OREGON CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

# Oregon Students Learn and Experience Research (OSLER) TL1 program

## 2024 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Application deadline**: April 8, 5 p.m.**
Expected appointment start date: **August 1, 2024***
(July 1 start if MD student)

Submit applications to https://redcap.link/s4lf6x3l

Submit letters of recommendation separately to
https://redcap.link/hxkvvcrg
Applicants, please provide this web link to individuals when requesting your letter of recommendation.

The goal of the OSLER TL1 award is to provide training in translational science to enhance the focused research experience that students are gaining through graduate or postdoctoral training or to provide focused research training and experience to professional students. All students must take part in translational research training tailored to their needs while a TL1 fellow. All research proposed for this program must involve either clinical or translational research defined as involving human subjects or populations, or research that has application to human health.

This program is funded from a TL1 grant to the Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute (OCTRI) and is identical to an NRSA T32.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND EXPECTATIONS

The OSLER TL1 provides training in translational science to developing scientists and clinicians from many backgrounds including behavioral and social science, clinical science, public health, and basic science. It supports students and fellows engaged in research involving humans or populations, or that has direct relevance to human health, disease, or disability.

**Predoctoral professional students (MD, DMD, PharmD, DNP, etc.)** must enroll in the OHSU Master of Clinical Research degree through the Human Investigations Program (HIP) which can be completed in one


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www.ohsu.edu/octri-osler-tl1

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year while engaged in research full time. For **PhD graduate students**, the TL1 program is intended to complement graduate training and dissertation research; candidates should consider supplementing their graduate coursework with additional courses/training opportunities that will support a career in clinical and translational research. **Postdoctoral fellows** are expected to be engaged in translational research and research training at least 75% of the time.

All trainees are required to participate in education to acquire competencies of clinical and translational research. These include quantitative science (biostatistics, study design), data management, academic leadership (program management, team science), scientific writing and data presentation, and research proposal development. This may be completed at the student's home institution or in the HIP program. Most courses in the HIP program are online or can be livestreamed to UO and OSU in some cases for in-person requirement. There may be limited times that in-person attendance will be required. Coursework to acquire competencies may be spread out over 2 years for PhD students and postdocs.

All trainees are expected to take part in the TL1 Translational Science Journal club, Work in Progress meetings and Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training. Nonclinical trainees are expected to take part in a clinical integrative experience for mentored exposure to patient care, clinical diagnosis and treatment.

Graduate/Professional students from PSU, OSU and UO may consider spending up to a year in residence at OHSU in a lab or research group to facilitate extension of their research to include clinical and translational research. This may create a new inter-institutional research alliance or center on an existing collaboration.

See OSLER TL1 Program and Training Objectives table below for summary of training activities available. Other training activities or coursework may be proposed as is appropriate to the trainee's research or career pathway.

## SUPPORT

The TL1 award includes the following:

- Annual stipend at the NIH NRSA predoctoral career level. The individual's home department or university may supplement to the approved institutional level with non-Federal Funds.
- Postdoctoral stipend is set by the NIH and is based upon years of training completed.
- Tuition and fee support.
- Support towards major medical, dental insurance and student health service fees at NIH NRSA levels for university-sponsored insurance for predoctoral trainees or through employer-provided choices for postdoctoral trainees
- $1,500 to cover the costs of trainee travel to attend a scientific meeting.
- $2,500 towards eligible childcare costs.
- No research support is available. Research costs should be supported by the trainee's mentors or department.
- Award is for one year but PhD graduate students and postdoctoral trainees may apply for up to 2 years of support, contingent upon progress and program participation.

