

**NUCATS MULTIDISCIPLINARY TRAINING PROGRAM
IN CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH (TL1)**

POSTDOCTORAL REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Date: Winter, 2023

To: Northwestern University Department Chairs, Center and Institute Directors, and Faculty
Clinical Fellowship Program Directors, Northwestern University
Engineering and Data Science PhD Program Directors

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Re: Request for applications for NUCATS Institute Multidisciplinary Training Program in Child and
Adolescent Health postdoctoral fellowship research training program (TL1)

The Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (NUCATS) announces a call for applications for the Multidisciplinary Training Program in Child and Adolescent Health (TL1). The goal of this program is to train clinician scientists and engineers to conduct translational science to improve the care of children and adolescents. This innovative program is funded as part of the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) program, supported by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences. Appointment requires a 40 hours/week commitment to training, research, and associated career development activities.

We welcome TL1 trainee applications from graduating PhDs, postdoctoral trainees, or clinician fellows with appointments at Northwestern University. Potential applicants are encouraged to visit the [TL1 website](#) to view trainees and projects supported by TL1 funding.

For further information, determination of eligibility, or assistance in identifying mentors, please contact the program coordinator, Adam White, at adam-white@northwestern.edu. Applications are due

February 10th. See the “Timeline of Events” section on the last page for application due dates, notice of award dates, and funding start dates.

A. OVERVIEW

The goal of the TL1 is to address the need for well-trained scientists equipped with tools to succeed as investigators. The TL1 trains postdoctoral fellows in a creative and multidisciplinary environment to enable investigators to apply translational science approaches to problems in child and adolescent health. The TL1 is a dynamic program that promotes interactions between mentors and trainees from multiple disciplines to encourage creative thinking and novel approaches to child-health translational science.

The TL1 program offers access to extensive research training resources, monthly sessions focused on Collaborative Approaches in Child and Adolescent (C&A) Health, team science training, catalyzing new teams and ideas, mentor development workshops, community mentors, research and methods mentors and support, grant writing groups, experiential learning opportunities, and more. The TL1 program endeavors to catalyze creative, multidisciplinary partnerships between pediatrics, engineering, and data science to improve child and adolescent health.

The TL1 program accepts applicants who aim for a career in clinical and translational science. Applications will be accepted from:

- (1) Clinical postdoctoral fellows pursuing training in child and adolescent health who desire to complement their clinical insight with research skills learned from mentors with diverse scientific backgrounds.
 - a. Clinical fellows should have a primary mentor with a focus in pediatric or adolescent health.
 - b. Secondary mentors usually come from engineering or data science to complement the clinical expertise. TL1 leadership can help identify secondary mentors appropriate to the project. A pre-established relationship is not necessary.
- (2) Newly appointed and current PhD postdoctoral fellows from engineering and basic science disciplines – including areas such as bioengineering, synthetic biology, systems biology, informatics, population science, materials science, operations research, imaging, signal processing and analysis, game theory, robotics, machine learning, health services research, and communication disorders – who desire to apply their discipline to a project in child and adolescent health.
 - a. Postdoctoral Fellows will usually have a primary mentor with a focus in engineering or data science.
 - b. Secondary mentors should complement this basic science mentor with clinical expertise. TL1 leadership is available to help identify secondary mentors after appointments are made; applicants are not expected to have identified secondary mentors at the time of application.
- (3) Applicants who are interested in completing their research at a non-Northwestern University institution, but who are able to participate in career development activities at Northwestern, should contact [Susanna McColley](#) directly.

The award is open to individuals with doctoral-level degrees, including but not limited to: PhD, MD, DO, DC, DDS, DVM, OD, DPM, ScD, EngD, DrPH, DNSc, ND (Doctor of Naturopathy), PharmD, DSW, PsyD, or equivalent doctoral degree from an accredited domestic or foreign institution. Trainees for the

TL1 program are accepted from a wide array of specialties, departments, and schools and across NU. For the purposes of this proposal, Engineering is broadly defined and includes, but is not limited to, such fields as Data Science, Biomedical Engineering, Industrial (process) Engineering, Chemical and Biological Engineering, Computer Science, Materials, Simulation, Prosthetics, and Device development.

Northwestern University and the TL1 program are committed to identifying and implementing ways to create and support a diverse and inclusive training experience and campus community. Scholars from diverse backgrounds and life experiences bring different perspectives, creativity, and individual enterprise to address complex scientific problems. Individuals belonging to groups that have been traditionally underrepresented in biomedical, clinical, behavioral, and social sciences (<https://diversity.nih.gov/about-us/population-underrepresented>) are strongly encouraged to apply to this program. The [NIH Statement on Diversity can be found here](#); individuals may voluntarily self-identify based on the descriptions included in the statement.

The current TL1 program will provide support for a minimum of one year, with appointments likely starting on April 1, 2023 and ending on April 30, 2024. Funding cannot be guaranteed beyond June 30th, 2024. Any expense beyond this date would need to be covered by department or mentor. Training must include both mentored research and participating in other career development activities in child and adolescent health (see below).

Individuals funded by this mechanism will receive support with applying for other fellowship awards or independent grants during the period of this award. All trainees supported on the TL1 are encouraged to prepare an F or K-series grant prior to the end of their appointment and are expected to submit a first-author manuscript from their funded project.

B. TIMELINE OF EVENTS

The table below lists upcoming application due dates, notice of award dates, and the tentative funding start dates for the TL1 program.

Please visit the [TL1 website](#) for additional information.

Application Due	Notice of Award	Tentative Funding Start Date
February 17 th	March 13 th	April 1 st

C. ELIGIBILITY, PROVISIONS, TERMS, AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

An outline of requirements are listed below, and [detailed information can be found on our website](#).

1. Complete the [TL1 Data Applicant Form](#)
2. [PHS 398 Face Page](#) (no signature required)
3. Abstract
 - a. Limited to 30 lines or less, including the project objectives, description of research design and methods, and career development goals.
4. Proposal – 4-page limit (not including references)
 - a. Candidate Background (1 page)

- b. Career Goals, Objectives, and Development Plan, emphasizing the focus on child and adolescent health and including the frequency of mentor meetings and how mentors and co-mentors will work together. (1 page)
 - c. Research Project description, with a focus on child and adolescent health (2 pages)
5. NIH Biosketches
 - a. Trainee applicant
 - b. Primary Mentor
 - c. Co-Mentor (if identified at time of application)
6. Letters of Support
 - a. Primary Mentor; include information about how the training plan will advance the trainee's career goals
 - b. Co-mentor(s) (if identified at time of application)

Standard NIH NRSA T32 and F-series award eligibility requirements apply.

Awardees will receive the [prevailing NRSA stipend](#), health insurance, tuition support, travel expenses, and programmatic support in the areas of qualitative methods, mentor matching, team science training, Responsible Conduct of Research training, grant writing workshops, and access to the Center for Community Health.

All trainees are expected to attend programming on a regular basis and comply with data requests while funded and with annual update requests for 15-years post-funding for NIH reporting.

Mentors are required to participate in career development activities and provide annual updates as requested, as well as to provide funding to trainees for research-related expenses.

Applications should be submitted via [Competitions](#).
[Application Instructions are found on our website](#).

Process related questions can be directed to Adam White at adam-white@northwestern.edu.

Questions related to selection of mentors or co-mentors and/or potential candidate eligibility or qualification can be directed to Susanna McColley at smccolley@luriechildrens.org.

We look forward to your response to this solicitation.