UC San Diego ACTRI Invites Applications for KL2 Training Support for Postdoctoral Researchers and Early Career Faculty

The UC San Diego Altman Clinical and Translational Research Institute (ACTRI) is pleased to announce the 2023 call for applications for the KL2 Mentored Career Development Award!

The ACTRI KL2 award is a Mentored Career Development Award that provides up to $120,000 toward salary, plus benefits, along with $25,000 per year in research funds, and an additional $2,500 for scholar travel to scientific meetings and research training workshops. Successful applicants will receive up to 3 years of support pending good progress (see below).

The KL2 grant mechanism is an institutional equivalent of a K23, K01 or K08 award for early-career faculty. The KL2 also provides didactic opportunities through ACTRI's Clinical Research Enhancement through Supplemental Training (CREST) program, career and grant writing training, and mentored research experience. Alumni from the KL2 program have been highly successful in obtaining independent funding (e.g. R01 awards) and/or transitioning to other K awards.

The KL2 program is actively seeking applications from broad scientific backgrounds, including but not limited to engineering, computational sciences, biomedical sciences, public health, and others. We also welcome applications beyond UCSD from ACTRI partner research institutions including Sanford-Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute, Salk Institute, and La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology. In addition, fellows and faculty from UC Riverside are also eligible to apply.

Applicants from underrepresented groups in health sciences are especially encouraged to apply. The NIH has recently formalized the definition of underrepresented groups: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-031.html

Eligibility Criteria:

- Instructors or assistant professors in any academic series
- Fellows or post-doctoral researchers who will have completed their training and have a faculty appointment by the time of receipt of funding
- Appointed at UC San Diego or ACTRI Partner Research Institutions (listed above)
- Eligible faculty and post-doctoral researchers of UC Riverside
- Five years or fewer post-completion of a post-doctoral fellowship
- Candidates must have a letter of support from their departmental/division chair to apply
- U.S. citizens or permanent residents
- Individuals who have already received a K grant, R01, or R01-equivalent grant are not eligible.

Awardees must commit to 75% research effort and the awardees' home department must commit to honoring this 75% research effort as documented in the Chair's letter. In return, ACTRI will grant up to $120,000 towards salary, plus benefits. Practicing clinicians in certain procedurally-oriented fields, such as surgery, may be eligible to commit 50% research effort. Please contact us for more information about this exception for procedurally-oriented fields.

KL2 applicants that meet under-represented criteria meeting the NIH definition https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-031.html or UCSD criteria for under-represented minority faculty https://medschool.ucsd.edu/vchs/faculty-academics/faculty-affairs/Resources/Pages/helpful-links.aspx may opt-in to the SUSTAIN (Sustaining Under-represented Scholars in Translational And Interdisciplinary Networks) program in their application. The SUSTAIN program provides up to two years of salary support for faculty who are from under-represented backgrounds. For more information, please visit: SUSTAIN Program

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Tuesday August 15, 2023 at 5:00 P.M. PST

Please note that the current KL2 parent grant is approaching its final year of funding (grant end date: April 2025) and a new application is being submitted. As such, the program can only guarantee one and half years of funding at this time. If the new K grant (K12) is funded in a timely manner, KL2 scholars awarded under this RFA will be included in the subsequent K12 grant and can complete funding for the three-year training period with good progress.

After the competitive review process in August-October, our goal is to notify applicants by November. Successful applicants will then undergo a secondary regulatory review process through the KL2 Program's parent funder NCATS (similar to the Just-In-Time process for NIH Grants). Therefore, start dates for the award would be as early as mid-December. The total amounts awarded in salary, research funds, and travel may be prorated based on the official award start date.

For detailed information about the program, eligibility and the application process, please visit: https://medschool.ucsd.edu/research/actri/education/KL2-program/Pages/Eligibility.aspx

Please contact ACTRI-Education at ACTRI-Education@health.ucsd.edu for any questions about the program; copy Adriana Tremoulet (atremoulet@health.ucsd.edu) and Colin Depp (cdepp@health.ucsd.edu).