CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC) is pleased to announce the annual call for applications for the Mentored Clinical Research Training Program (MCRTP). The MCRTP is part of a fully integrated approach by the UC Davis CTSC to advance research education and training for multidisciplinary, clinical and translational investigators working to improve human health.

PROGRAM GOALS

The Mentored Clinical Research Training Program (MCRTP) is designed to provide a solid foundation for clinical/patient-oriented research. Upon acceptance into the program, scholars will be required to apply to the UC Davis Clinical Research (GCLR) Graduate Group. Upon satisfactory completion of the program requirements, scholars will be awarded a Masters in Advanced Studies (M.A.S.) in Clinical Research degree. The ninth class of MCRTP scholars will begin July 2012 with a 7 week summer program followed by two years of coursework and mentored research. Candidates will need an estimated 70% time commitment to complete the MCRTP two year curriculum.

The MCRTP curriculum includes three core elements: **didactic instruction**, **mentored research experience**, and **special experiences** such as seminars and workshops.

The *didactic instruction* provides trainees a standardized set of skills required for the conduct of all types of clinical research. The *instruction* includes an intensive summer curriculum followed by two years of core courses and electives that can be tailored to best meet each trainee’s career development priorities as determined by the trainee and his/her mini-advisory committee. The didactic curriculum is a combination of established courses and new courses explicitly designed for the MCRTP.

The *mentored research experience* will be provided by senior faculty with strong track records of research funding and success. Mentors and mentees will receive a special orientation and training providing them with a standardized set of expectations for the mentored research experience and a mentoring handbook guide to help facilitate the mentored research experience.

The *special experiences* will enhance the overall program by offering a highly engaging, interactive learning environment for peers to network, and set the groundwork for future collaborative, peer mentoring relationships, and interdisciplinary research teams. The *integrated workshops* will offer trainees more directed and advanced skills while *topical seminars* will offer more focused exposure to research performed by leaders in the field. An *annual retreat* will be an opportunity for trainees to gather their experience and present their research to the External Advisory Board and the GCLR Clinical Research Graduate Group Members.
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Junior Faculty (current & new recruits)
- Clinical and Pre-Clinical Fellows
- Advanced Post-Doctoral Trainees
- High level of interest and potential to pursue innovative pre-clinical/translational or clinical research as a major focus of career plan, and a long-term goal of entering clinical research career.
- Completed one of the following degrees: MD, DDS, DMD, OD, ND, PhD, DO, PharmD, DVM, or DNS in nursing. (Applications from students currently enrolled in professional or academic degree programs who demonstrate a commitment to pre-clinical/translational or clinical research will be considered on an individual basis.)

Scholars accepted into the Mentored Clinical Research Training Program will be required to provide their own laptops for use in MCRTP courses, and will be required to pay a $500 fee to participate in the week-long Clinical Epidemiology and Study Design course.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Candidates must submit a formal application through the University of California, Davis Graduate Studies Embark online admissions application system with the following components:

- Application cover sheet
- Research Proposal (2-4 pages max.) including a statement of work already completed on the project, if any, and an assessment of future mentored work
- Curriculum Vitae
- Career Development Goals
- Mentoring Plan (see specific guidelines below)
- Letters of support from (see specific guidelines below)
  - Mentor (including specific mentoring commitments from primary and secondary mentors)
  - Department Chair (including commitment of release time)
- Official Transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate coursework

For step-by-step application instructions and detailed guidelines please contact Jessica Hicks at (jessica.hicks@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu).

Deadline for candidate application: March 1, 2012

MENTORING PLAN

Because this is a program of mentored multidisciplinary clinical research, the mentoring plan and mentors’ letters of support will be of great importance to the reviewers. Therefore, considerable attention should be paid to the requirements for the mentors’ letter as described here:

- The candidate will need to identify a primary mentor and at least one secondary mentor from distinct disciplines, each of whom will contribute to the candidate’s program of research and training and will serve as the candidate’s Mini Advisory Committee (MAC).
- The mentoring plan must make clear how the disciplinary expertise in each mentor will contribute to the candidate’s research and training plans. It should describe how
the mentors plan to work together and what each will contribute to the candidate’s research and training.

- The mentoring plan should describe specific plans for the frequency of contact between the mentors and the candidate and identify expectations for candidate productivity (i.e. expectations regarding manuscripts, submission of applications for extramural funding, etc.). They should indicate a willingness to complete the required quarterly mentee progress reports and participate in seminars with the other scholars and their mentors.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

- The mentors’ letters of support must provide evidence of familiarity with the candidate’s research and educational/training program. Ideally, the mentors will guide the candidate in the development of the research proposal to be submitted as part of this application.

- The department chair’s letter must include a commitment to provide the candidate with at least 70% release time from any clinical, educational, or administrative responsibilities. In addition, it should comment on the chair’s opinion regarding the candidate’s qualifications for a career as an independent clinical research scientist and discuss how the candidate’s work will contribute to and is consistent with goals of the department.

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

Each application will be reviewed by two members of the GCLR Graduate Group, who will prepare a written critique and NIH score. The GCLR Admissions and Awards Committee will review the critiques and make their recommendations for admission to the Executive Committee for final selection.

Selection notification will be made in mid April, 2012.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications will be reviewed for the quality of the individual, mentor and proposal. Some of the factors that are involved in the decision include:

- commitment to a career in clinical research
- track record in clinical research, including publications
- quality of previous training, especially in research
- likelihood of improving the patient-oriented research at UC Davis
- clinical research accomplishments, training record of the mentor and quality of mentoring plan
- quality of proposed research
- likelihood of interdisciplinary research and team-building
- individuals with NIH support (F32, T32, Ks, etc.) plus those with non-NIH support for training and career development

If you have any questions regarding the Mentored Clinical Research Training Program application process, please contact Jessica Hicks at (916) 703-9110 or via email at jessica.hicks@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu.