

NJ ACTS Diversity and Re-entry Supplements for Junior Faculty (Instructor and Assistant Professor)

Program Information

NJ ACTS (New Jersey Alliance for Clinical and Translational Research), the Rutgers University, Princeton University and New Jersey Institute of Technology consortium Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Program is designed to improve the translational research process to get more treatments to more patients more quickly. It acts as a catalyst for innovation in training, research tools and processes. The CTSA Program is announcing diversity and re-entry research supplements, to promote opportunities for diversity in health-related research and re-entry into biomedical and behavioral research careers. The goal of these supplements is to build the clinical and translational research workforce that is prepared to improve the quality, safety, efficiency and speed of clinical and translational science research nationally.

What Do Diversity and Re-entry Supplements Offer?

- **Diversity supplements for junior faculty** provide opportunity (salary, fringe benefits, travel and limited supplies) to improve the diversity of the research workforce by recruiting and supporting eligible investigators from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups that have been shown to be underrepresented in health-related research.
- **Re-entry supplements** provide opportunity (salary, fringe benefits, travel and limited supplies) to support individuals with high potential to re-enter an active research career after an interruption for family responsibilities or other qualifying circumstances.

Important Application Information

- NJ ACTS can submit up to two diversity supplements and up to two re-entry supplements applications per year.
- Supplements candidates must not have effort on other Public Health Service funded grants.
- Proposed research cannot involve leading an independent clinical trial, a clinical trial feasibility study or an ancillary clinical trial. Applicants can propose a research experience in a clinical trial led by their mentor or co-mentor.
- Applications will be reviewed by the NJ ACTS KL2 Executive Committees prior to submission, and then by NIH (NCATS) program staff.

Who is an Eligible Candidate?

- **The diversity research supplement** is designed for individuals from groups underrepresented in the biomedical sciences, including racial and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, and individuals from economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds.
- **The re-entry research supplement** is designed for individuals with a duration of career interruption of at least one year and no more than eight years. Examples of qualifying interruptions would include a complete or partial hiatus from research activities for child rearing; an incapacitating illness or injury of the candidate, spouse, partner or a member

of the immediate family; relocation to accommodate a spouse, partner or other close family member; pursuit of non-research endeavors that would permit earlier retirement of debt incurred in obtaining a doctoral degree; and military service.

- Diversity or re-entry candidates interested in this opportunity **must work with their mentor and the CTSA KL2 Principal Investigator** to develop an application.

At a Glance

- **Internal Submission Deadline: October 15, 2020 [NIH Deadline: November 1, 2020]**
- **Candidates:** Citizens or non-citizen nationals of the U.S. or individuals who have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the U.S. and meet the eligibility criteria described in the funding opportunity announcement.
- **Award Budget:** Up to \$100,000/year for salary, plus fringe benefits. Costs may not exceed \$150,000 direct costs after including funds for travel and limited supplies.

Guidance on Submitting Diversity and Re-Entry Supplements for Applications Eligible under UL1 Awards

It is critical that applicants follow the submission instructions as noted in the relevant FOAs. Please note that NIH is requiring that diversity supplements must be submitted electronically as of Jan. 25, 2018 (see [NOT-OD-18-111\(link is external\)](#)).

A complete package for a Diversity or Re-Entry Supplement request must include:

1. **A brief proposal describing the project and training/career experience (not to exceed 10 pages), including:**
 - Summary or abstract of the funded parent award or project (**not to exceed one page**). Provide a brief overview about how the candidate will use the CTSA Program resources to complete their research training plan and which resources will be used (see NJACTS web site).
 - Research Strategy: Description of the candidate's proposed research strategy within the scope of the funded parent award or project (**not to exceed four pages**). Organize the Research Strategy section using the following sections: Research Aims, Significance, Innovation and Approach. Applicants are encouraged to use [NIH's guidance for career development applications\(link is external\)](#).
 - Mentoring Plan: A mentoring plan for the candidate must include a plan for the candidate to interact with other individuals on the parent grant, to contribute intellectually to the research, and to enhance her/his research skills and knowledge regarding the selected area of biomedical, behavioral, clinical or social sciences science. It also must provide evidence of a focus on the enhancement of the research capability of the faculty member and that the research experience is intended to provide opportunities for development as a productive researcher. In addition, it must demonstrate that the CTSA Program UL1 program director(s)/principal investigator(s) are willing to provide appropriate mentorship (statement will be provided). The selected mentor(s) should be an active investigator in the area of the proposed research and be committed to both the career development of the candidate and to the direct supervision of the candidate's research. Candidates are encouraged to identify more than one mentor, (i.e. a mentoring team (or advisory committee)), as this is deemed

advantageous for providing expert advice in all aspects of the research career development plan. It is encouraged that the mentoring plan includes the description of the development of an individual development plan for the candidate (see [NOT-OD-14-113\(link is external\)](#)) (**not to exceed three pages**). Additionally, a plan for the candidate's next source of funding is required.

