

2026 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

INTERNAL K12 MENTORED CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

The University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB) Institute for Clinical & Translational Research (ICTR) is seeking applications for the 2026 Internal K12 Mentored Career Development Award. The award supports the career development of individuals who have made a commitment to an independent clinical and translational research career.

This request for applications is for junior faculty from UMB, University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) and University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP). Through internal funding, the ICTR will provide \$15,000 per year towards the cost of research, tuition fees, and travel. The awardee's department will commit to providing protected time and salary support (minimum 50-75%, depending on subspecialty) for research, education, and training activities over a period of three (3) years, or until awardee secures an extramural, individual mentored K award or independent grant (e.g., R01, R03, etc.) before the conclusion of the three-year term.

Fundamental elements of the award include: structured, core didactic coursework; training in the design, conduct, and analysis of clinical research in team settings (protocol development, preparation of IRB applications, clinical research/trial management, patient accrual, data collection, analysis, and manuscript writing); conduct of a research project under the supervision of mentors and; engagement in related career development activities and seminars that include introduction to innovative methodologic approaches to translational science and regular grant-in-progress presentations.

Application Deadline: **March 20th, 2026, at 5:00 PM EST**

Start Date: **July 1, 2026**

Table of Contents

I.	Purpose of K12	2
II.	Eligibility.....	2
III.	Types of Research Proposals Accepted.....	3
IV.	Scholar Support	3
V.	Award Stipulations	3
VI.	K12 Mentor(s) Expectations	4
VII.	Application Requirements.....	4
VIII.	Regulatory Requirement/Approval.....	7
IX.	Review and Selection Process	7
X	K12 Information Session	7
XI.	Contact ICTR.....	8

I. Purpose of K12

The purpose of the K12 is to provide support for clinical and translational research training and career development of junior faculty in relevant disciplines and professions across the UMB schools (Dentistry, Law, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Social Work, and the School of Graduate Studies), as well as UMB and UMCP. Clinical research is a complex endeavor that is ideally performed by a multidisciplinary team using an integrated team approach. A multidisciplinary approach brings experts from diverse disciplines (for example, clinician, clinical researcher, clinical trialist, statistician, medicinal chemist, and pharmacologist) to collectively address a common complex problem. There is a well-recognized shortage of well-trained physicians and other health professionals performing clinical research in a rigorous, highly collaborative, team-oriented environment.

II. Eligibility

Applicants must meet each of the following criteria:

- Research or health-professional doctoral degree or equivalent, including but not limited to MD, MBBS, DO, DDS, PhD, PharmD, JD, PsyD, DPH; epidemiologists, behavioral scientists, and nurses with clinically relevant doctoral degrees are eligible as well.
- A full-time junior faculty up to Assistant Professor (less than 5 years since your initial faculty appointment) from the UMB schools of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Social Work, Law, and the School of Graduate Studies, UMBC, or UMCP by the date of receipt of the award. **Postdoctoral clinical fellows with a pending faculty appointment are eligible to apply. The faculty appointment cannot be dependent upon receipt of the K12 award.**
- **At least 50 - 75%** (depending on the subspecialty) protected time available for research and training for three years.
- A commitment to a career focused on clinical and translational research.
- A commitment to additional training including a core didactic curriculum and either:
 - MS in an area of clinical research (e.g. Public Health, Informatics, Clinical Epidemiology, Clinical Investigation, Biostatistics, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, or Health Science) if not redundant.
 - Or, certificate in an area of clinical research for applicants with a previous relevant MS degree.
- Identification of and support from at least one, but ideally an interdisciplinary team of UMB and UMBC or UMCP, and potentially JHU active faculty mentor(s), with an established and successful clinical research background.
- US citizenship, permanent resident, or non-citizen national status (persons born in outlying possessions of the United States) at the time the application is submitted. Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible. Proof of residency may be required.
- Have NOT served as Principal Investigator on an NIH R01, sub-project of P-series program project award or U-series research grant or been recipient of any NIH K-series award (this does not include NIH Small Grants (R03) or Exploratory/Developmental (R21) grants or their equivalents).

- Must NOT have an active NIH K-series award.
- Effort not directly committed to the K award (commonly up to 25%) can be supported from Federal or non-Federal research projects as principal investigator, or in another role (e.g., co-Investigator), as long as the specific aims of the other supporting grant(s) differ from those of the K award.

III. Types of Research Proposals Accepted

Research areas may include patient-oriented research, epidemiology and behavioral studies, outcomes research and health services research. Epidemiologic and natural history studies, patient-oriented research, and clinical trials are all possible types of research supported through this award. The ICTR supports a spectrum of scientific disciplines (medicine, dentistry, nursing, social work, public health/ policy, pharmacology, statistics, psychology) that are employed by health professionals using a variety of study methodologies.