## ELIGIBILITY

### Predoctoral Trainees

- Eligible students must be enrolled in a doctoral program at OHSU, PSU, UO or OSU, including PhD, MD, DMD, DNP, or PharmD.
- Students in professional programs (MD, DMD, DNP, PharmD, etc.) must take a year-out from their academic curriculum to take part in this research year.
- Students in graduate PhD programs must complete their qualifying exam or candidacy equivalent prior to receiving the TL1 award.
- Students must be in good academic standing and have the approval of their program to enroll in this TL1 program.
- Trainees must commit full-time effort at the time of appointment.
- Individuals selected to participate must be citizens or non-citizen nationals of the United States or have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence and have in their possession an Alien Registration Receipt Certificate (I-151 or I-551) or other legal verification of admission for permanent residence. Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible for this program.
- The expected appointment to the OSLER TL1 is 12 months (minimum of 9 months). NIH NRSA guidelines set a limit of 5 years (6 years if dual degree, i.e., MD/PhD) of total support for predoctoral training grant funding. If you have had more than 4 years of funding already, you may not be eligible.
- Research during the TL1 appointment that is done outside of the US may not be eligible. Contact the program if questions.

### Postdoctoral Trainees

- Eligible trainees must be current postdoctoral trainees or clinical trainees (advanced year residents, fellows) at OHSU, PSU, UO or OSU. Postdocs applying from outside of OHSU contact us for additional details.
- Trainees must commit full-time effort at the time of appointment. Doctoral level clinicians may spend no more than 25% of FTE in clinical service.
- Individuals selected to participate must be citizens or non-citizen nationals of the United States or have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence and have in their possession an Alien Registration Receipt Certificate (I-151 or I-551) or other legal verification of admission for permanent residence. Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible for this program.
- All appointed post-doc fellows must agree to a service payback obligation for the first 12 months of support. A second year of the award will meet the obligation requirement.
- The minimum appointment to the OSLER TL1 is 9 months. NIH NRSA guidelines set a limit of 3 years of support total for postdoctoral training grant funding. If you have had more than 2 years of funding already, you may not be eligible.
- Retirement benefits are not an allowable expense on NIH training grants, If the postdoc trainee receives a retirement contribution as an employee, the trainee's department must agree to pay for this.

- Research during the TL1 appointment that is done outside of the US may not be eligible. Contact the program if questions.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

A selection committee composed of representatives from OHSU, PSU, UO and OSU will conduct the selection process and will follow the model of the NIH peer review process. Selection criteria focus on the strength of the application, potential for trainee success as defined by the goals of the program and the incorporation of clinical and translational science into the trainee's future career. The application will be reviewed on the following criteria:

- Potential of the applicant as a translational research scientist
- Research plan
- Training plan
- Mentor team
- Career potential

## APPLICATION MATERIALS

Please be sure that all documents include the applicant's name in the header.

**A complete application consists of:**

1. An NIH biosketch. The following must be included:

    a. Education – include degrees, schools, full years of attendance and graduation dates
    b. Postdoc positions including year started and ended
    c. Relevant work experience
    d. Any honors received
    e. Publications - sorted by categories (manuscripts, abstracts, and presentations)

2a. Personal statement (1 page or less) summarizing your desire to enter the TL1 program and outlining your short and long-term career goals. Please discuss how you anticipate that clinical and translational research experience and training will impact your career as a scientist or clinician-scientist. Include a list of research proposals or grants that you have submitted, if any, noting if each is funded, unfunded, or pending.

2b. Proposed training and coursework (1 page or less) in clinical and translational research during the year of the award. This training plan should address the skills you have identified as being important to achieving your career goals and that you would work toward during your time in the program. Review the OSLER TL1 Training and Program Objectives below and justify any competencies already met through other training. If you plan to complete the Master of Clinical Research degree or certificate, state this but individual courses do not need to be listed. List any additional training proposed. Address what skills you expect to gain from the coursework and how this training plan relates to your overall career direction and what knowledge gaps this will fill.

3. A research proposal (2-page maximum excluding references). This must include a title, hypothesis and specific aims, brief background section, design, and methods. For predoctoral students, your expected role in the research project must be detailed. The research proposal should be in the student's prose addressing work that he or she will undertake.

