**Internal K12 application**

**Gene Orringer Advancing Translational Science Career Development Award (NC TraCS K12)**

***Please note: TraCS is still awaiting confirmation of funding. This application is provided to you to prepare for an application cycle; however, it may be edited if we receive additional information from the NIH.***

The Gene Orringer Advancing Translational Science Career Development Award (TraCS K12) is funded by the NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS). NCATS is “disease agnostic”, meaning NCATS does not target a specific disease or area of science but supports research to develop discoveries, approaches or products that are generalizable across multiple diseases and that address challenges to the research process that are common across scientific areas. Please review the information below and the resources provided to determine whether your research is a fit for the TraCS K12 and to develop the strategy for your application. Members of the K12 Leadership Team are available to discuss questions and other funding options if you decide not to pursue a TraCS K12 application.

In the most recent [NCATS Strategic Plan](https://ncats.nih.gov/strategicplan/introduction), NCATS makes a distinction between translational *research* and translational *science:*

* *Translation* *(research)* is the process of turning observations in the laboratory, clinic and community into interventions that improve the health of individuals and the public — from diagnostics and therapeutics to medical procedures and behavioral changes.
* *Translational science* is the field of investigation focused on understanding the scientific and operational principles underlying each step of the translational process.

Applications for the TraCS K12 must address translational **science** and demonstrate how the research approach, proposed training and anticipated research results address common barriers to translational research. For example, NCATS provides these examples of barriers that would benefit from “system wide” solutions. These are only examples. K12 applications are not limited to these areas and you will be asked to identify the research barrier/problem you will address in your K12 application and discuss why it is relevant to more than one area:

* Predictive efficacy and toxicology
* De-risking therapeutic development
* Clinical research efficiency
* Collaboration and partnerships
* Data transparency and release

NCATS has also defined a new vision: [More Treatments for All People More Quickly](https://ncats.nih.gov/director/january-2022). This vision reflects the commitment of NCATS to use innovative methods to increase the number of disease treatments; to increase inclusivity in research and training; and to improve aspects of the research process to decrease the time it takes to generate answers to research questions.

We recognize that it is challenging to articulate a focused research question/project while considering how the research will address the broader NCATS priorities AND position you for future funding. In addition to the hyperlinks above, you are encouraged to consult these resources to help you think about how to frame your research to address NCATS priorities:

[Infographic on Translational Science](https://ncats.nih.gov/translation/translational-science-resources)

[NCATS Bold Goals](https://ncats.nih.gov/about/ncats-bold-goals)

[What is Translational Science? YouTube video 30 minutes](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5yfPnl1pPmg)

**Application Instructions:**

**Format:**

* Font size should be 11 or larger. Consistent with NIH guidelines, font size should also be legible in tables/figures.
* Adhere to the page limits for each section.
* The application should be assembled in this order:
  + Coversheet
  + Application Narrative sections A-G
  + Mentor Information
  + Letters of Support

**Mentor information:**

Include for each mentor proposed:

NIH Biosketch

Mentor Training Table: An existing, but updated, NIH or other type of table may be used but make sure it includes the following information for postdoctoral and/or junior faculty mentees for the last 10 years:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Trainee Name, pre or postdoc | Dates of training | Previous Degree | Institution | Research topic | Current Position and sources of grant support |

**Letters of support (PDFs, no hard copy is required):**

* + Department Chair or Division Chief (the individual who will guarantee your protected time)
  + All mentors
  + Two letters from other individuals who can speak to your potential to become an independent investigator

We understand that letters come at different times and writers may prefer to send a letter directly to us. You should include any letters you have at the end of the application (within the single PDF file). Otherwise, letters can go to Susan Pusek [susan\_pusek@med.unc.edu](mailto:susan_pusek@med.unc.edu)

**Submission:**

Assemble the application in a single PDF in the order below. Name the PDF “Lastname, Firstname K12App2024” and email it to Susan Pusek [susan\_pusek@med.unc.edu](mailto:susan_pusek@med.unc.edu) by the deadline.

