

Mentored Clinical Research Training Program (MCRTTP) Call for Applications

Deadline to submit: Monday, March 9, 2020, by 9 a.m.

The Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC) is pleased to announce the annual call for applications for the **Mentored Clinical Research Training Program (MCRTTP)**. The **MCRTTP** is part of a fully integrated approach by the UC Davis CTSC to advance human health by providing education and training to junior investigators to become competent in conducting multidisciplinary, clinical, and translational research.

PROGRAM GOALS

The MCRTTP is a two-year program designed to provide a solid foundation in conducting clinical/translational research for junior investigators working to improve human health. Candidates will simultaneously apply to the UC Davis Clinical Research (GCLR) Graduate Group to pursue a Master of Advanced Study (M.A.S.) in Clinical Research degree while participating in the MCRTTP. The next class of MCRTTP scholars will begin the summer quarter of 2020, followed by two years of continuing coursework and mentored research, ending in June 2022. Selected scholars will need a 70% time commitment to complete the MCRTTP and the requirements for the Clinical Research master's degree.

The MCRTTP program is comprised of three core elements: **didactic instruction**, **mentored research**, and **additional enrichment activities** such as seminars and workshops.

- The **didactic instruction** aims to provide mentees with a standardized set of skills necessary for the conduct of all types of clinical/translational research and consists primarily of the course requirements for the M.A.S. in Clinical Research degree program.
- The **mentored research** experience will be provided by **senior** faculty with strong track records of research funding and success. Mentors and mentees will attend an orientation to the program providing them with a standardized set of expectations for the mentored research experience.
- The **additional enrichment activities** consisting of integrated workshops, research progress presentations, and topical seminars will enhance the program experience by offering a highly engaging, interactive learning environment for scholars to network and to set the groundwork for building lasting peer mentoring relationships and developing collaborative interdisciplinary research teams.

[Overview of MCRTTP/Clinical Research Graduate Group scholars requirements \(PDF\)](#)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Candidates must have an appointment with UC Davis
 - Junior Faculty (current & new recruits), Clinical and Preclinical Fellows, and Postdoctoral Fellows
- Candidates must have a doctoral or other clinical terminal degree (e.g., M.D., D.V.M., Ph.D., Pharm.D., RN). Applications from students currently enrolled in professional or academic degree programs who demonstrate a commitment to pre-clinical/translational or clinical research will be considered on an individual basis
- High level of interest and potential to pursue innovative clinical/translational research as a major focus of a career plan, and a long-term goal of pursuing a health-related research career
- Ability to commit 70% effort to research and program requirements
- Desire to pursue a master's degree in Clinical Research (tuition fees are covered by the MCRTTP; application fees are the responsibility of the applicant)
- The MCRTTP does not provide salary or research support.

Scholars accepted into the Mentored Clinical Research Training Program will be required to provide their own laptops for use in program courses.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Candidates must submit a formal application through the UC Davis Graduate Studies Online Application System with the following components:

- Application cover sheet
- Curriculum Vitae
- Research Proposal (2-4 pages max.) including a statement of work already completed on the project, if any, and an assessment of future mentored work, as well as a project timeline. Also, it should include the following sections:
 - Project Title
 - Significance/Statement of Problem
 - Aims
 - Research question/hypothesis
 - Methodology
 - Research Design
- Career Development Goals
- Mentoring Plan (see specific guidelines below)
- Letters of support from (see specific guidelines below)
 - Mentors (including specific mentoring commitments from primary and secondary mentors)
 - Department Chair (including commitment of 70% release time)
- Official Transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate coursework

For step-by-step application instructions and detailed guidelines, please contact Connie Koog at (cdkoog@ucdavis.edu).

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MENTORING PLAN

Because this is a program of mentored multidisciplinary clinical research, the mentoring plan and mentors' letters of support will be of great importance to the reviewers. Therefore, considerable attention should be paid to the requirements for the mentors' letter as described here:

- The candidate will need to identify a primary mentor and at least one secondary mentor from distinct disciplines, each of whom will contribute to the candidate's program of research and training and will serve as the candidate's Mini Advisory Committee (MAC).
- The mentoring plan must make clear how the disciplinary expertise of each mentor will contribute to the candidate's research and training plans. It should describe how the mentors plan to work together and what each will contribute to the candidate's research and training.
- The mentoring plan should describe specific plans for the frequency of contact between the mentors and the candidate and identify expectations for candidate productivity (i.e., expectations regarding manuscripts, submission of applications for extramural funding, etc.). Mentors should indicate a willingness to complete the required quarterly mentee progress reports and participate in seminars with the other scholars and their mentors.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

- The mentors' letters (primary and secondary – may be one letter written jointly) of support must provide evidence of familiarity with the candidate's research and educational/training program. Ideally, the mentors will guide the candidate in the development of the research proposal to be submitted as part of this application.
- The department chair's letter must include a commitment to provide the candidate with at least 70% release time from any clinical, educational, or administrative responsibilities. In addition, it should comment on the chair's opinion regarding the candidate's qualifications for a career as an independent clinical research scientist and discuss how the candidate's work will contribute to and is consistent with the goals of the department.

REVIEW AND SELECTION TIMELINE

Applications will be reviewed in early March, and selection notification will be made at the end of March 2020.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications will be reviewed for the quality of the individual, mentor, and proposal. Primary factors considered:

- evidence of a commitment to a career in clinical research
- quality of proposed research
- research training record of the mentors and quality of the proposed mentoring plan

FOR QUESTIONS

Connie Koog, Program Manager at cdkoog@ucdavis.edu or by phone 916-703-9132