

# Request for Applications: Congenital and Perinatal Infections Consortium Scholar Program



The Congenital and Perinatal Infections Consortium (CPIC) Career Enhancement Core is focused on developing the translational and clinical research careers of the next generation of investigators of rare infectious diseases affecting children. The CPIC Scholar Program is for those in residency training, a fellowship, or in their first faculty appointment. Candidates are eligible from all CPIC sites. Designation as a CPIC Scholar provides participants with access to enrichment activities as well as \$3,000 for a research career development activity (travel, education, etc.). At a minimum, each Scholar will participate in CPIC Scholar Circles (up to six per year) in order to engage in career development topics plus some type of experiential learning. Given the range of training levels in our Scholar community (residents, fellows, and faculty), not all Scholars will have an independent project. However, a level of engagement in research provides foundational experiences upon which to build.

## **Application**

1. Cover page
  - a. Scholar name and degree(s), institutional email address and phone number
  - b. Institution and department/division name
  - c. Current title
  - d. Gender/ethnicity (used for NIH reporting purposes only)
  - e. Mentor name
  - f. Participation requires confirmation from supervisor of effort for the program
2. Scholar NIH Biosketch (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>)
  - a. The Scholar's Personal Statement (Part A of Biosketch) should include:
    - i. a brief description (2-3 sentences) of applicant's research and career development goal(s),
    - ii. a statement of how participation in the Scholar Program will connect to these goals, and
    - iii. a description of proposed research.
3. Mentor NIH Biosketch
  - a. The mentor's Personal Statement should include how the applicant Scholar will engage in research as appropriate for the applicant's training stage.
4. Mentor Letter of Commitment
  - a. Because each Scholar will engage in a research project, a letter signed by the applicant and the mentor, stating a commitment to regular interaction as a Mentor/Scholar dyad is required and part of the application process.

The CPIC Scholars Program has a rolling application window. To apply, combine all documents into a single pdf (cover page, followed by documents in the order listed) and send to Melissa McBrayer ([mmcbrayer@uabmc.edu](mailto:mmcbrayer@uabmc.edu)), Program Manager.

## **Training – Required**

**CPIC Scholar Circle** online gatherings provide an opportunity for small-group learning about a particular research topics, as well as a relaxed, informal question and answer sessions with established physician investigators about their careers in academic research. The schedule is semi-monthly with dates and times to be determined.

## **Training - Participation optional but strongly encouraged**

The **Rare Disease Clinical Research Training Program (RDCRTP)** is based at **Children’s National Hospital in Washington DC** and led by Debra Regier, MD, PhD. Funded by a Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development R25 curriculum grant, the RDCRTP is a free, one-year virtual program designed to equip and serve early career clinical researchers. The program complements Scholar’s pediatric infectious disease training with rare disease-agnostic subject matter. The year-long hybrid program features virtual and in-person experiences. Course content includes topics such as working with small populations, recruitment, and small “n” statistics; network development; professional skills such as scientific writing and grant development, etc. Visit <https://www.rarediseasesnetwork.org/researchers/training> to learn more.

The **National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care at Tuskegee University** (David A. Hodge, PhD, DMin, Interim Director) provides an annual **Public Health Ethics Intensive** course, typically in the spring. The Center is nation's first bioethics center devoted to engaging the sciences, humanities, law and religious faiths in the exploration of the core moral issues which underlie research and medical treatment of African Americans and other underserved people. The official launching of the Center took place two years after President Clinton's apology to the nation, the survivors of the Syphilis Study, Tuskegee University, and Tuskegee/Macon County for the U.S. Public Health Service medical experiment. Over three afternoons, this in-person and virtual course builds competency in the theory and practice of ethics, including public health, healthcare, and research ethics, focusing on their influence on race, ethnicity, sex, gender, and class. The fee may be paid from the Scholar stipend. Visit <https://www.tuskegee.edu/about-us/centers-of-excellence/bioethics-center> to learn more.

## **Other Training Resources**

The **Clinical and Translational Science Training Program** provides an overview of clinical and translational science and can help prepare participants to conduct clinical and translational research responsibly. The free, six-month certificate program provides training in clinical and translational research, including about 50 hours of didactic instruction and interactive experiences. Course content represents the following modules: Clinical Trials, Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Ethics, Clinical Genetics Research, Behavioral and Outcomes Research, and Dissemination of Results. A program of UAB’s Center for Clinical and Translational Science Center.\* This program is encouraged for those in need of foundational training in clinical and translational science but lacking a local resource. Additional CCTS programs are available. Visit <https://www.uab.edu/ccts/training-academy/trainings> to learn more.

**Edge for Scholars** ([www.edgeforscholars.org](http://www.edgeforscholars.org)) is an online resource and community for “...candid conversation about life in academics. We strategize about how to do great research, stay productive, network effectively, mentor well and be mentored, negotiate for resources, get grants, refine writing and editing, cultivate leadership skills, and achieve your goals.”

\*Center for Clinical and Translational Science, an NCATS-funded (UM1TR004771) Clinical and Translational Science Award Hub. [www.uab.edu/ccts](http://www.uab.edu/ccts)