GREAT PLAINS
IDeA | Clinical and
Translational Research

2022 Early Career Investigator Program
Request for Applications

Deadline: May 15th, 2022

Earliest Funding start date: July 1st, 2022**

Applications should be submitted via REDCap, here.
For questions, please contact Heather Braddock (heather.braddock@unmc.edu).

Description

The goal of the NIGMS-funded Early Career Investigator Program (ECIP) is to support interested early career faculty (instructor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor or equivalent) by helping them develop a R or K award or equivalent research career development application. The program will help network participants with appropriate mentors (as needed), identify training needs, and develop and implement a feasibility research project which will require participation in a longitudinal grant-writing 'boot camp' during the first year of funding. The program will provide up to $15,000/year (provided by the NIGMS grant) for up to 2 years for professional development and/or pilot data acquisition to individuals with at least 25% of their FTE protected for research provided by the applicant's institution (this may already be in place at the time of the application or will be granted at the time of award receipt for those with less than 0.25 supported time). Renewal for support in year 2 will require an external grant submission during year 1 of the award. Priority will be given to applicants demonstrating a high likelihood of submitting a competitive entry-level extramural grant application within 12 months, a commitment to CTR with early productivity, and a strong interdisciplinary mentoring team committed to supporting the applicant. If accepted into the ECIP, the earliest funding date would be July 1st, 2022.

Eligibility
1. Preference to early career faculty, e.g., Instructors, Associate Professors, or Assistant Professors (PhD or equivalent or MD)
2. Applicants must be full-time faculty from one of the following institutions: UNMC, UNO, UNK, UNL, Creighton University, Boys Town National Research Hospital, Children's Hospital and Medical Center or the Omaha-VA.
3. Institutional support for .25% protected research time
4. No prior R01, K-series or equivalent funding
5. Eligible to receive NIH funding

Application Requirements for ECIP

1. NIH Biosketches for the applicant and proposed mentor(s). A formal mentor is required for this award even when the target grant application is an R level grant. Your mentor must be from one of the GP IDeA-CTR partner institutions listed above.
2. Institutional Development Plan (using the UC Davis format)
3. NIH Face Page (download and complete Form Page 1, here). If the applicant is from UNMC, this form does not need to be signed by an institutional official, but we strongly encourage you to work with your Grants Administrator or Sponsored Programs Office to ensure that all fields on the NIH Face Page are complete and correct. For applicants outside of UNMC, please ensure that your documents are signed by the appropriate institutional official(s) and are reviewed by your Grants Administrator or Sponsored Programs Office.

4. <u>Specific Aims page</u>: (page 1 of proposed grant) following standard NIH format, <u>here</u>.
<u>Community Impact</u>: Write a brief narrative in plain language (<u>limited to 30 lines or less</u>), so even a non-scientist can understand the importance and potential community impact of the project. Applicants can review research priority areas published by the Community Advisory Board (CAB), <u>here</u>.
5. <u>Environment and Institutional Commitment to the Candidate</u>: Current resources (e.g., equipment, lab or office space, research resources, clinical coordinator, or statistical support) available to support the pilot research project and lead to the submission of a R or K grant application or equivalent, as applicable.
6. <u>Letters of recommendation</u>:

    a. A <u>letter from the primary mentor</u> detailing their commitment to the applicant throughout the training period. The mentor should have current or a history of external research funding and should not be the applicant's immediate supervisor (e.g., Division Chief, Chair, Dean). Applicants should have a project that is independent of their mentor's ongoing research.
    b. An <u>administrative approval letter</u> from one of the following: the appropriate Division Chief, Department Chair and/or Dean confirming the applicant will have 25% or more protected time for research (coming from their institution), if selected, throughout the training period (which will be re-assessed annually).
7. <u>Sign the commitment statement </u>in the REDCap application documenting that you will participate in the required 10-12 week grant-writing boot camp, with a grant proposal ready for submission (R or K proposal or equivalent) and submitted within Year 1 of funding.

Review Process

- Applications will be reviewed by the Professional Development Leadership Committee.

Program Expectations

- Become a member of the GPCTR via our <u>website</u>
- Devote at least 25% effort to the program
- Complete grant writing boot camp (#7 above under requirements)
- Attend regular meetings (at least monthly) with your designated mentor
- Attend a progress meeting every 6 months with Drs. Mikuls and Zimmerman and your mentor(s)
- Complete Responsible Conduct of Research training (offered first Friday in December at UNMC)
- Participate in and present at the GP IDeA-CTR annual meeting
- Remain current on all required training and regulatory approvals
- Provide a biannual progress report via REDCap (to track publications, grant submissions, etc.)
- Submit grant in Year 1 to receive a second year of funding

Additional Information

- The grant writing boot camp is tentatively scheduled to start September/October of 2022 and will run through November/December to allow time for a February cycle grant submission. Awardees are expected to come to the boot camp prepared to write all required sections of the grant.

- Please note that no PI salary support is allowable. Funds can be used to support pilot/preliminary data collection efforts or professional development opportunities.

  **Funding budgeted toward non-research (e.g., professional development activities) will be awarded July 1st, 2022. Funds targeted specifically for research activities will require NIGMS approval before funding can be released.