4. A letter of commitment from the primary research mentor at each institution, if applicable, is required, including a description of how the mentor and student will work together to implement the training plan described above. The mentor must cite prior experience in research mentoring. The letter should also include how the project will be funded. If multiple mentors are from one institution, a single jointly written letter from all mentors is acceptable or the primary mentor may describe the role or contribution other mentors will provide. Mentors' letters may be submitted with the application material or separately at https://redcap.link/hxkvvcrg by the application deadline.

5. An NIH biosketch of the faculty mentor(s).

6. A letter of recommendation:

    a. For predoctoral PhD students, this should be the director of your graduate program; if the Program Director is also the primary mentor, a different faculty advisor may submit this letter of recommendation. For professional students such as MD, PharmD, DNP and DMD, this letter may be from a faculty advisor. **NOTE:** This letter must include a statement about where the student or trainee is in their progress in the program and how the timing of the award will fit with their training.

    b. For postdoctoral trainees, a letter of recommendation may be solicited from a former graduate advisor or other faculty reference.

    c. Letters of recommendation should be submitted separate from the application at https://redcap.link/hxkvvcrg by the application deadline. Applicants, please provide your faculty reference with this request as early as possible. Letters are due by 5 p.m. on the application due date.

Please contact Karen McCracken (mccracke@ohsu.edu, 503-494-3095) with any questions about the application.

## OSLER TL1 Program and Training Objectives

**Length of Program**

- Predoctoral PhD Graduate Students: 1 to 2 years, enrolled simultaneously in graduate curriculum
- Predoctoral Professional Students: 1 year, cannot be enrolled in medical or dental curriculum
- Postdoctoral Trainees (PhD or clinical fellows/residents): 1 to 2 years

All trainees must meet training objectives in the following competencies during the TL1 through the following suggested coursework. Some competencies may be met by other similar courses. You are encouraged to suggest other courses for your training plan that are not included here.

The Human Investigations Program (HIP) includes options for a Master of Clinical Research, Certificate in Human Investigations or individual class participation.

- MD students must complete the MCR; courses listed below are a subset of the full MCR curriculum.
- PhD graduate students and Postdocs may complement PhD coursework and research experience with non-degree participation in course but are encouraged to complete the certificate or MCR if appropriate

View the course descriptions for HIP courses listed below and more.

## TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

**Clinical and Translational Research (CTR) Methodology** (epidemiology, research design)
**Quantitative Skills/Biostatistics:** (required to have basic biostatistics plus one advanced course)

- HIP 511/512/513 Clinical Research Design Series *(integrates epidemiology, research design and basic biostatistics)*
- HIP 528 Applied Biostatistics I *(Note prerequisites)*

**Data Science**: *Required - select at least one option*

- HIP 523 Data Science
- BMI 550 Bioinformatics and Computational Biology

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Responsible Conduct of Research Training**: *NIH requirement for 8-hours in-person training during TL1 training. Select one option.*

- HIP 516 Protection of Human Subjects
- OCTRI RCR Training
- MGRD 650 Practice and Ethics of Science (OHSU)

**Writing Grant Proposals:** *Strongly encouraged*

- HIP 511A Proposal Development *(3 terms – Fall, Winter, Spring)*
- OCTRI Grant Writing seminar *(offered every other fall)*

**Scientific Writing:** *Required - select one option*

- HIP 517 Scientific Writing and Data Presentation
- OHSU Vollum Writing Class

**Team Science/Leadership:** *Required – select at least two options*

- HIP 530 Leadership Skills in Team Science
- HIP 531 Best Practices in Project Management
- HIP 532 Organizational Mindsets for Effective Research Careers

**Innovation and Entrepreneurship Education:** *Optional*

INVENT, BIP Corp: https://www.ohsu.edu/octri/innovation-and-entrepreneurship

**INTEGRATIVE EXPERIENCE:** *Required*

- CTR Journal Club is held once a month to present and discuss translational research
- Work in Progress for TL1 is held once a month to present research for peer feedback
- Present data at OHSU Research Week or at other research event or scientific conference
- Clinical Integrative Experience: mentored exposure to patient care and clinical diagnosis and treatment that informs research. Required for non-clinical trainees.