

The Connecticut Convergence Institute (CCI) Pre-K Scholar Career Development Award Program 2022 Call for Applications

Submission Deadline: March 28, 2022

The Connecticut Convergence Institute (CCI) led by Dr. Cato T. Laurencin is pleased to announce a call for applications for the Pre-K Scholar Career Development Award Program. The Pre-K Program is a 2-year interactive program designed to equip junior faculty with the knowledge and competencies to effectively apply for a NIH Research Career Development Award (K Award). An additional goal is to positively impact the diversity of UConn affiliated researchers applying for K Awards and create a culture that supports this goal.

The Pre-K Scholar Career Development Award Program curriculum assists faculty in developing a strong NIH K Award application by focusing on identifying mentors, writing specific aims, developing a research plan, determining career development needs, obtaining letters of recommendation and institutional support, and general grantsmanship. Pre-K Scholars are awarded 30% protected time. The program is open to all UConn Health/UConn faculty members with the rank of Assistant Professor. Faculty outside of UConn/UConn Health are eligible to apply only if their respective institution will cover 30% of their protected time and related travel costs.

Eligibility

- Possess a doctoral-level degree in a health discipline that can be applied to clinical, translational, or basic research. These degrees include, but are not limited to, MD, DO, DMD, DDS, DPH, PharmD, as well as PhD in clinically relevant fields, such as biostatistics, epidemiology, behavioral science, biomedical engineering, or nursing.
- US citizen or permanent resident. Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible.
- Hold a junior faculty appointment at time of application at the University of Connecticut or UConn Health. If an appointment does not exist, the applicant's institution will be required to support the 30% of full-time effort.
- Committed to pursuing an academic career in clinical, translational, or basic research.
- Must not have received substantial prior research support as a Principal Investigator from the NIH, such as R01, U01, Center or Mentored Career Development (K) grants, or as project leader on sub-projects of program projects (P01) or center grants (P50), or equivalent non-PHS peer reviewed research grant.
- Those with an interest in the field of regeneration through the convergence of research on stem cells, developmental biology, biomaterials, physics, data science, or clinical translation are especially encouraged to apply.

Requirements

- Two-year commitment to the Pre-K program.
- Committed to devoting 30 percent of full-time professional effort to the program with approval from applicant's department chair/head.
- Identify a multidisciplinary mentorship team with extensive clinical, translational, or basic research experience, one of the members of which is willing to serve as the primary mentor for the applicant's K Award application.
- Submit an NIH K award application within the first year of the program (by June 2023).
- Attend bi-weekly program sessions in person.
- Prepare materials (such as specific aims, manuscript drafts, responses to review, etc.) in advance of CCI Pre-K scheduled meetings, as scheduled in the syllabus.