



KL2 - Mentored Career Development

A key institutional strength, CTSI's KL2 program is a mentored career development program for BU's most promising junior faculty translational researchers. The KL2 program provides salary support up to \$100,000/year for up to 2 years and also provides financial support for additional training, lab costs, and travel.

Faculty who believe they are well mentored have a higher perception of their research skills and are more likely to compete successfully for research support. Consequently, each KL2 scholar has one career mentor and two research mentors from different disciplines (clinical and nonclinical backgrounds). Individuals with recent submissions of highly competitive but unfunded individual K series awards or other career development awards are encouraged to apply. The goal of the CTSI is to fund faculty with promise to be an NIH or NSF supported investigator.

KL2 scholars are invited to participate in the following programs or activities:

- Independent multidisciplinary research projects involving researchers from at least two diverse disciplines and mentors from two disciplines
- K to R Transition Support Program (PRIME)
- Training in grant writing
- Faculty development seminars

The review committee uses these five criteria to select the KL2 Scholar:

1. Adequacy of the research plan, judged in terms of importance of the primary hypothesis, soundness of scientific methods, and feasibility of the project;
2. Research potential of the candidate, judged by the selection committee as the likelihood that the candidate will develop into an independent investigator;
3. Research project and a research plan that fit the priorities of this initiative - that is, that the research project is multidisciplinary and translational;
4. Assessments from the Department Chair and research mentors regarding the potential of the candidate becoming an independent investigator and to influence research in the trainee's department;
5. Departmental commitment to support research career development.

Current and past KL2 Scholars

2018-2020 KL2 Scholar Awardee

Sanjib Chowdhury, PhD, MS

2018 KL2 Fellowship

"Cohesin SA-1 Polymorphisms and Racial Disparities in Colorectal Cancer"

Mentors: Hemant Roy, MD, Lindsay Farrer, PhD, and Lynn Rosenberg, DSc

2018 Institutional Early Career Development Awardee

Tehnaz Boyle, MD, PhD

2018 Institutional Early Career Development Award

"Improving Prehospital Emergency Care for Children With Telemedicine"

Mentors: James Feldman, MD, FACP, and Megan Bair-Merritt, MD, MSc

Current and past KL2 Scholars (Continued)

2017-2019

Louis Awad, PhD, PT

“Wearable Sensors For Measuring Propulsive Force Generation During Walking After Stroke”

Mentors: Terry Ellis, PhD, PT, and Ken Holt, PhD, PT

Christopher Salas-Wright, PhD

“Toward the Prevention of Substance Use and Violence Among Latino Youth”

Mentors: Julia Dickson-Gomez, PhD, and Lena Lundgren, PhD

Tae Woo Park, MSC, MD

“Distress Tolerance and Benzodiazepine Discontinuation in Opioid Agonist Therapy”

Mentors: Richard Saitz, MD, and Michael Otto, PhD

Traci N. Bethea, BA, MPA, PhD

“An Assessment of Whether Aspirin Improves Breast Cancer Outcomes in Black Women and Modifying Effect of Genetic Variants”

Mentors: Julie Palmer, SCD, MPH, and Tracy Battaglia, MD, MPH

Ji Yi, PhD

“Optical Phenotypes of Genetic Cancer Syndromes Using iPSC Organoids”

Mentors: Irving Bigio, PhD, and Darrell Kotton, MD

Julie Morgan Frieman, MD

“A Novel Approach to Hepatitis C Testing in Resource-limited Settings”

Mentors: Robert Horsburgh, MD and Benjamin Linas, MD, MPH

2016-2018

Hong-Phuong Thi Vo, MD

“Weight Gain, Respiratory Infections and Asthma in Infants with Bronchiolitis”

Mentors: Megan Bair-Merritt, MD, and Carlos Camargo, MD

Allison Dennis, PhD

“Monitoring Tumor Biomarker Evolution with Multiplexed Tissue-Depth Imaging”

Mentors: Catherine Klapperich, MD, Tyrone Porter, MD, and Sam Thiagalingam, MD

Christine K. Liu, MD, MS

“Decreasing Risk Factors for Falls in Older Hemodialysis Patients”

Mentors: Roger Fielding, PhD, Allan Jette, PT, PhD, and Janice Weinberg, ScD

Joshua D. Campbell, MD

“Single-cell RNA Sequencing of Bronchial Epithelium of Smokers and Lung Tumors”

Mentors: Avrum Spira, MD, and William Johnson, PhD



Current and past KL2 Scholars (Continued)

2015-2016

Devyani Misra, MD

“Evaluating Synovitis as a Link Between Knee Osteoarthritis and Muscle-related Morbidities”

Mentors: David T. Felson, MD, MPH, and Roger Fielding, PhD

Julia Xu, PhD

“Potential Role of Adipocyte AMPK in Obesity-related Cardiomyopathy”

Mentors: Wilson S. Colucci, MD, and Konstantin Kandror, PhD

Katrina Traber, MD, PhD

“The Role of Oncostatin-M in Pneumonia”

Mentors: Lee J. Quinton, PhD, and Darrell N. Kotton, MD