**COVERSHEET**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of applicant: |  |
| Degree(s): |  |
| Are you faculty or postdoc/clinical fellow? |  |
| Department: |  |
| School: |  |
| If postdoc/clinical fellow, what Dept/School will house your faculty position? |  |
| Title of Project: (should match current or future IRB or IACUC materials): |  |

Abstract (250 words) Include the research and training aims:

**Mentor Requirements:**

1. **Mentors must come from different disciplines and one mentor must be a clinician.** If you are proposing mentors from the same department, you should describe in the narrative the unique skills each mentor will bring to the research and training.
2. **You must designate ONE Primary Mentor.** A Primary Mentor is directly accountable for Scholar progress and should help the Scholar manage the mentor team.Note: TraCS has a formal partnership with North Carolina A&T University and NC State University (including the College of Veterinary Medicine). Applicants to this K12 may propose faculty from these institutions to be a Primary Mentor, or as part of the mentor team. Faculty from other institutions may only serve as part of the mentoring team.
3. **Applicants may propose Advisors who have a more limited role in the research or training.** For example, only involved with one aim.
4. **The Primary Mentor must have had mentor training prior to the Scholar’s appointment to the grant.** If a proposed mentor has not received mentor training for biomedical researchers by the time of the application, they can complete the training after Scholar selection and before Scholar appointment.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **PRIMARY Mentor:** |  |
| Department: |  |
| Organization: |  |
| Has this mentor been on the mentoring team for prior institutional or individual K Scholars? |  |
| Has this mentor received mentor training for biomedical researchers? (Yes/No) |  |
| If Yes, please provide the name of the training (e.g., BBSP mentor training) |  |
|  |  |
| **Mentor name #2:** |  |
| Department: |  |
| Organization: |  |
| Has this mentor been on the mentoring team for prior institutional or individual K Scholars? |  |

**Add additional boxes for ALL Mentors and Advisors**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Applicant email: |  |
| Applicant UNC ONYEN (if you are applying from a non-UNC school, leave blank—if you are selected for funding, you will get instructions on how to get an ONYEN): |  |
| Applicant ORCID ID: |  |
| Applicant ERA Commons ID: |  |
| UNC PID number: |  |
| Do you consider yourself to be Hispanic or Latino? |  |
| What race do you consider yourself to be? |  |
| American Indian or Alaska Native |  |
| Asian |  |
| Black or African American |  |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander |  |
| Mixed race |  |
| White |  |
| Do you consider yourself to have a disability defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities? For more information: [Definition of Disability](https://www.eeoc.gov/statutes/titles-i-and-v-americans-disabilities-act-1990-ada) |  |
| Are you from a disadvantaged background defined as meeting two or more of the criteria here: [NIH Disadvantaged Background Criteria](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-031.html) |  |
| Are you a US citizen? |  |
| If you are not a citizen, do you have a permanent resident card or have an application pending? (must be approved before we can appoint you to K12 grant) |  |
| Requested start date of funding (when you can devote 75% time to research and training): |  |
| Please list any other currently pending grants (ones that are already submitted) that include salary coverage for you: Provide the date of anticipated review/funding decision. |  |

**Application Narrative**

**A. NIH Biosketch (**updated format dated September 2024 <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>)

**B. Curriculum Vitae**

**C. Candidate background & career goals (up to 2 pages): Organize the narrative according to the following subsections:**

C.1 Background and Research Training

C. 2 Current Research Interests

C. 3 Short and Long-Term Career Goals

**D. Career Development/Mentoring/Training Plan (maximum 3 pages not including the table below)**

In this section you should identify your training goals during the 3 years of funding and how these goals relate to your research project and future goals. You must include a table that summarizes when you plan to access training and projected milestones for research products. An example is below. You can modify the format of the table, but you must include a table in the application.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Career Development Activity (add rows as needed)** | **Year 1** | | **Year 2** | | **Year 3** | |
|  | Fall | Spring | Fall | Spring | Fall | Spring |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**E. Research Project(s) (maximum 4 pages not including the table below):**

a. Statement of Translational Science Barrier or Problem that is the focus of the research in this application (1 paragraph or less).

b. Background and Significance: This section should provide a review of the existing literature and data defining the problem and any previous solutions or preliminary data from the applicant or other research teams that this research builds upon.

c. Research Plan including specific aims: In addition to the narrative, you must include a table of projected research milestones (example below). Organize the narrative as follows:

* **Rationale**
* **Hypothesis**
* **Approach**
* **Expected outcomes**
* **Alternative approaches**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Projected Research Milestones (add rows as needed)** | **Year 1** | | **Year 2** | | **Year 3** | |
|  | Fall | Spring | Fall | Spring | Fall | Spring |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**F. The vision of NCATS is: “More Treatments, All People, More Quickly.” Please describe how the research and/or training in this application was designed to address the NCATS vision for “All People” to increase inclusivity and make research products more generalizable and accessible to a wider population (maximum 1 page).** Depending on the type of research and methods you propose, this may include: development of “platform” technologies or methods, targeting what is common across diseases, a focus on increasing health equity, engagement of a wider range of stakeholders, potential research participants, or testing a process that would improve efficiency.

**G. Resources available for the Research only if you are using resources that are not at UNC (maximum 1 page)**