IV. Scholar Support

- Through intramural funding, the ICTR will provide **\$15,000 per year** towards the cost of research, tuition fees, and travel (capped at \$2,500 of the \$15,000).
- The awardee's department/school will commit to providing protected time and salary support (50-75%, depending on subspecialty) for research, education, and training activities over a period of three (3) years, or until awardee secures an extramural individual mentored K award or an independent grant (e.g., R01, R03, etc.) before the conclusion of the three-year term. Please note that tuition for full-time faculty undergoing a master's degree will be supported by tuition remission and the K12 award will cover the course fees.
- **For UMBC applicants**, please contact the Vice President of Research, Dr. Karl Steiner, steinerk@umbc.edu, to discuss funding requirements.
- **For UMCP applicants**, please contact UMCP ICTR Senior Advisor, Dr. Cher Dallal, cdallal@umd.edu to discuss funding requirements.
- Travel funds awarded by the ICTR, as part of the \$15,000 scholar support, will help cover travel to attend the annual Association of Clinical and Translational Science (ACTS) meeting and other National CTSA career development meetings as well as other relevant scientific meetings and research training opportunities. Travel is capped at \$2,500 per year.

V. Award Stipulations

The K12 Scholar Program is a **three-year** commitment. Much of year one is devoted to didactic studies. Year two is devoted to the research project, any remaining academic requirements, and submission of K or other appropriate career development award. Year three is a continuation of research efforts, additional grant writing and, if needed, K or another career development award resubmission. Award stipulations:

- Scholars are required (unless redundant) to complete structured, didactic coursework, leading to an advanced degree or certificate program by the end of year 2. Scholars are expected to maintain good academic standing, a minimum semester GPA of 3.0. Potential MS or Certificate programs:
https://www.umaryland.edu/media/umb/ictr/scholars-programs/documentsforms/UMB_MS_Certificate_Programs_update-020325.pdf

- Scholars are expected to submit a K23 Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award or equivalent NIH K award application; or, an independent NIH R application by the end of the second year. Scholars will work with the program director prior to submitting a grant.
- Annual participation in the ACTS meeting is required.
- Participation in **required** program activities over the three-year period of combined support – including monthly Grants-in-Progress meetings and other seminars and workshops.
- Demonstration of ongoing participation in mentors' multidisciplinary clinical research team(s).
- Scholars are required to submit biannual progress reports to the ICTR.
- Extensions of support or leaves of absence are possible only under exceptional circumstances.
- Scholars are expected to update the program on publications, grants and awards during and after appointment.

VI. K12 Mentor(s) Expectations

Proposed mentors will be expected to:

- Meet with the K12 scholar mentee at least every 2 weeks to supervise the development and implementation of the scholar's project,
- Provide feedback, and guide the scholar's career development,
- Submit biannual mentor reports,
- Attend the annual Scholar's Grant in Progress presentation, and to
- **Participate in Mentor Skills Development Workshop(s).**

VII. Application Requirements

A. Electronic Submission

Applications and ALL required documents must be submitted electronically no later than **March 20th, 2026, by 5:00 PM EST.**

UMB applicants must use their UMID to log into the electronic application link found [Here](#).

UMBC and UMCP applicants must submit a request for an electronic application [Here](#)

A letter of intent is not required. However, all faculty interested in this program should contact the ICTR at ICTR-Navigator@umaryland.edu while preparing their applications.

B. Application Must Include

1. Cover letter

2. **Personal statement** (2-3 pages) detailing accomplishments to date plus career goals and plans. This statement should specifically address:

- Background information relevant to the applicant's interest in clinical/translational research; we encourage projects that have a clear translational component.
- Long-term career goals.
- How the K12 award would advance these goals.
- Need for additional training to achieve goals and which specific MS or Certificate program applicant chooses to pursue if awarded K12 award.
- Interactions to date with potential mentors within the sponsoring clinical division or department including any prior or ongoing research experience and/or plans for identifying and selecting a mentor/preceptor for the program's research requirement.

3. **Research Plan** (2-5 pages) describing ongoing or proposed clinical/translational research project. Please include Project Title. Research Plan may include:

- **Introduction- required for resubmissions only.** For applicants who applied in previous rounds, one page to respond to prior critiques and describe changes in revised application.
- *Specific Aims* - objectives of your research project, what you want to accomplish; should be driven by the hypothesis you set out to test; make sure they are highly focused.
- *Background/Significance/Innovation* - justify your study with background information about the field, explain how your research is innovative/is from a fresh point of view/develops or improves technology;
- *Preliminary Data* - may consist of your or others' publications, unpublished data from your own laboratory or from others; make sure it is clear which data are yours and which others reported.
- *Research Design/Methods* - describe the design and procedures in sufficient detail to demonstrate feasibility; provide rationale.
- *Literature Cited* (will not count toward page limit) - Refer to the literature thoroughly and thoughtfully but not to excess. The publications you cite need not be exhaustive but should include those most relevant to your proposed research.

