The TRANSFORM TL1 Summer Training Program for Pre-doctoral Students

INFORMATION AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES

APPLICATION DUE DATE:
FEBRUARY 6, 2017

***I. Background*.** Through the CTSAs, the NIH launched a national consortium that seeks to transform the conduct of clinical and translational research, with the ultimate goal of enabling researchers to provide new treatments more efficiently and quickly to patients. The CTSA at Columbia University encompasses extensive research support, infrastructure, training programs, and mentoring mechanisms. A key component is the **TRANSFORM TL1 Summer Training Program**, which offers structured training and practical exposure to the needed training for **pre-doctoral students currently enrolled in basic science, population science, or pre-clinical doctoral programs**, who want to gain an understanding of how individual differences in people's genes, environments, and lifestyles can lead to the development of innovative approaches to disease prevention and treatment.

The TRANSFORM TL1 Training Program is intended to provide students already enrolled in doctoral training programs (primarily from the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, College of Physicians & Surgeons, School of Nursing, College of Dental Medicine, or the Mailman School of Public Health) with additional research training to prepare for an academic research career that can contribute in a meaningful way to the important field of precision medicine. [Please note that precision medicine is not limited to the study of genetics – please see our website for more details: http://irvinginstitute.columbia.edu/resources/precision_med.html.] This 12 week summer training opportunity allows graduate students to gain knowledge and skill-sets that may be outside of their primary academic or clinical discipline. The interdisciplinary education gained as a TRANSFORM TL1 trainee will serve as an invaluable asset in conducting future research and collaborating with scientists and investigators from other clinical and academic fields of knowledge.

***II. Award Provisions*.** With TRANSFORM support, doctoral students will obtain additional training in research. They will accomplish this goal by completing didactic training, **Introduction to Precision Medicine** that will advance their knowledge of precision medicine. They will also attend a seminar on **Responsible Conduct of Research and Related Policy Issues**. It is important to note that these course activities **will be in addition** to the mentored research project they will be completing within the 12-week summer program.

Recipients of the TRANSFORM TL1 funding will be required to submit a written progress report during each year of the training, and may be contacted periodically to provide information on their research career.

Eligible students admitted into the training program will be considered for an award that will provide 12 weeks of support including a stipend and funds for training expenses.

[1]Initially awarded for 1 year and renewed for a second year with satisfactory progress

***III. Eligibility Criteria for TRANSFORM TL1 Summer Training Program*.**

Specific **eligibility criteria** are as follows:

- Applicant must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident to be eligible for funding under this program.
- The CTSA places special emphasis on multidisciplinary research. Consequently, each applicant is strongly encouraged to identify **one Multidisciplinary Mentor from a different discipline from his/her primary mentor** to advise on his/her research progress during the period of the CTSA award. Any Columbia University Faculty member can serve as a multidisciplinary mentor.
- Applicant must be a student in good standing currently enrolled in a graduate program on the Columbia health sciences campus; students in between their first and second years of doctoral training are preferred.

**Please note that individuals currently supported by other federal funds are not eligible for trainee support from the TRANSFORM TL1 program at the same time. The CTSA funds will replace other federal funds during the two year period of training in precision medicine.*

IV. Application Information

Applications will be judged primarily by: 1) the potential of the student to learn about and engage in Precision Medicine research; 2) the merit and feasibility of the proposed 12-week research project; 3) the strength of the recommendations.

Supplemental pieces to the application form include:
Please compile and upload as one PDF. Use Arial 11 font and half-inch margins all around. As a general guideline, this document should be no more than 3 pages:

- 1. PERSONAL STATEMENT (no more than 500 words). Please describe why are you are applying to this program and what you hope to achieve over the 12 week program. Briefly state your interest in precision medicine.

- 2. SPECIFIC AIMS (no more than 500 words). List the specific aims for the project.

- 3. PROJECT ROLE (no more than 500 words). Concisely state your specific role in the project, and in your own words, describe the expected achievements by the end of the summer.

Up to two recommendations using the recommendation form found here.

The application can be accessed here and is due by 5pm on February 6, 2017.

Questions? Contact Sarah Oldham at smo2127@cumc.columbia.edu or 212-304-5550.