

Fall 2026 Research Mentor Academy Request for Applications

Application Deadline:
Wednesday, August 5th, 2026

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OVERVIEW

The Wake Forest Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) is now accepting applications for the fall 2026 Research Mentor Academy, a 10-session virtual training program designed to support the mentoring professional development of Enterprise research faculty. This educational offering provides an interdisciplinary, cohort-style learning experience where basic science, clinical, and translational researchers will explore evidence-based mentoring practices and develop personalized strategies to support mentees in various research contexts across the health system.

Mentor Academy satisfies the requirement for formal faculty mentoring training included in many NIH training grants.

FORMAT & CURRICULUM

- Sessions will be held in synchronous virtual format via Teams. Teams will also be used to host session materials, post assignments, and share feedback.
- Sessions are designed to emphasize interdisciplinary exchange and experiential learning to support skill development. They will consist of a mix of brief lectures, discussion, small group activities, and guest presentations.
- 3-4 sessions will be facilitated by guest faculty with expertise in a specific mentoring context.
- Participants will produce a custom mentoring toolkit consisting of a mentoring philosophy statement and two or more other items tailored to individual needs and interest, and with feedback from academy facilitators and guest speakers.

FACILITATORS



Joseph "Joey" Skelton, MD, MS
Professor, Vice Chair of Research,
Department of Pediatrics
(Winston-Salem)



Susie Newcomb, MA, PhD
Director, Research Education
and Training Programs
Wake Forest CTSI

Session Topics:

- Foundations of Effective Research Mentoring
- Establishing Mentoring Relationships
- **Mentoring in Basic Science Research (guest facilitator)**
- Navigating Career Development and Work-Life Integration
- **Mentoring in Clinical Research (guest facilitator)**
- Mentoring Across Differences
- **Mentoring in Translational Research (guest facilitator)**
- **Mentoring Staff and Non-faculty Researchers (guest facilitator)**
- Evaluating Mentoring and Sustaining Impact

****order subject to change based on guest speaker availability.*

PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS

Eligibility

Mid-level and senior faculty, or early-career faculty with significant research mentoring responsibilities from across the enterprise are eligible to apply. Preparation for each session will involve 30-40 minutes of reading and engagement with videos or other interactive materials. During the sessions, participants are expected to actively engage in discussion, work in small groups on session tasks, and exchange ideas on mentoring experiences with fellow participants across disciplines.

Schedule

All sessions are virtual and will be held on Wednesdays from 1:30-3pm Eastern Time via **Teams** on the following dates (**attendance of at least 8 of the 10 sessions, including the 1st and last session will be required to earn a certificate**)

CTSI also hosts an annual Mentor Academy networking dinner for the cohort - November 18th at 5:00 pm

- **Session 1: September 9th, 2026**
- Session 2: September 16th, 2026
- Session 3: September 23th, 2026
- Session 4: September 30th, 2026
- Session 5: October 14th, 2026
- Session 6: October 21st, 2026
- Session 7: October 28th, 2026
- Session 8: November 4th, 2026
- Session 9: November 11th, 2026
- **Session 10: November 18th, 2026 (final session, presentation of deliverables)**
- Annual Mentor Academy Networking Dinner - December 2nd, 2026 (5:00 pm)

Certificate Criteria

Participants who successfully complete the following Mentor Academy requirements will receive a certificate of completion:

- Attend 8 of the 10 of sessions (first and last session required)
- Submit academy deliverable (due within one month of the end of the academy)
- Complete self-assessment as well as pre- and post-academy evaluations.

Application Components

The application for Mentor Academy must be completed by **August 5th, 2026** and includes the following components:

- Description of your current engagement in research
- Description of your experience and current engagement in mentoring
- A brief statement of interest for participation in Mentor Academy
- Acknowledgement of Academy expectations, including time commitment

Applications will be reviewed by Academy facilitators, and applicants will be notified of a decision by August 10th.

Please note that a **letter of support (LOS)** from your department chair acknowledging the time commitment is required for enrollment in Mentor Academy. If you are selected to participate, you will receive a link to upload the letter. We highly recommend that you discuss your application with your department chair in advance so that they are prepared to provide a letter no later than **Friday, August 21st, 2026**.

For technical assistance with your application, please reach out to CTSIEducationAHWFB@Advocatehealth.org

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