

University of California Davis Cellular Therapy Training Program

Deadline for application submission: **Thursday, March 15, 2020 by 5:00 pm**

The UC Davis Stem Cell Program is pleased to announce a new opportunity, funded by the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) through the Alpha Stem Cell Clinic Award. This is a call for applications for cell therapy/regenerative medicine fellowships for MDs and is closely aligned with the UC Davis Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC) Mentored Clinical Research Training Program (MC RTP). The new Cellular Therapy Training Program is part of an integrated approach by the UC Davis Stem Cell Program, CIRM, and the UC Davis CTSC to advance human health by providing education and training to junior investigators to become competent in conducting clinical trials involving the administration of Cellular Therapy Products.

PROGRAM GOALS

The UC Davis/CIRM Cellular Therapy Training Program is a two year program designed to provide a solid foundation in conducting clinical cellular therapy 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 training program. The next class of Cell Therapy scholars will begin in the Summer of 2019 along with the next MC RTP cohort, followed by two years of continuing coursework and mentored research, ending in June 2020. Selected scholars will need a 70% time commitment to complete the training program and the requirements for the Clinical Research master's degree.

The program is comprised of three core elements: ***didactic instruction***, ***mentored clinical 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. Cell Therapy Scholars will have the opportunity to take their elective courses on stem cells and regenerative medicine.
- The ***mentored clinical research experience*** will be provided by **senior** faculty with experience in delivering cellular therapeutics. Mentors and mentees will attend an orientation to the program providing them with a standardized set of expectations for the mentored research experience. The mentees will have the opportunity to engage in dialog with the US FDA and to participate in the delivery of cellular and regenerative medicine therapeutics in the new UC Davis Stem Cell Alpha Clinic, which is co-located in the Cypress Building with the CTSC CCRC.
- 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 to deliver cellular therapeutics.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Candidates must have an appointment with UC Davis
- Candidates must be an MD, with the future potential and drive to deliver cellular therapeutics.
- Junior Faculty or Clinical Fellows
- High level of interest and potential to pursue innovative clinical/translational cell therapy research as a major focus of 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 CIRM training program)
- The Cellular Therapy Training Program will provide salary support up to \$70,000/year, for two years.

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

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Candidates must submit a formal application to the UC Davis Stem Cell Program. Please use NIH standards for formatting (arial 11 point font, half-inch margins) on all documents except the Letters of Reference. The following components comprise the application:

- **Application cover sheet**
- **Personal Statement with career plans/goals (1 page)** – This section should describe how the Cellular Therapy Training Program will support the applicant's long-range career plans. In addition, the applicant's desired area of research should be described. This may include a paragraph on a particular research project the applicant wishes to pursue.
- Career Development Goals
- **Curriculum Vitae**
- **Letters of Reference (3)** - including one from the applicant's department chair, if appropriate (see specific guidelines below and attached application form).

Applications are currently being accepted for positions beginning July 1, 2019. The application packet should be submitted electronically to Dr. Jan Nolta at janolta@ucdavis.edu.

MENTORING PLAN

Because this is a program of mentored 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 the fields of cell therapy or regenerative medicine, 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). A clinical project must be identified. Please contact Dr. Jan Nolta for further information on available projects if needed (janolta@ucdavis.edu).
- The mentoring plan must make clear how the disciplinary expertise of each mentor will contribute to the candidate's clinical research plans. It should describe how the mentors plan to work together and what each will contribute to the candidate's clinical 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. 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 REFERENCE

- Three letters of reference are required. These letters should comment on the referee's history with the applicant and the applicant's qualifications for a career as an independent clinical research scientist.
- One of the letters of reference should be from the department chair or program director (if the applicant is coming directly from a residency or fellowship program) and should 1) comment on the candidate's qualifications for a career as an independent clinical research scientist and 2) discuss how the candidate's work will contribute to and is consistent with goals of the training program. If the candidate currently holds a position within the UC Davis Health System, the department chair's letter must include a commitment to provide the candidate with at least 70 percent release time from any clinical, teaching and administrative duties.
- The letters can be emailed directly to Dr. Jan Nolta (janolta@ucdavis.edu) or included in the application.

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

Each application will be reviewed by members of the Cellular Therapy Training Program Committee, who will prepare a written critique and score. Scholars who submit outstanding applications will be invited for interviews.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications will be reviewed and scored based on the following factors:

- commitment to a career in clinical cellular therapy research
- quality of previous training, especially in research
- track record in clinical research, including publications
- likelihood of developing an academic career in clinical cellular therapy

CHECKLIST OF MATERIALS TO BE SUBMITTED FOR TRAINING PROGRAM

Candidates must submit their electronic application with the following documents to janolta@ucdavis.edu. Please contact her via email for any formatting or other application-related questions.

- Application cover sheet
- Personal statement with career plans/goals (1 page)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Mentoring Plan
- Letters of Reference (3) – submitted to Dr. Nolta directly or included with packet

APPLICATION PROCEDURE for Master's in Clinical Research Degree

Candidates must submit a formal application through the UCD 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 Master's program application instructions and detailed guidelines please contact Connie Koog at (cdkoog@ucdavis.edu).

REVIEW AND SELECTION TIMELINE

Applications will be reviewed in early April and selection notification will be made in end of April 2019.

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 cellular therapy research
- quality of proposed research
- research training record of the mentors and quality of proposed mentoring plan

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