

Novant Health/UNC Oncology Research Scholar Mentorship Program Overview

Released: Oct. 11, 2022

Due Date: 12/5/2022

The **Novant Health/UNC Oncology Research Scholar Mentorship Program** was established to foster a collaborative relationship between a mentor from the UNC School of Medicine or UNC Health and a Novant Health New Hanover Regional Medical Center Cancer Institute provider (mentee) leading to the development of an impactful translational or clinical research in the coastal region.

The program names a “NH Scholar” (mentee) who is a Novant Health provider at the coast, and pairs this person with a mentor from UNC, the “UNC-Novant Health Clinical/Translational Research Mentor.” One year of financial support in the amount of \$50,000 is provided to cover program expenses (not limited to, but including UNC faculty support for time and effort in furthering the collaboration to develop a new clinical or translational study, shepherding the study through the regulatory review processes, and/or extending an approved study from UNC to the coastal market to include analysis of coastal patient data for presentation). Additional funding may be available for pre-approved travel expenses.

It is expected that the collaboration will require in-person and/or virtual meetings at a regular cadence, mentee participation in certain training courses recommended by the mentor, and promotion of networking opportunities with fellow investigators at both UNC and the coast with the goal of stimulating broader, long-term research collaborations.

Though completion of a clinical study and subsequent presentation of results may not be feasible for all projects in a one-year time frame, specific goals and deliverables for the mentor/mentee relationship for the year of support should be made clear in the application. Based on a successful first year, the Research Advisory Committee may extend funding for a second year.

Applicants must agree to complete and maintain appropriate training for the safe conduct of human research (e.g., CITI HSR, CITI GCP) and any local institutional requirements throughout the duration of the program.

Eligibility:

- Mentors must be from the UNC School of Medicine or UNC Health and plan to maintain their appointment at one of these institutions throughout the program
- Scholar/mentee applicants must be approved by the Novant Health/New Hanover Regional Medical Center/UNC Oncology Executive Committee, employed through NH-NHRMC, the Novant Health Medical Group, or affiliated practices in the coastal region.
- Funds are not transferable to other institutions outside the consortium as an award but can be used for procurement.

Use of funds:

The award maybe used to supplement the mentor’s effort or underwrite activities that advance the mentee’s understanding and abilities to conduct translational/clinical research in the NHRMC Coastal communities we serve. Examples include:

- Data analyses
- Study personnel support
- Acquisition of initial data
- Method development

- Equipment purchase (non-capital)
- Imaging or similar services
- For senior post-doc fellows: salary support to defray work on a novel project
- Other uses, if justified appropriately
- Mentor's effort

Regarding travel and lodging, limited funding for in person meeting travel and expenses may be available through a separate RAC account. Mentors/mentees should seek RAC approval prior to incurring expenses.

Location	Responsible En	Department/Speci	Nonpersonnel Exp	Description	Recurring/Nonrecur	FY23 Amount	Notes
Wilmington	UNC	Research	Other Supplies and Services	Novant Health Clinical Research Program: Scholars Travel to Coast	Recurring	5,000	Mileage, hotel, meals for two UNC scholars to have face-to-face interactions with coastal partners (est. \$1,000 per trip, five total trips) (2-3 trips per scholar in total).

The program is a one-year in duration with the following components:

- The Mentor (UNC) and Scholar (NH mentee) should specify specific meeting cadence and anticipated in person vs. remote meetings (recommend twice monthly meetings).
- The mentor/mentee may propose an individually tailored mentoring committee comprised of experienced investigators and/or staff to be convened to assist mentees with protocol trajectory or career development.
- Mentees receive preferred (not guaranteed) access to UNC IRB and Scientific Review Committee for expedited support/review of proposals, statistical support, publication support, UNC library access (ONYEN account) and other services as needed.
- Should there be a desire to request second-year funding, the mentor/mentee team must make their request known to the Research Advisory Committee by April 1 of the following year.

Our expectations of mentees in the program are as follows:

- Select a mentor (and mentoring committee if desired) [Faculty Collaboration Database](#)
- Schedule and attend frequent, regular meetings with your designated primary mentor
- Meet with mentoring committee every 6 months, if a committee is part of the tailored program
- Maintain credentials to conduct human research (CITI module completion, other as necessary)
- Attend at least 1 IRB meeting of the Novant Health or UNC system
- Attend at least 1 Oncology Scientific committee meeting at UNC
- Submit a formal progress report to the Integrated Oncology Research Committee and Research Advisory Council (RAC) by the end of the year, June 30.
- Present the outcome of your research at an appropriate public forum, presuming the project can be completed in the award year. *(Travel funds, if available, may offset travel costs, check with RAC prior to incurring any expenses)*

Our expectations of UNC mentors are as follows:

- Meet with mentee regularly as described in the application (at least twice monthly), in person or virtual.
- Invest significant one-on-one time to provide professional support as an established faculty mentor.
- Impart an understanding of the institutional research ecosystem at UNC, understanding of community-based research, including process flow for research concept approval and navigation.
- Provide grant writing and development mentorship, as appropriate.
- Facilitate access to biostatistical support.

- Facilitate learning opportunities at UNC for the mentee to attend lectures, workshops, seminars, journal clubs, and other opportunities tailored to the mentee’s research goals.
- Support development of a research project at the coast by facilitating access to research support services at UNC.
- Assist with study design, protocol templates, literature reviews, medical writing/manuscript resources, statistics, data collection tools, access to REDCap, IRB, regulatory (including clinicatrials.gov posting/results reporting), compliance, publication support, and other services required for a study.
- Guide the mentee through various review committees at UNC.
- Serve as a co-investigator on the mentee’s project.

How to apply:

Applications are submitted through the NC TraCS Institute [online grant portal](https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=UNCchapelhill).
<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=UNCchapelhill>

Once in the system look for “Novant Health/UNC Oncology Research Scholar Mentorship Program”. Applications are due by 5:00pm on December 5, 2022. After submitting the application, applicants will receive email confirmation. For any questions about the online application portal contact Mary Beth Cassely at mbcassely@med.unc.edu. Below is a list of what the online application includes:

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

UNC faculty mentor name:
 UNC faculty mentor affiliation (UNC SOM or UNC Health):
 UNC faculty mentor position/title:
 UNC faculty mentor department:
 UNC faculty mentor email address:

Novant Health Cancer Institute scholar (mentee) name:
 Novant Health Cancer Institute scholar position/title:
 Novant Health Cancer Institute scholar department:
 Novant Health Cancer Institute scholar email address:

RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL*

Describe the planned clinical or translational research project (500 word text box):
 Planned deliverables for the project: (500 word text box):
 Brief outline of training plan (500 word text box):
 Biosketch/CV of UNC faculty mentor: (Upload pdf)
 Biosketch/CV of Novant Health Cancer Institute Scholar: (Upload pdf)

*If practical, please consider applying a health equity lens to the project proposal to include some aspect of diversity, equity, and inclusion as it relates to health access, value and/or equity.

For specific inquiries not covered in the FAQ [information, eligibility, and mentor/mentee expectations] please contact Crystal Walker at crystal.walker@unchealth.unc.edu