

Programs in the NUCATS Center for Education and Career Development

<http://www.nucats.northwestern.edu/centers/cecd/index.html>

Lewis J. Smith, MD, and H. William Schnaper, MD, Co-directors. The Center for Education and Career Development (CECD) is designed to break down potential barriers that have prevented exciting scientific discoveries from being translated into improved patient care and community health. The CECD aims to create the next generation of clinical researchers representing multiple disciplines who will be boundary spanners, able to pollinate new ideas and link laboratories and investigators in different disciplines.

Responsible Conduct of Research

<http://www.nucats.northwestern.edu/education/Responsible%20Conduct%20of%20Research/index.html>

Purpose: Provide required training for postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty who are recipients of NIH or other training awards.

Mechanism: The course covers the principles and expectations for conducting biomedical research ethically and responsibly, but will go one step further to guide participants in teaching others for whom they are responsible. Topics for this course include: Northwestern policies and resources, mentoring, data acquisition, management, sharing and ownership, intellectual property and conflicts of interest.

Annual Clinical Research Educational Conference

<http://www.nucats.northwestern.edu/education/CRPT/CREC/2009CREC/Index.html>

Purpose: Highlight important and timely topics for clinical research professionals.

Mechanism: Plenary and small group breakout sessions, poster presentations, networking lunch.

KL2 Program

http://www.nucats.northwestern.edu/centers/cecd/KL2_Program_Announcement_Final.pdf

Purpose: Provide support for career development for promising clinical and translational scientists.

Mechanism: Three to four junior faculty research Scholars per year supported by CTSA funds, with additional Scholars to be supported by institutional funds. Scholars receive 75% protected time for research and training, plus \$25,000 per year for research, training and travel expenses. They will also benefit from additional faculty development programs as described below.

TL1/Medical Scientist Training Program

<http://www.mstp.northwestern.edu/>

Purpose: Develop translational investigators with intensive training in medicine and biomedical science.

Mechanism: Well-established MSTP; now adding specific training in clinical research methodology for selected students.

Physician-Scientist Training Program

<http://www.nucats.northwestern.edu/education/PSTP/index.html>

Purpose: Recruit talented, research-oriented physicians to NUFSM residency and post-residency fellowship training programs.

Mechanism: Cross-departmental recruitment activities, coordination among residency programs, regular meetings to discuss career development issues among Scholars accepted into the program. Support derived from CTSA and individual clinical departments. Program presently includes 40 scholars (most with MD-PhDs) who receive career counseling, early integration with laboratories for their research training and some support for additional research and career enrichment activities.

Mentoring Program

<http://www.nucats.northwestern.edu/education/Mentoring%20Program/index.html>

Purpose: Develop mentoring skills among faculty, facilitate career progress at all levels of research career development and promote a sense of community among faculty developing research careers.

Mechanism: Grant-writing workshop, brown-bag lunches, peer mentoring activities with K12 Programs and PSTP, department-level faculty progress assessments, extramurally funded, graduate level career development programs.

Translational Research Incubator Program

<http://www.nucats.northwestern.edu/centers/cecd/trip.html>

Purpose: Provide support to assist developing investigators in carrying out their work.

Mechanism: TRIP provides (1) support for experimental design and statistical analysis of data to K Program Scholars and the MSCI and (2) a venue for multi-disciplinary evaluation of potential R-level projects well in advance of the time of actual grant preparation; feedback will be provided regarding experimental design, ethical considerations and specific scientific issues by a panel selected for the presenting individual.

Master of Science in Clinical Investigation

<http://www.clinicalinvestigation.northwestern.edu/>

Purpose: Provide formal training in clinical and translational research skills and techniques to residents, post-doctoral fellows and junior faculty members.

Mechanism: Formal coursework in biostatistics, epidemiology, clinical trials design and implementation, manuscript preparation, responsible conduct of research, drug development, molecular medicine, and others. More than 70 students are presently enrolled as degree candidates; additional students take specific courses to complement their research training.

Certificate Programs

<http://www.scs.northwestern.edu/grad/crra/>

Purpose: Expand career potential for physicians, research nurses and other clinical research professionals.

Mechanism: Graduate certificate in Clinical Research and Regulatory Administration addresses essentials of clinical research, clinical research design and methodology, responsible conduct of research, regulatory support and administration, and drug and device development for research coordinators, research nurses and other clinical research personnel. Over 20 students are currently enrolled in the program, offered in collaboration with the NU School of Continuing Studies.

Community Research Training Program

<http://www.nucats.northwestern.edu/education/Community%20Research%20Training%20Programs/index.html>

Purpose: Develop skills of investigators and community workers engaged in community health research.

Mechanism: Under development

Junior Faculty Research Career Development Seminars

<http://www.nucats.northwestern.edu/education/Career%20Development/index.html>

Purpose: Focus on developing the key skills young scientists require in order to progress beyond just doing good research. This program was created for K12 Scholar career development.

Mechanism: Meet on the first and third Monday of each month. The intent of the "First Monday" course is to provide a first pass at such things as finding sources of research funds, writing effective grants, building a network of professional colleagues, and more. It is open to all junior investigators. The "Third Monday" seminar is an ongoing, group peer-mentoring experience. This course is only open to first- and second-year K awardees. At each session, a K scholar presents a few slides of data, and then describes the specific aims for her/his academic career, and plans for turning the K award into an R01.

Clinical Research Professionals Training Programs

<http://www.nucats.northwestern.edu/crpt>

Purpose: Provide support for development of research program infrastructure.

Mechanism: Non-credit short courses offered in classroom and internet settings to train research staff about clinical research best practices.