

Request for Applications

North Carolina Translational and Clinical Sciences (NC TraCS) Institute Clinical Trialist Training Program

LEADERSHIP

Program Director: Nick Shaheen MD, MPH
Program Co-Director: Andrea Carnegie, PhD

NC TraCS announces the sixth iteration of the Clinical Trialist Training Program (CTTP), a funding opportunity for SOM faculty who are interested in obtaining training to become a site investigator for sponsor-initiated multicenter clinical trials that augment their department's research portfolio.

The CTTP will provide 10% salary support (up to the NIH cap).

The CTTP offers both didactic training and hands-on trial experience including:

1. Participation in a Clinical Trialist Training Bootcamp, which includes review of four didactic sessions and group discussions (didactic sessions cover topics including study start-up, coordinator staff oversight, responsibilities of the Principal Investigator (PI), and others)
2. Participation in "deep dive sessions" on topics such as budgeting, research team management, promptly reportable information, and others
3. Identification of multicenter trials in which to participate as the site PI
4. Feasibility and financial assessment of trials to determine likelihood of successful implementation and recruitment at UNC, including how to identify future clinical trials and determine feasibility.
5. Contract execution and IRB applications for selected trials
6. Recruitment strategies, tools and budgeting for selected trials

The faculty selected for the CTTP will be supported by NC TraCS staff in completing the study activities as needed (listed in 3-6 above).

The goals for each CTTP awardee are:

1. To engage in new clinical trials by the end of the one-year program that will generate continued salary support for the faculty member (of at least 10%) and cover all research costs of the trials (e.g., coordinator support, IRB applications, etc.);
2. To develop a clinical trial portfolio, as a site PI, with sustained salary support (beyond 10%) for at least 3 years after the program.

KEY DATES

RFA Release Date: **February 4, 2026**
Application Deadline: **March 11, 2026, at 5:00 pm**
Applicant Notification: **Mid April 2026**
Proposed Appointment Term: **July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027**

ELIGIBILITY

Position and Degree Requirements

- **Full-time clinical faculty appointment** (tenure or non-tenure track) **in the School of Medicine** at the rank of Associate Professor or lower at the time of award.
- **Clinical doctoral degree** (MD or DO or foreign equivalent) or a dual degree (MD/PhD).
- **Board certified in specialty**

Salary and Time Commitment

- Ability to commit **10% full-time professional effort** for program activities.
The 10% effort is based on the entire amount of time worked in a typical week and should be proportionate.

There are no limits on the number of faculty in each department that can apply for these positions. We anticipate enrolling up to 4 CTTP Scholars in this cycle.

REVIEW FACTORS

Candidate Factors

- Current clinical commitment. *We seek candidates who have adequate clinical exposure to recruit patients and understand pertinent questions, but appropriate bandwidth to put effort towards clinical research. A plan for how time would be protected should the application be selected in the letter of support is desirable.*
- Other academic responsibilities (research, teaching, administrative). *We seek candidates who are not already over-extended in multiple spheres.*
- Current and prior level of involvement in clinical trials. *Previous demonstrated interest in research is desirable.*
- Level of enthusiasm for becoming a multisite clinical trialist. *As evidenced by previous training, sub-investigator activities, or other documented activities associated with clinical research*
- Access to the patient population(s) for the candidate's research area of interest(s). *Some clinical contact with target populations is desirable*
- Long term career goals to incorporate clinical trials work. *A statement of the long term plans for career engagement in research is desirable.*

Departmental Factors

- Research areas of interest. *The letter of support should express the department's willingness to either develop or expand the clinical research area pursued by the applicant*
- Current clinical trial portfolio. *The letter of support should highlight infrastructure being developed or already in place to support the research efforts of the applicant*
- Interest in expanding clinical trials portfolio to other research areas. *The application should note whether the development of candidate will allow the department to make new inroads to areas not currently developed*
- Evidence of ability to assist in the recruitment of clinical trial opportunities for the trainee. *Past successful experience in attracting and successfully completing clinical trials (as PI or sub-PI) at UNC or elsewhere is a plus.*
- Availability of senior site clinical trialists who are willing to mentor awardees. *Who will mentor the candidate, and is there a mentor-mentee relationship already in place? If not, how will it be developed?*
- Resources available to support candidates (e.g., coordinator support in department, financial and administrative support, etc.) *While extensive existing infrastructure is not mandatory, identification of existing departmental resources that increase the likelihood of attracting trials is desirable*

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Submission of a letter (maximum 2 pages) by applicant that addresses the candidate factors described above.
2. Submission of a letter by the candidate's department chair or division chief (maximum 2 pages) that addresses the department factors described above. This letter should state a commitment by the chair or chief to protect 10% of the candidate's time to participate in the program activities and describe how the candidate's clinical and other commitments would be modified to adjust for 10% salary support, if awarded.
3. Submission of applicant's current CV which includes information about Board Certification
4. All applications should be submitted via email by March 11th 2026 at 5:00pm to Catherine Barnes at catherine_barnes@med.unc.edu

MORE INFORMATION

Visit the NC TraCS website for information about the CTTP's requirements, expectations, and application process.
Contact: Catherine Barnes Email: catherine_barnes@med.unc.edu