

# Translational Science Training (TST) T32 Program Application Guidelines

**2023 TST Applications are due on: 2/1/2023**

The Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) at UT Health San Antonio includes a TST component.

## **TST Program Directors:**

Yong-Hee P. Chun, DDS, Dr. med. dent., MS, PhD ([chuny@uthscsa.edu](mailto:chuny@uthscsa.edu))

Christopher R. Frei, PharmD, MS, FCCP, BCPS ([freic@uthscsa.edu](mailto:freic@uthscsa.edu))

## **TST Program Support:**

Julie Barker ([barkerj4@uthscsa.edu](mailto:barkerj4@uthscsa.edu))

Phone: 210.480.5527

**Predoctoral** application link – [Predoctoral Application SurveyMonkey Apply](#)

**Postdoctoral** application link - [Postdoctoral Application SurveyMonkey Apply](#)

**Links to SF424 NIH General Application Instructions and Specific Training Instructions:**

[NIH General Application Instructions](#)

[NIH Training Instructions](#)

# Application Review and Selection of TST Awardees

All applications will be reviewed for formalities and completeness. Applications will be comprehensively reviewed by the TST Review Committee. The NIH scoring scale (1-9 in whole numbers with 1 = best and 9 = worst) is used in assessing TST Trainee applications (See [NIH Scoring Guidance](#)). This scale will be used to assign a numerical rating for the Overall application as well as for each of the Scored Review Criteria. Competitive scores will typically fall in the 1 to 3 range. Scores in the range of 4-6 indicate that weaknesses exceed strengths. In the online form, comments (both strengths and weaknesses) and scores must be provided for the categories of:

- Overall Impact
- Applicant
- Mentor(s)
- Research Training Plan
- Training Potential

The TST Review Committee will evaluate applications for scientific and technical merit. Reviewers will take into account that an individual with limited research experience is less likely to be adept at preparing a Research Plan than more experienced investigators. The following factors will be considered during the review:

## Quality of the Applicant

- Quality of applicant's academic and research record
- Potential to benefit from a multidisciplinary translational research training program
- Commitment to a career in translational science
- Potential to become a successful investigator in multidisciplinary translational research

## Quality of Mentor(s)

- Appropriateness and strength of the Supervising Professor/Mentor(s)
- Scientific expertise to insure the acquisition of technical/investigative skills by the applicant
- Experience in pre/postdoctoral training
- Availability of research funds to support the planned studies

## Quality of Research Training Plan

- Scientific and technical merit of the research question, experimental design and methodology
- Relevance of proposed research to the applicant's career objectives
- Appropriateness of research plan to the stage of research development and as a vehicle for developing the research skills as described in the career development plan
- Reviewers will take into account that an individual with limited research experience is less likely to be able to prepare a research plan with the breadth and depth of that submitted by a more experienced investigator. Nevertheless, a fundamentally sound research plan must be provided.

## Quality of Training Potential

- Alignment of applicant's career development plan with prior and current research experience
- Likelihood that career plans contribute substantially to the applicant's scientific development and necessary skill acquisition to conduct multidisciplinary translational investigations

Selected Candidates will demonstrate evidence that training in translational science will facilitate the Candidate's long-term research and career development goals. They will demonstrate strong educational performance and prior research training. The scope and focus of the Research and Education Plans provided in the application will be closely aligned with the TST Program mission and will help achieve the applicant's well-articulated research and learning objectives.

# Application Components and Instructions

The selection of TST Trainees is based on all components of the application package. Each application component should be prepared as a **single PDF document** and uploaded in the appropriate section in Survey Monkey Apply (SMA). Those individual components include:

Application Component	Length Limit	Link to Form or Specific Instructions
General Information	N/A	Complete the General Information form embedded in the SurveyMonkey Apply (SMA) application system. Specific instructions for this form are embedded in the SMA application.
Applicant Biosketch	5 pages	<a href="#">Predoctoral Fellowship biosketch sample</a> <a href="#">Postdoctoral Fellowship biosketch sample</a> <a href="#">Fellowship Biosketch (blank format page, Word)</a>
Applicant Other Support	N/A	<a href="#">Other Support sample</a> <a href="#">Other Support (blank format page, Word)</a>
Narrative	3 sentences	<a href="#">Narrative (NIH Instructions)</a> Communicate the public health relevance of the proposed translational research project.
Project Summary/Abstract	30 lines of text	<a href="#">Project Summary/Abstract (NIH Instructions)</a> Applicant's career goals and research plans.
Applicant's Background and Goals for Training	6 pages	<p><b>Applicant's Background-</b> addressing applicant's interest in and commitment to a TS science career; how and why the TST Program is important and will facilitate the applicant's research career; and career research interests/goals and how the TST Program will contribute to their attainment.</p> <p><b>Goals for Training</b> - Describe the objectives of the applicant's research and career interests/goals and how the TST Program will help achieve those goals</p>
Specific Aims	1 page	State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will have on the research field(s) involved. List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed (e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology).

Application Component	Length Limit	Link to Form or Specific Instructions
Research Strategy	6 pages	Organize the Research Strategy in the specified order and Start each section with the appropriate heading – 1. Significance, 2. Innovation, 3. Approach, ( <i>Hypotheses, Rationale, Preliminary Studies, Methods, and Data Analyses, plus a description of how TS will be applied to the research study</i> )
Cited Literature	N/A	
Sponsor and Co-Sponsor Statements	6 pages	The Statement should address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Translational science aspects of the research training plan</li> <li>• Capability to pursue the chosen research topic</li> <li>• Potential for a career in multidisciplinary translational research</li> <li>• Qualifications in the proposed research area of the Research Supervising Professor/Mentor(s).</li> </ul> The Research Supervising Professor/Mentor's previous experience as a mentor including a description of the nature and extent of supervision experience with pre-doctoral and/or postdoctoral trainees
Letters of Recommendation (LOR)	3 required	<b>* Specific instructions for LOR's below</b>
Contact Information of Persons who will provide Letters of Recommendation	N/A	N/A
Letters from Consultants	N/A	(if any; not included in the page limits)
Mentor/Co-Mentor Biosketch ( <i>Your mentor/co-mentor should have a current version of this document</i> )	5 pages	<a href="#">Biosketch (blank format page, Word)</a>
Mentor/Co-Mentor Other Support ( <i>Your mentor/co-mentor should have a current version of this document</i> )	N/A	<a href="#">Other Support (blank format page, Word)</a>
Mentor/Co-Mentor Table 5A, 5B ( <i>Depending on your mentor's training record, they may or may not have these Tables currently on file</i> )	N/A	<a href="#">Table 5A (blank format page, Word)</a> <a href="#">Table 5B (blank format page, Word)</a>
Mentor/Co-Mentor Table 8A, 8C ( <i>Depending on your mentor's training record, they may or may not have these Tables currently on file</i> )	N/A	<a href="#">Table 8A (blank format page, Word)</a> <a href="#">Table 8C (blank format page, Word)</a>

**\* Letters of Recommendation**, 2 required, excluding the Mentors. The letters of recommendation should address, at a minimum, their relationship to the applicant (the position on which they base their knowledge of the applicant) and the applicant's background and potential for a career as an investigator, both in the selected specialty field and in translational science. At least one of these letters must be from a UTHSA faculty member. Letters of recommendation should be on letterhead, signed by the recommender, and must be submitted electronically. The letter should address the TST Review Committee or the TST Program Directors (listed above).

***All letters of reference must be submitted by the application due date and through the online portal.***