will be released until the full IRB for your study is approved.*
 - ✓ *Vertebrate Subjects* (not included in page limit)
 - o *Note: Although the IACUC protocol can be listed as pending no research funds will be released until the full IACUC for your study is approved.*
 - ✓ *Literature Cited* (not included in page limit).
6. **Candidate Information and Goals for Career Development:** (4-6 pages max) State reasons for pursuing a career in clinical and translational research. Describe background, interests and experiences that prepare the candidate for the award; specific plans and time line for meeting educational and career development goals during the award; plans to interact with mentors; how the research project and career/educational plan will facilitate overall longer term career development goals. Please use and fill the attached Individual Development Plan (IDP) form which is a useful tool to stay on course towards achieving your career development goals and to focus discussions with your mentors (see IDP template attached).
7. **Personal Diversity Statement** (1 page). Include diversity statements indicating personal attributes and/or experiences likely to increase excellence in educational outcomes, in translational and clinical research and/or in bringing new perspectives to accelerate research to reduce health disparities gaps.

8. **Budget:** A separate budget for each of the 2 years detailing your research expenses using the Budget form provided. The budget form and instructions will be made available to those applicants select to submit a full application.
9. **Budget Justification:** provide a budget justification explaining in detail each item included in the budget.
10. **Current Grant Support:** List all current sources of grant support past and present (please include total direct and indirect cost for each year; total period of support; description of scope of the grant your role in the project, etc.).
11. **Timeline:** (1-page max) timeline for research and career development activity during the 2 years' award period.
12. **Letters:** The following letters are required:
 - a. *Letters of Commitment* from: *(Please attach to the application)*
 - i. *Current research Mentor and Co-Mentors* (if identified) and their commitment to mentoring and research support to the candidate. Please include New NIH style bio-sketches.
 - ii. *From Collaborators if any.*
 - b. *Letters of recommendation (two)* from previous mentors. Please have letters sent directly to Dr. S. Gupta (scholar1@buffalo.edu) by the deadline November 30, 2016.

E. Criteria for Review, Selection and Appointment Process

1. **Candidate Review:** Applications will be reviewed and ranked by members of the BTC KL2 Steering Committee and specially appointed reviewers with expertise in the subject matter.
 - *Clinical and translational research focus* and fit with the BTC and CTSA workforce diversity and inclusion needs and goals (see above).
 - *Research potential, previous and current commitment to research* as evidenced in publications, presentations and letters of support.
 - *Likelihood of developing into an independent, extramurally funded investigator.*
 - *Scientific quality, innovation and significance* of the research plan and career goals.
 - *Excellence of academic, training and research records of the candidate.*
 - *Qualifications of the mentors, commitment and financial support to the candidate by the primary research mentor.*
2. **Candidate Selection:** The final selection will be made by the BTC KL2 Steering Committee. Selected eligible candidates will be interviewed in person or via video conferencing by the BTC KL2 Steering Committee. The selected pool of finalists will be invited for in-person interviews, to describe their research and career plans, discuss research and career goals, and answer questions from the committee. The BTC KL2 Steering Committee will rank the top candidates based on qualifications and interview feedback.

3. **Candidate Appointment:** Offers will be made by the Program Lead & Associate Program Lead. Upon acceptance into the program additional letters will be required from the School Dean and the department chair where the candidate would be appointed, confirming that a minimum of 75% of the BTC Scholar's time will be devoted to mentored research and professional development activities.

F. Post Award

1. **Structure and Components of the Program:** The BTC Mentored Research Career Development Program comprises various research, educational, mentoring, teaching and professional development components. Completion of certificates and/or degrees is optional and will be incorporated in the scholars training program in consultation with and approval by the scholar's Mentoring Committee and BTC KL2 Steering committees (see attached Clinical research knowledge based attachments).
2. **Scholar Mentoring Plan**
 - *Mentoring Plan.* The BTC KL2 Steering Committee will review the mentoring plan. The BTC Scholar will present their research progress and career developmental plans to the committee once a year. Feedback from the committee will be communicated to the BTC Scholar and mentors by the Program Lead. When necessary the BTC Scholar will provide a revised research plan to the BTC KL2 Steering Committee for a second review. The final research and mentoring plan will be shared with the Scholar's Department Chair as appropriate.
 - *Mentoring Workshop.* The mentee and their mentors are required to complete the Mentee/Mentor Mentoring Workshop offered every semester using face to face and online interactive modules.
3. **Professional Development, Networking and Outreach Activities.** The Mentored Career Development Program involves a number of activities aimed to enhance professional development, networking, facilitate attendance at research conferences, and enhance Scholar's skills as teachers, and mentors of future generations of scientist in clinical and translational research. Programs for the scholars will include activities such as:
 - **Annual CTSA Retreat:** Participation in organization, program development and invitation of keynote speakers.
 - **Community of Scholars:** Members of the Community of Scholars leadership organization, develop guidelines and lead and participate in the organization of these events.
 - **Teaching and Mentoring:** Participate in research teaching and mentoring of high school, undergraduate, undergraduate summer students and/or MD and PhD students.
 - **Outreach:** Participate in outreach activities to enhance and promote careers in science among K-12 students.

Leadership Team

- **Principal Investigator and Program Lead:** Margarita L. Dubocovich, PhD
- **Co-Investigator and Associate Program Lead:** Kim Griswold, RN, MD, MPH
- **Scientific Workforce Specialist:** Shaweta Gupta, PhD

Please contact Dr. S. Gupta (sg98@buffalo.edu or 716 829 6268) if you have any other questions

Website: Mentored Career Development Program: <http://www.buffalocr.org/mentored-career-development/>

Attachments

- Individual Development Plan (IDP)Template
- Clinical and Translational Research Competencies

Submission Instructions

Submit Letter of intent (LOI) and Full application as a single PDF by email to Dr. S. Gupta (scholar1@buffalo.edu)]

Email Subject Line – BTC Scholar Award – 2017

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