

# Irving Institute Predoctoral T32 Training Program

## Information and Application Procedures

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### I. Background and Program Overview

The Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (Irving Institute) at Columbia University Irving Medical Center is the home of Columbia University's Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA), funded by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Since its initial CTSA award in 2006, the Irving Institute has supported a comprehensive portfolio of research infrastructure, training programs, and mentoring initiatives designed to advance clinical and translational research and to prepare investigators for impactful research careers.

The Irving Institute Predoctoral T32 Training Program is disease-agnostic and embedded within the Irving Institute's CTSA hub and its education unit, TRANSFORM (Training And Nurturing Scholars FOr Research that is Multidisciplinary). The program supports research that spans the clinical and translational spectrum, including (but not limited to):

- Precision approaches to disease risk assessment, prevention, and treatment
- Translational applications of genomics, digital health, and biomedical data science
- Individualized and population-based approaches to improving health outcomes
- Integration of clinical, environmental, and lifestyle data to inform care

The program prepares predoctoral trainees from across medicine, health sciences, and basic sciences to pursue careers in clinical and translational research through multidisciplinary training, mentored research, and structured career development focused on developing the skills necessary to be a successful translational scientist.

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### II. Program Goals

The Irving Institute Predoctoral T32 Training Program is designed to:

- Prepare predoctoral trainees to become leaders in clinical and translational research
- Provide structured, multidisciplinary training that complements trainees' doctoral research
- Foster the ability to translate scientific discoveries across the research continuum
- Support development of skills in team science, scientific communication, and career advancement

Participation in the T32 program runs concurrently with trainees' home doctoral programs and is not intended to extend time to degree.

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### III. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet **all** of the following criteria to be eligible for appointment to the Irving Institute Predoctoral T32 Training Program:

- Be a **U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or permanent resident**, consistent with NRSA eligibility requirements
  - Be enrolled in a **PhD, MD/PhD, or DDS/PhD program (or equivalent)** at Columbia University
  - Have **completed at least two years of doctoral training** at the time of appointment
  - Have a **minimum of 12 calendar months remaining** before the anticipated thesis submission date at the time of appointment
  - Be able to commit to a **100% effort (full-time)** training appointment
  - Not hold a concurrent NIH or other U.S. Public Health Service training award
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### IV. Mentorship Model

Each T32 trainee is supported by a **two-mentor team**:

- A primary mentor, who serves as the trainee's main research mentor
- A secondary mentor **from a different discipline**, who provides complementary expertise and a multidisciplinary perspective

Primary and secondary mentors are expected to work collaboratively to support the trainee's research progress and training goals. **Both mentors are required to participate in mentorship training**, consistent with institutional and NCATS-aligned expectations. Detailed mentorship training activities are coordinated by the Irving Institute and will be detailed in the trainee/mentor compact.

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### V. Training Structure and Requirements

The Irving Institute Predoctoral T32 Training Program is a **two-year, full-time NRSA appointment** requiring 100% effort. Trainees divide their time among mentored research, doctoral program requirements, and structured T32 training activities.

## Required Training Components

All T32 trainees are required to complete the following during their appointment:

- Patient-Oriented Research (POR) Career Development Colloquium
- Responsible Conduct of Research training
- Funding and grantsmanship coursework
- Monthly program seminars
- Individual Development Plan (IDP), reviewed regularly with program leadership
- One required externship
- Attendance at the Association for Clinical and Translational Science (ACTS) Annual Meeting (once during the appointment period)
- Precision Medicine Updates Symposium and Scholars' Day (½ day, once per year)
- Columbia Precision Medicine Initiative (CPMI) Conference (once during the appointment period)
- Additional elective courses aligned with clinical and translational research competencies

Elective selections are made in consultation with program leadership and mentors.

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## VI. Award Provisions

The Irving Institute Predoctoral T32 Training Program provides NRSA support in accordance with NIH policy, including:

- A predoctoral NRSA stipend
- Tuition and fees
- Health insurance allowance, as applicable
- Childcare allowance, as applicable

All award amounts are set by the NIH each year and are therefore subject to change. The Irving Institute is able to provide only the NIH approved amounts for each of the above categories.

**All awards are contingent upon receipt of the Notice of Award (NOA) and are subject to the final terms, conditions, budget, and funding levels specified therein.** The Irving Institute reserves the right to modify, delay, or reduce the number of available awards if the final NOA differs from anticipated funding assumptions or imposes requirements that affect award implementation.

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## VII. Application Components

A complete application includes the following materials:

- NIH biosketch (or alternatively a Columbia University formatted curriculum vitae, if SciENCv has not been set up yet and there is no administrative support) for the trainee
- NIH biosketches for primary and secondary mentors
- Research proposal
- Career goals statement
- Mentorship and training plan
- Academic transcripts
- Letters of support/mentor commitment\* from:
  - Both of the proposed mentors
- Letters of recommendation\* from:
  - Applicant's dissertation supervisor
  - Applicant's department chair

\*These letters should address the applicant's academic potential, proficiency in their area of study, and perceived ability to become a successful translational scientist

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## VIII. Review and Selection Criteria

Applications are evaluated based on:

- The applicant's potential for a career in clinical and translational research
  - Quality of the research proposal
  - Quality and feasibility of the proposed training plan
  - Strength and complementarity of the mentorship team
  - Alignment with the goals of the Irving Institute Predoctoral T32 Training Program
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## IX. Program Expectations and Accountability

T32 trainees are expected to:

- Maintain full-time effort in the program
- Participate in required training activities
- Meet regularly with mentors and program leadership
- Submit annual progress materials as required
- Respond to all requests for NIH/NCATS required documentation

Trainees and mentors are required to sign a T32 Compact outlining expectations and responsibilities of each party.

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## X. Contact Information

Questions regarding the Irving Institute Predoctoral T32 Training Program should be directed to:

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