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To: University Chairs, Chiefs, Center and Institute Directors, Training Program Directors, and Faculty

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Re: Request for Applications, Enhancing TRanslational science to Accelerate Impact of New innovations (E-TRAIN) (T32)

Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (NUCATS) is pleased to announce a Request for Applications for the *Enhancing TRanslational science to Accelerate Impact of New innovations (E-TRAIN)*.

The program aims to catalyze the careers of postdoctoral scientists, who will expand their domain expertise through mentored research with increasing independence while developing foundational skills in boundary-crossing, interdisciplinary team science. A strong focus on health equity, foundations of implementation science, and communication skills prepare E-TRAIN scholars to design and conduct research that will improve human health. This innovative program is funded as part of the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) program, supported by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences.

We welcome applications from individuals from broad scientific and personal backgrounds. Candidates must have been awarded a graduate degree (MD or PhD) prior to, but a maximum of two years before, the appointment date.

For further information, determination of eligibility, or assistance in identifying mentors, please contact Priya Tripathi at priya.tripathi@northwestern.edu and Adam White at adam-white@northwestern.edu.

Key dates and deadlines:

- **Applications Due:** March 14th, 2025
- **Earliest appointment date:** August 1, 2025

Please refer to the RFA beginning on the next page or visit the [NUCATS website](#) for additional information.



Enhancing TRanslational science to Accelerate Impact of New innovations (E-TRAIN)

Program Information and Proposal Instructions for 2024-2025

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I. Introduction

Enhancing TRanslational science to Accelerate Impact of New innovations (E-TRAIN) is an important focus of NUCATS.

E-TRAIN is a National Center for Advancing Translational Science (NCATS)-funded training program that seeks to prepare postdoctoral trainees for research careers through mentored research while they develop strategies to anticipate and overcome scientific and operational barriers that impede translation from design through implementation of novel approaches to diagnosis, monitoring, and treatment of human disease. The goal of the program is to prepare early postdoctoral trainees to become leaders in clinical and translational science.

II. Overview

The program trains postdoctoral fellows in a creative and multidisciplinary environment to enable investigators to apply translational scientific approaches to problems in health. This is a dynamic program that promotes interactions between mentors and trainees from multiple disciplines to encourage creative thinking and novel approaches to translational science.

The program will focus on foundational skills such as team science, process and operational improvement, and effective communication to the full breadth of stakeholders. A key methodological emphasis is the infusion of implementation science into all stages of translational research.

The program will provide support for a **minimum of two years**. Training must include both mentored research and plans for other career development activities (see below).

Individuals funded by this mechanism will receive assistance in applying for other fellowship awards or independent grants during the period of this award. All trainees supported by the program are encouraged to prepare an F or K-series grant prior to the end of their appointment and are expected to submit a first-author manuscript from their funded project.

Postdoctoral fellows in the program will prepare an individualized goal-oriented career development plan and participate in an integrated didactic and mentored research.

III. Eligibility

The program accepts applicants who aim for a career in clinical and translational science.

The award is open to individuals who are beginning their postdoctoral research (no more than 2 years of experience following the date of terminal degree). Applications will be accepted from:

1. PhD students, or postdoctoral trainee who completed a PhD within the prior two years, with broad scientific backgrounds applicable to human health,
2. Fourth-year MD students who seek research experience prior to commencing graduate medical education (residency), and
3. MD resident physicians who seek research experience after their first or second year of graduate medical education

Applicants who are interested in completing their research at a non-NU institution but are able to participate in career development activities at Northwestern should contact Priya Tripathi at priya.tripathi@northwestern.edu and Adam White at adam-white@northwestern.edu.

Northwestern University and the E-TRAIN program are committed to attaining health equity for all people across our regional communities. Applications are encouraged from candidates with backgrounds in heterogeneous scientific disciplines (in biomedical, clinical, behavioral, and social sciences) and a range of personal experiences (including individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, rural communities, first generation from their family in higher education as well as differing abilities, national origin, race/ethnicity and sex).

IV. Provisions of the Award

An outline of requirements are listed below, and detailed information can be found on our [website](#):

1. Complete the online application through [Competitions](#)
 - a. Provide a **Research Statement**
 - b. Provide **3 Letters of Support**
 - c. Provide a **Curriculum Vitae**
 - d. Provide a **Professional Development Statement** describing how this program will benefit your career development.

Standard NIH NRSA T32 and F-series award eligibility requirements apply.

Awardees will receive salary support comprised of the [prevailing NRSA stipend](#), health insurance, tuition support, travel expenses, and programmatic support in the areas of qualitative methods, mentor matching, team science training, Responsible Conduct of Research training, grant writing workshops, and access to the Center for Community Health.

All trainees are expected to participate in professional development programming, including attending a 90-minute seminar once monthly, on a regular basis. Trainees must comply with data requests while funded and with annual update requests for 15 years post-funding for NIH reporting.

Mentors are required to participate in career development activities and provide annual updates as requested, as well as provide funding to trainees for research-related expenses.

Process related questions can be directed to Adam White at adam-white@northwestern.edu.

Internal or external applicants with questions related to selection of mentors or co-mentors and/or potential candidate eligibility or qualification can be directed to Dr. Susanna McColley at smccolley@luriechildrens.org and Dr. Jacqueline Gollan, j-gollan@northwestern.edu.

V. Useful Links

- NIH Biosketch Format: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>
- National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS): <https://ncats.nih.gov/>
- Northwestern University Institutional Review Board: <https://irb.northwestern.edu/>
- NUCATS Website: <https://www.nucats.northwestern.edu/>
- NUCATS T32 Website: <https://www.nucats.northwestern.edu/training/nih-funding-opportunities/tl1/index.html>
- Current T32 Trainees: <https://www.nucats.northwestern.edu/training/nih-funding-opportunities/t32/current-fellows.html>
- Previous TL1 Trainees: <https://www.nucats.northwestern.edu/training/nih-funding-opportunities/t32/past-fellows.html>