OREGON CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Oregon Students Learn and Experience Research (OSLER) TL1 program

2026 REQUEST FOR ONE YEAR, PRE-DOCTORAL APPLICATIONS

RFA Released: **Tuesday, January 20, 2026**
Application deadline**: March 31, 2026, 5 p.m.**
Expected appointment start date: **August 1, 2026**
Appointment end date: **July 31, 2027**

The OSLER, TL1 Program is now accepting applications for one-year, pre-doctoral training positions. The goal of the OSLER TL1 award is to provide training in translational science to enhance the research experience students are gaining through graduate training or to provide research training and experience to professional students. Applications are accepted from OHSU, Portland State University (PSU), Oregon State University (OSU), and University of Oregon (UO) students. 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, and
- contribute to the advancement of translational research methods.

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 engaged in research involving humans or populations that have direct relevance to human health, disease, or disability. All trainees are expected to acquire competencies in clinical research, translational research, and translational science.
Learn more about past and present TL1 trainees and their projects.

The Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute (OCTRI) is home to the Human Investigations Program (HIP) and the TL1 training opportunity includes the option to earn a Master of Clinical Research or a Certificate in Human Investigations or to enroll in individual courses as a non-degree seeking student.

- **Predoctoral professional students (MD, DMD, PharmD, DNP, etc.)** must enroll in the OHSU Masters of Clinical Research (MCR) degree through HIP, which can be completed in one year while engaged in research full time.
- **Predoctoral PhD students** should consider supplementing their graduate coursework with additional courses/training

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opportunities that will support their dissertation or postdoctoral research and subsequent careers in clinical and translational research. They are encouraged to complete the certificate or master's degree if appropriate.

All TL1 awardees must meet training objectives in translational research development and professional development competencies. Key domains include quantitative science (biostatistics, study design), data management, academic leadership (program management, team science), scientific writing and data presentation, and research proposal development. Table 1. OSLER TL1 Program and Training Objectives are below for a summary of available training activities. Other training activities or coursework may be proposed as appropriate for the student's intended research or career pathway. Courses related to these competencies may be completed at the student's home institution or within the HIP program. Most HIP courses are delivered online in a synchronous manner (i.e., students must attend and participate at specific times). On limited occasions, classes may convene in person at the OHSU campus. For those at UO and OSU, most courses can be livestreamed.

Expectations of TL1 Trainees

- Participate in monthly TL1 Activities:
  - Work in Progress seminar (Virtual, 1 hour meeting, 1st Thursday of each month)
  - Translational Science Journal club (Virtual, 1 hour meeting, 3rd Thursday of each month)
- Complete eight hours of formal training in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training as required by NIH (Winter term)
- Provide quarterly progress reports towards training and goals and meet with TL1 Leadership mentors twice yearly to review progress
- Submit annual progress reports to OCTRI for NIH-required reporting, describing trainee accomplishments and mentor feedback on progress.
- Acknowledgement of TL1 Grant should be included on all publications that result from the OCTRI support (funding and/or research services)

Nonclinical students are expected to take part in a clinical integrative experience involving mentored exposure to patient care, clinical diagnosis, and treatment. Graduate and predoctoral 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 the extension of their research into clinical and translational research. In such cases, they may create a new inter-institutional research alliance or work within an existing collaboration.

SUPPORT

The TL1 award includes the following:

- **Annual stipend** at the NIH NRSA predoctoral career level.
- **Course tuition** and **fee** support.
- Support for **major medical and dental insurance** and **student health service fees** at NIH NRSA levels for university-sponsored insurance for predoctoral trainees.
- **$1,500** to cover the costs of trainee **travel** to attend a scientific meeting.
- **$3,000** towards eligible **childcare** costs.

Note: For trainees outside of OHSU, the individual's home department or university may supplement the approved institutional level with non-federal funds based on the rules/regulations for the institution.

Important notes: This grant does not award monies for research costs. These costs should be supported by the trainee's mentors or department. The TL1 award appointment is for one year.

ELIGIBILITY

Must be enrolled in a doctoral or professional program (i.e., PhD, MD, DMD, DNP, or PharmD) at OHSU, PSU, OSU, or UO.

- Must be in good academic standing and have approval of their program director to enroll in this TL1 program.
- Must commit full-time effort at the time of appointment.
- PhD students must complete their qualifying exam or candidacy equivalent prior to receiving the TL1 award.
- 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 already had more than 4 years of NIH NRSA support, you may not be eligible.

- 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.
- Research during the TL1 appointment done outside the US may not fulfill program requirements.
- Students in professional programs (e.g., MD, DMD, DNP, PharmD) must take a year-out from their academic curriculum to participate in this program.