- Mentoring experience of the CTSA Program UL1 PI Reynold Panettieri (will be provided) and selected mentors (**not to exceed one page**). The mentor must have a successful track record of mentoring individuals at the candidate's career stage.
 - A timeline for the research and career development experiences proposed (**not to exceed one page**)
2. **Identification of the Project/Performance Site Location:** Include the primary site where the proposed supplement activities will be performed. If a portion of the proposed supplement activities will be performed at any other site(s), identify the locations in the fields provided.
 3. **Identification of Senior/Key Personnel:** List the CTSA Program UL1 PD/PI [Reynold Panettieri] as the first person (regardless of their role on the supplement activities). List the candidate proposed to be added through this supplement, or for whom additional funds are being requested through this supplement.
 - Note: Candidates for this supplement support must have an [eRA Commons\(link is external\)](#) account and the candidate's Commons Username must be entered in the Credential field. Do not list any other senior/key personnel on this form.
 4. **Biographical Sketches:** Include a biographical sketch for all personnel that will contribute to the research mentoring (PI/PD, candidate, mentors and collaborators). The biographical sketch should follow [NIH guidelines\(link is external\)](#). The personal statement of the candidate's biographical sketch should address:
 - Evidence of scientific achievement or interest;
 - Any source(s) of current funding; and
 - A statement from the candidate outlining her/his research objectives and career goals.
 5. **A Proposed Budget for the Entire Project Period:** Applicants should follow the instructions for electronic or paper-based form submissions as indicated in the FOA. Only include funds requested for the additional supplement activities.
 6. **Candidate Eligibility Statement (not to exceed one page):** A signed statement from the CTSA Program UL1 PD(s)/PI(s) and an institutional official establishing the eligibility of the candidate for support under this program that must include clearly presented information on citizenship. The strength of this statement will be considered by the NIH administrative review committee along with all other materials provided. The statement must include:
 - Information on the nature of the candidate's disability, circumstances, background or characteristics that confer eligibility under this program;
 - For Diversity Supplements, a convincing description of how the appointment of this specific candidate will address the issue of diversity within the national scientific workforce; and
 - A description of any current or previous Public Health Service (PHS) research grant support the candidate has received, including start and end dates. Include a statement indicating that the candidate has not received any current or previous PHS support, if applicable.
 7. **Other Project Information:**
 - If applicable, attach PDF documents in the "Other Attachments" field indicating that the proposed research experience was approved by the Institutional Animal

- Care and Use Committee (IACUC) or human subjects Institutional Review Board (IRB) at the grantee institution. Name the documents "IACUC Documentation.pdf" and/or "IRB Documentation.pdf". Adherence to the NIH policy for including women and minorities in clinical studies must also be ensured, if additional human subjects' involvement is planned for the supplement.
- Sub-Recipient Approval: If any of the research is to be conducted at an organization other than the grantee institution, an appropriately signed letter from the institution where the research is to be conducted must be submitted. The request must be signed by the candidate, the CTSA Program UL1 and the Subsite PD/PI, and the appropriate institutional business official.
 - If the request is for a supplement based on disability, the institution should indicate what, if any, reasonable accommodations the institution has supported or plans to provide along with a full description of how any additional support for accommodation that might be used. The relationship of the proposed accommodation to the proposed project must be described.

Note Regarding Eligibility of Candidates

Supplemental awards under this announcement are limited to citizens or non-citizen nationals of the United States or to individuals who have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States (i.e., in possession of a Permanent Resident Card, Form I-551). In all cases involving any type of Permanent Residency status, when an application is selected to receive an award, prior to any award being issued, a notarized statement will be required that documents that a licensed notary has seen the candidate's valid Permanent Resident Card or other valid verification from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service of legal admission to the U.S. In all cases where Permanent Residency status is involved, it is the responsibility of the recipient institution to assure the individual remains eligible for the project period of the award.

Frequently Asked Questions

Diversity Supplements: <https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/funding/diversity-faq>

Re-entry Supplements: <https://ncats.nih.gov/ctsa/funding/re-entry-faq>

For other specific questions, please contact Ms. Tracey Sharp at Email: sharptk@rwjms.rutgers.edu.