

Request for Application (RFA) for Clinical Trialist Development Program (CTDP)

Overview

UAB is committed to expanding its clinical trial portfolio with a specific focus on increasing industry-funded clinical trials. This will lead to enhanced access by the patients we serve to studies of the most cutting edge therapeutics and devices to improve their lives. To that end, UAB has committed to expand the pool of well-trained faculty who are committed to a career as clinical trialists.

Background

Over the past five years, clinical trial expenditures at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) have shown steady growth. Sustaining and/or accelerating this momentum depends on expanding the pool of investigators who have the training and support needed to serve as principal investigators (PIs) in clinical trials. Several barriers hinder physician-investigators from taking on PI roles. These include inadequate training on how to lead clinical trials, insufficient resources to conduct trials, and a lack of salary support to allow dedicated time for PI responsibilities, among other challenges. To address these needs, dedicated support is needed to expand the pool of physician-scientists with a career focus and expertise in clinical trials, particularly industry funded.

Eligibility Criteria

- UAB faculty member at rank of Assistant or Associate Professor
- Prior or current participation in at least one industry-sponsored clinical trial as PI, site PI, sub-investigator, or equivalent
- Commitment of a mentor (identified by the candidate) to mentoring him/her throughout the program

Program Requirements

- Participation in the CCTS's Clinical Investigator Training Program (CITP) during Year 1, unless this or comparable program has already been completed (documentation will be required)
- Quarterly group meetings with Dr. David Kimberlin (Associate Vice President for Clinical Research) and Dr. Dana Rizk (Heersink School of Medicine Associate Dean for Clinical Trials) to create a near-peer community, share best practices, and identify and overcome barriers
- Regular meetings with mentor(s), who will submit every 6 months progress reports to ensure adequate progress

Funding Information

Funding will provide:

- Two years of protected time of at least 20% of total effort (UAB+HSF) to develop clinical trials portfolio
 - Year 1: CTDTP provides salary support up to 20% of the NIH cap, inclusive of fringe, with the division/department/school providing salary/fringe not covered by CTDTP funding.
 - Year 2: Division/Department/School provides salary support to protect 20% of total effort
- Participants accepted into the program with the support of their mentors can apply for a voucher to receive any available services from the UAB Clinical Research Support Enterprise (CReSt) or to support existing comparable expertise within their research unit.
 - Services supported by voucher could include start-up, budgeting, study management, regulatory services, and/or coordinator support.

Application Instructions

- Applications are required to include:
 - statement of career goals by candidate (2 pages maximum). Please address in your statement:
 - Why are you interested in this program?
 - How would this opportunity impact your current role and your future career aspirations?

- Have you applied for CTDTP previously?
- listing of prior experience in industry-sponsored clinical trials
- letter(s) of support from mentor(s)
- letter of support from division director/department chair or school dean committing to providing protected time and salary support if funded
- Updated CV using UAB approved format
- Applications should be uploaded into the InfoReady platform
- Application deadlines for calendar year 2026 will be:
 - January 15th, 2026
 - April 15th, 2026
 - July 15th, 2026

Evaluation Criteria

- Applications will be reviewed and scored by Review Committee comprised of senior clinical trialist faculty in her/his School/College
- Applications advanced by Review Committee will be evaluated by the UAB Selection Committee consisting of the Deans Clinical Trials Advisory Group to the Academic Research Office for Clinical Trials (ARO-CT) in the UAB Office of Research
- Applicants selected as a CTDTP scholar by the Selection Committee will be advanced for approval by President Watts.

Key Metrics of Success

- Number of industry-sponsored clinical trials that CTDTP participants conduct as site PI
- Annual target enrollment achieved in studies on which CTDTP participants serve as site PI (goal: $\geq 85\%$ enrollment)
- Expenditures from trials led by CTDTP participants as site PI

Application and Contact Information

For technical support regarding the application process or the portal contact:

InfoReady Support at: infoready.freshdesk.com

askIT@uab.edu

To apply and for questions about the program:

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