SELECTION CRITERIA

A selection committee composed of representatives from OHSU, PSU, OSU and/or UO will participate in the selection process and will review applications using the NIH peer review process model. The committee will focus its assessment on the strength of the application, potential for student success as defined by the goals of the program, and the incorporation of clinical and translational research and science into the student's future career. The application will be reviewed on the following criteria:

- Potential of the applicant: potential to conduct research as a translational research scientist
- Research plan: Scientific value, application of translational science, and potential clinical importance
- Training plan: Appropriateness to gain didactic and other training
- Mentor team: Commitment and resources provided and suitability of the available research infrastructure
- Career potential: Assessment that the candidate will develop a career and conduct research that will have an important impact on health

APPLICATION MATERIALS

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

Submit applications to https://redcap.link/TL1_App_2026

Applicants, please provide the link below to individuals when requesting your letter of recommendation.
Submit letters of recommendation separately to https://redcap.link/TL1_LOR_2026

A complete application consists of:

1. Completed online application
2. Applicant NIH biosketch, including:
    a. Education – include degrees, schools, years of attendance and graduation dates
    c. Relevant work experience
    d. Honors received
    e. Publications - sorted by categories (manuscripts, abstracts, and presentations)

3a. (1 page or less) Personal statement 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 translational and/or clinician scientist. Include a list of research proposals or grants you have submitted, if any, making note of the funding status (i.e., funded, unfunded, or pending).

3b. (1 page or less) Proposed training and planned coursework in clinical and translational research during the award period. Your training plan should address the skills you have identified as important to achieving your career goals, the knowledge gap this training will fill, and how you will develop these skills during your time in the program. If you have multiple mentors, please describe the role of each mentor in your training and their research support. Review the OSLER TL1 Training and Program Objectives above and justify any competencies already met through other training. If you plan to complete the Master of Clinical Research degree or certificate, state this. (In this case, individual courses do not need to be listed). List any additional training proposed.

4. (2-page maximum excluding references) A research proposal to include title, testable hypothesis with specific aims, brief background section, design, methods, and sample size justification. For predoctoral students, your expected role in the research project must be detailed and indicate how the proposed research represents some degree of original work apart from your mentor's research. The research proposal should be in the student's prose addressing work that they will undertake. Use of abbreviations is discouraged.

5. (1 page maximum) Prepare a visual abstract, conceptual diagram or causal diagram of the research plan.

6. A letter of commitment from each research mentor is required, including a description of how the mentor(s) and student will work together to implement the training plan described above. Mentorship letter should include a mentorship philosophy statement. The mentor(s) must cite prior experience and/or training in research mentoring. The letter(s) 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 application link by the application deadline.

7. Signed mentorship agreement (Informational only). The Mentor agrees to support the trainee's research activities and to actively contribute to the development of the trainee's communication skills, including their clarity, effectiveness, and overall professional proficiency. The mentor should review the Mentor Agreement form and sign if the applicant is awarded TL1 funding.

8. NIH biosketch for each faculty mentor.

9. A letter of recommendation:
- The letter must include a statement about where the trainee is in their progress in the program and how the timing of the award will fit with their training.
    - For **predoctoral PhD students**, letters should come from the graduate program director. If the Program Director is also the primary mentor, a different faculty advisor can submit this letter of recommendation.
    - For **predoctoral professional students**, this letter can be from a faculty advisor.

Letters of recommendation should be submitted separately from the application at https://redcap.link/TL1_LOR_2026 by the application deadline. Applicants, please provide your faculty referee with this request and link as early as possible. Letters are due by 5 p.m. on the March 31st application due date.

Please contact Andrea Ilg (ilgan@ohsu.edu) with any questions about the application process.

Table 2. OSLER TL1 Program and Training Objectives

Length of Program
• **Predoctoral Professional Students**: 1 year, use above language re: commitment to MCR cannot be enrolled in professional (e.g. medical or dental) curriculum • **Predoctoral PhD Trainees:** 1 year, enrolled simultaneously in graduate curriculum
Osler TL1 Core Competencies*
The Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute (OCTRI) is home to the Human Investigations Program (HIP) and includes options for a Master of Clinical Research, Certificate in Human Investigations or individual class participation. • Professional students (e.g. MD, DMD, PharmD) must complete the MCR; courses listed below are a subset of the full MCR curriculum. • PhD graduate students may complement PhD coursework and research experience with non-degree participation in course and are encouraged to complete the certificate or MCR if appropriate. Regardless of involvement in the HIP program, all TL1 awardees must meet training objectives in the translational research development and professional development competencies through the following suggested coursework or through similar courses. (You are encouraged to suggest other courses for your training plan that are not included here).
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*
• HIP 523 Data Science
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 year)
Scientific Writing: *Required*
• HIP 517 Scientific Writing and Data Presentation
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: *Participation* Required
• CTR Journal Club: present and discuss translational research (once a month) • Work in Progress: present research for and provide peer feedback (once a month) for peer feedback • Clinical Integrative Experience: Under the supervision of a clinical mentor, gain exposure to patient clinical diagnoses and treatment that informs your research area. Required for non-clinical trainees.

*See course descriptions for HIP courses listed above.