

2026 Translational Research Academy: Request for Applications

Application Deadline: Friday, May 15, 2026

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Overview

The Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) is accepting applications for the 2026-2028 Translational Research Academy (TRA), an education, research support, and networking program to enhance the career development and success of early-career clinical and translational research faculty.

Academy Scholars benefit from regular meetings in a small, diverse group setting of peers allowing for multidisciplinary collaboration. TRA core faculty facilitate the educational sessions and provide informal mentoring in addition to that of the Scholar's research mentoring team. The Academy helps to build professional competencies that are the foundation of an independent research career.

Scholars receive priority access to the many CTSI services, including the Study Coordinator Pool, Biostatistical Consultation, Research Navigation, REDCap Online Survey and Database Tools, Clinical Research Unit, Grant and Manuscript Editing, and Research Studios. Salary support is not provided.

Eligibility

Early-career faculty (e.g., Instructors & Assistant Professors) from the Wake Forest University School of Medicine in the Winston-Salem, Charlotte, or Midwest markets, who have significant effort (40-50%) devoted to research across the full translational spectrum ([Basic](#), [Pre-clinical](#), [Clinical](#), [Clinical Implementation](#), [Public Health Research](#)) are eligible. Faculty need to have identified a specific research interest, a mentor, and a plan to submit an application for extramural funding within the next 12 months or currently hold an individual mentored training award (K-award or equivalent).

Expectations

The core of the TRA is the twice monthly Scholar Forum that meets virtually on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm, over the course of two years using a 9-month academic calendar. The 2026 Cohort will begin in September of 2026 and run through May of 2027, take a three-month summer hiatus, and then resume for another 9 months, September 2027 – May 2028.

The fall kickoff meeting each September, CTSI Day/Research Scholar Showcase each April, and TRA graduation each May are held in Winston-Salem; all other sessions are held virtually.

Scholars are expected to share and discuss research ideas and work in progress and are **expected to be active and regular participants in at least 70% of the Scholar Forums and other specialized educational**

offerings. Any recurring duties that would prevent Scholars from attending at least 70% of sessions should be canceled or rescheduled.

It is also highly recommended that scholars attend and present their work at CTSI Day/Research Scholar Showcase in April.

Scholars will also be asked to periodically complete self-assessment tools and/or inventories, provide feedback for program evaluation and improvement, and report outcomes of academic productivity. Scholars agree to be contacted by CTSI regarding their activities in clinical and translational research for up to 15 years.

Online Application

To apply for the TRA, please complete the online application form at: <https://redcap.link/TRA2026Cohort>. Applications are due by **5pm (ET) on Friday, May 15, 2026**.

The following information and documents will be required for your application.

- **Demographic Background:** Name, Degrees, Academic Title, Department/Section, Market
- **Protected Time:**
 - What percentage of your effort is protected for research?
 - How many hours per week do you spend on research?
 - How is your protected time currently funded?
- **Career Development or Training Grants:** List any individual or institutional training grants in which you are participating or have received. Include funding source and date of award.
- **Primary Mentor:** Name, Degrees, Department
- **Mentoring Team:** Members' Names, Degrees, Departments
- **Current Clinical and Translational Science Research Interests and Activities:** Describe your current clinical and translation science research interests and research-related activities. (1 page maximum, 11pt Arial font with 1-inch margins)
- **Areas for Professional Development:** Describe training you need to become a successful independent investigator. (Half page maximum, 11pt Arial font with 1-inch margins)
- **Research Plan:** Explain your strategy to obtain your first independent research or career development grant. Applicants who already have a career development award should discuss their strategy for transitioning to independent funding. (1 page maximum, 11-point Arial font with 1-inch margins)

Address the following components, to the extent possible:

1. Summary of central research question or hypothesis
 2. Members of your research team (if different from your mentoring team)
 3. Targeted funding opportunity (Where have you determined to be the best fit for this grant?)
 4. Timeline for development and/or grant submission
- **Curriculum Vitae:** Upload a current Curriculum Vitae.
 - **Scholar Forum Attendance:** An expectation of being a member of the Translational Research Academy is to participate in Scholar Forum that meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm, September through May. Scholars are expected to attend at least 70% of the Scholar Forums.

What current standing commitments do you have that may impact your ability to attend Scholar Forum? Please indicate the schedule of any current, ongoing obligations that would interfere with your attendance of the TRA Scholar Forum. If an obligation would interfere with your ability to attend at least 70% of Scholar Forums, indicate your plans for managing the conflict.

- **Statement of Support:** Upload a PDF of the statement of support form which must be signed by your Department Chair or Section Head and your primary mentor. The blank statement of support form can be downloaded from the online application.
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Evaluation of Applications

All applications will be reviewed by the TRA Core Faculty. You will be notified of the status of your application by **May 28, 2026**.

About CTSI

The Wake Forest Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) has been made possible by a Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), UM1TR004929.
