Advance-K Scholar Career Development Program

Date: September 6, 2019

The Advance-K Scholar Career Development Program aims to train the next generation of clinical and translational researchers to conduct rigorous and reproducible science, and to enhance innovation and discovery in health-related research. The Division of Biology and Medicine at Brown University, in partnership with Advance-CTR, announces the annual call for applications for this mentored career development program that will train and support junior faculty in the preparation of individual, extramural career development award (CDA) applications (NIH K series or equivalent).

Advance-CTR is a partnership between Brown University, The University of Rhode Island, Care New England, Lifespan, Providence VA Medical Center, and the Rhode Island Quality Institute. It serves as a central hub to support clinical and translational researchers in Rhode Island through funding, research resources and services, and professional development opportunities in order to fuel discoveries that improve overall health in the state. The Advance-K Program is currently seeking to support highly qualified junior faculty for activities related to the development of a successful research career.

I. Eligibility:

• Applicants must have a research or health-professional doctoral degree (or equivalent), including but not limited to M.D., D.O., Pharm.D., DNP, and/or Ph.D.
• Applicants must have a faculty appointment at Brown University or the University of Rhode Island at the time of the award.
• Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or non-citizen national, or have documented permanent resident status.
• Applicants must commit a minimum of 20% effort to mentored research and career development activities (deviations from this will be considered on a case-by-case basis and are subject to approval during the application process). A letter of support from the applicant’s department chair must include a statement of commitment to at least 20% protected time (or to the agreed upon amount) and a clear description of other activities (including the percent effort allocated to clinical responsibilities, on-call time, teaching, service, and/or administrative activities).
• Current and former PDs/PIs on NIH research project (R01), program project (P01), center grants (P50), sub-projects of program project (P01), sub-projects of center grants (P50), other major individual career development awards (e.g., K01, K07, K08, K22, K23, K25, K76, K99/R00), or the equivalent are not eligible. Current and former PDs/PIs of an NIH Small Grant (R03), Exploratory/Developmental Grant (R21), Dissertation Award (R36), or SBIR/STTR (R41, R42, R43, R44) remain eligible, as do PD/PIs of Transition Scholar (K38) awards and individuals appointed to institutional K programs (K12, KL2).
• Applicants must identify at least one scientific mentor; the primary scientific mentor must provide a letter of support of the application. More than one scientific mentor is permitted and encouraged.
II. Program description:

The Advance-K Scholar Career Development Program aims to train the next generation of clinical and translational researchers to conduct rigorous and reproducible science and prepare mentored CDA applications that will ultimately advance health in Rhode Island and beyond. Up to ten Scholars are selected annually to participate in the program; junior faculty candidates pursuing a career in clinical research or translational research from all departments at Advance-CTR partner institutions are eligible to apply. Members of under-represented racial and ethnic groups and candidates with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Advance-K Scholars will follow a common curriculum of clinical and translational research competencies, grantsmanship, and professional development, along with a customized set of activities to meet individual learning goals. Advance-K Scholars will be expected to participate in 2-hour bi-weekly training sessions. Attendance at these sessions is mandatory for participation in the program. Each Scholar will enhance the skills specific to his/her research and career development through an individualized learning plan. The goal of the program is for scholars to submit an application for individual funding (K01, K08, K23, or CDAs from the VA or foundations) by the end of the 12-month program period.

Individualized training will be accomplished through various methods including:

1) Development of a Mentorship Team. Primary mentors identified by the candidate are required to describe their commitment to the mentoring relationship, including a description of mentoring time and regular interactions with the candidate. The program will assist in identifying additional mentors to enhance the mentoring support for Scholars. Applicants are encouraged to list up to three additional areas of expertise (or individual faculty members) whose guidance would benefit the proposed project or the applicant’s career development plan.

2) Meetings with a Project Development Team (consisting of local technical and scientific expertise) for each participant to assist with grant preparation and planning. The team will also work with proposed K applicants and mentors to prepare effective and appropriate biosketches, training plans and letters of support.

3) Bi-weekly sessions focusing on individual research presentations, grant preparation, budget development, Responsible Conduct of Research, mentorship, and/or other professional development goals.

4) Participation in appropriate Advance-CTR, university, and industry-sponsored workshops and courses (Clinical Research Design, Epidemiology, and Biostatistics [CRDEB], Biomedical Informatics, RCR, IRB preparation, grant-writing)

5) Consultation with Advance-CTR CRDEB, Biomedical Informatics, Clinical Research Cores for assistance, as appropriate.

6) Opportunities for individualized course work (e.g., Certificates or Masters).

During the award period, Scholars are expected to pursue an individual extramural mentored career development award. An interim progress report, and final report, will be required of all Scholars. The Advance-K Scholar Career Development Program encourages applications with an emphasis on interdisciplinary team science.
III. Instructions for Proposal:

Complete applications are due on October 3, 2019. A complete application must include:

- Advance-K Scholars Career Development Application Online Coversheet [name, title, department, area of interest, mentor name, chair name, type of funding award they are preparing to apply for, use of human subjects or vertebrate animals, if applicable, and application checklist].
- NIH Biosketch (preferred) or CV for the applicant, which must contain current and pending funding
- NIH Biosketch for the applicant’s scientific mentor(s)
- NIH Biosketches (preferred) or CV for key contributors to the applicant’s proposed research
- Proposal
  - Career Development Plan (1 page limit)
    - Career goals and objectives
    - What the applicant aims to achieve through this program
  - Research Summary (1 page limit)
- Letters of support
  - Department chair (required; must include statement confirming protected time; participation in 2-hour bi-weekly events, 2 page limit)
  - Primary scientific mentor (required; must include commitment to attend any mentoring activities, 2 page limit)
  - Consultants and contributors to the project, IF APPLICABLE (required from consultants and contributors named in application, 1 page limit for each letter)

Applications should be submitted electronically on or before October 3, 2019 via the link below:
https://brown.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1H0Eli9De0nF9X

For questions on the application or Advance-K program, you may contact Sharon Rounds, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs (sharon_rounds@brown.edu), or Audra Van Wart, Associate Dean for Training, Education, and Program Development (audra_van_wart@brown.edu).

IV. Key Dates:

Call for applications: September 6, 2019

Applications Due: October 3, 2019

Possible Phone Interviews: Between October 4, 2019 – October 10

Notification of Acceptance: By October 11, 2019

Program Begins: October 11, 2019
V. Selection Criteria:

NIH Scoring criteria will be used to evaluate submitted proposals.

- Overall impact
- Candidate
- Career development plan
- Research statement
- Mentors/consultants/collaborators