Appendices are not allowed in the Research Plan.

4. **Plans for Proposed Advanced Training** (1-2 pages)

- A description of the plans for advanced training must be included. Acceptance into an advanced didactic training program in clinical research (Public Health, Informatics,

Clinical Epidemiology, Clinical Investigation, Biostatistics, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, or Health Science Master's at UMB or other USM Institutions) is expected. An alternative plan for training outside of a degree program based on individual needs will be considered for applicants with prior relevant MS degrees.

- Applicant must submit a concurrent graduate school application [HERE](#) if applicant proposes training plan at UMB. Concurrent application should be submitted to the UMB Graduate School for either a MS Degree or Certificate Program. For questions regarding Graduate School application please email gradapply@umaryland.edu.

5. **Curriculum vitae** including list of publications and current/prior grant support.

6. **Formatting Guidelines**

- Font size: Must be 11 points or larger. Smaller text in figures, graphs, diagrams, and charts is acceptable, if it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%. If you are converting to PDF, some PDF conversion software reduces font size. It is important to confirm that the final PDF document complies with the font requirements.
- Font types: Arial, Georgia, or Helvetica
- Type density: Must be no more than 15 characters per linear inch (including characters and spaces).
- Line spacing: Must be no more than six lines per vertical inch.
- Text color: black
- Name of the applicant (Last name, First name) should appear in the top right-hand corner of each page.
- Page numbers should appear on the bottom right-hand corner of each page.
- Paper Size and Margins
- Standard letter paper size (8 ½" x 11").
- Provide at least one-half inch margins (½") - top, bottom, left, and right - for all pages.

7. **Nomination letter** - Written by the primary mentor and the Division/Department Director (separate letters are acceptable). Nomination letter should be submitted **directly from nominators** to ICTR-navigator@umaryland.edu no later than **March 20th, 2026, by 5:00 PM EST.** The letter should address:
- Career development plans for the candidate and how the award would facilitate these plans.
 - Candidate's promise for a successful academic career in clinical and translational research and listing of any supporting past accomplishments.
 - Mentor's/division's commitment to the candidate's career development, including what commitment and/or plans there are for the nominee should a K12 Award NOT be made.
 - Assurance of three (3) years of support and dedicated research time from the division/department/dean – a specific commitment to 50 – 75% salary support – depending on the subspecialty – for research.
 - Provisions (if any) made for faculty advancement, mentoring, space and other support.

- The mentor's nomination should also include their previous mentoring experience (mentoring record of accomplishment, including a list of former mentees who have established independent careers in research).
 - The nomination letter must specifically state,

"I/We commit protected time and salary support at [X] % [minimum 50 - 75%, depending on subspecialty] for Dr. X for research, education, and training activities for a period of three (3) years, or until Dr. X secures an extramural individual mentored K award or an independent award (e.g., R01, R03, etc.) before the conclusion of the three (3) years."
8. **Proposed mentor(s) NIH formatted biosketch** including current research support. Applicants without a mentor should submit a letter explaining this and outlining potential identifiable mentors.
 9. **Two letters of recommendation and reference forms** - Two letters of recommendation and reference forms from faculty, past mentors/advisors who can assess the candidate's ability. **These letters are in addition to the Nomination letter** and should not be written by your primary mentor or Department/Division directors. Letters of recommendation should be submitted **directly from recommenders** to ICTR-navigator@umaryland.edu no later than **March 20th, 2026, by 5:00 PM EST.**
 10. **Unofficial Transcripts** from *all* degree granting academic institutions.

VIII. Regulatory Requirement/Approval

Projects cannot start or funding be released until all required regulatory documents (IRB Determination/Approval Letters, IACUC approval letters, etc.), and biosketches/resumes of all study team members are provided.

IX. Review and Selection Process

Our goal is to select candidates who, with proper career development and clinical and/or translational research training, have potential to become independently funded, successful and ethical clinical investigators. A committee of faculty from the UMB Schools, as well as UMBC and UMCP will review applications, interview candidates, and select awardees. Decisions will be based on the strength of the application materials submitted, the overall potential of the applicant and the record of accomplishment of the mentor(s).

Candidate Interviews: May 2026

Official Award Notification: June 2026

X K12 Information Session

Please check **ICTR website** for dates

XI. Contact ICTR

Applicants and/or nominating sponsors are encouraged to contact the ICTR at ICTR-Navigator@umaryland.edu to discuss eligibility requirement, obtain guidance about any special circumstances or discuss other aspects of the K12 award and its terms.

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