

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Nexus Award for Scholarly Immersion in Biomarkers & Diagnostic Testing Research

Sponsored by the ICTR Biomarkers and Diagnostic Testing Translational Research Community (TRC)

- Deadline:** Applications are due at 11:59pm on **December 8, 2016**
- Eligible:** All Johns Hopkins University faculty
- Award Period:** The external immersion, which may last from **2 weeks to 3 months** may be taken anytime during the timeframe of July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018. All related expenses must post by June 30, 2018. Investigators should plan accordingly.
- Application:** Online at [ICTR Connection Request](#)

GENERAL NEXUS GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In 2014 the Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR) established three Translational Research Communities (TRCs):

1. Drugs/Biologics/Vaccines/Devices
2. Behavioral, Social, and Systems Science
3. Biomarkers and Diagnostic Testing

The goals of the ICTR Translational Research Communities (TRCs) are to improve the quality, innovation and impact of translational products through a series of annual symposia, seminars, workshops and pilot funding. By helping to enhance the research environment and capacity for successful translational research, we hope to bring value and career satisfaction to faculty at Johns Hopkins University.

The Nexus Award of the TRCs is designed to accelerate research by providing rapid, targeted funding to address critical gaps in translational and clinical research. These awards will be the

“nexus,” or key facilitator, which will propel investigators forward. The research carried out under these awards should also have broad applicability beyond the funded project.

2017 NEXUS AWARD FOR SCHOLARLY IMMERSION IN BIOMARKERS AND DIAGNOSTIC TESTING RESEARCH OVERVIEW

In today’s fast paced world, it has become increasingly difficult for research professionals to take extended sabbatical leave. Sabbaticals provide individuals with the flexibility and time to visit labs or field sites where the most recent information and evidence is in the making. Participants are able to obtain cutting-edge knowledge with hands-on experience. Working in new environments can offer fresh perspectives and creative new approaches to discovery. Visits with colleagues at other institutions help to build, maintain and solidify professional working relationships. The knowledge obtained while on sabbatical can be taken back to one’s home institution, and applied in labs, clinics, and classroom curricula.

This year, the Biomarker and Diagnostic Testing Translational Research Community strives to improve the research environment and career satisfaction of Johns Hopkins faculty by making funds available to investigators engaged in biomarker or diagnostic testing discovery and evaluation, including imaging research, who wish to engage in short immersion experiences with colleagues at other academic research centers or industry partners. Preference will be given to faculty members at the instructor or assistant professor level, and select mid-career individuals for whom the scholarly immersion experience will directly propel advances in their current research program.

AWARD DETAILS

Each immersion experience will fulfill objectives based on the applicant’s previous knowledge, specific interests and research goals. Applicants are required to identify and initiate contact with a collaborator at the external institution or company where he or she would like to take the scholarly immersion. TRC personnel will not assist with matchmaking. Time away from the home institution must be used to:

- Learn about a new technology, method or technique in clinical and translational research
- Develop new data for collaborative publications and/or new grant submissions

Please note:

- Investigators may apply for up to **\$25,000** including a maximum of \$5,000 in travel, \$200/day in support or replacement salary support if needed.
- Funds may cover travel, accommodations, supplies and JHU salary support for time away.
- Foreign travel is permitted.
- Funds may not be used for course work, conference registration or membership fees.
- The scholarly immersion may be as short as **4 weeks and as long as 3 months**.

Investigators will receive **Notice of Award by March 1, 2017. Funds become available on July 1, 2017.** Investigators should be prepared to embark on their immersion soon after. **Funds become restricted on June 30, 2018. No travel, supply or salary payments can be made after this date, so all related expenses must post by June 30, 2018. No cost extensions cannot be awarded.** Investigators must plan accordingly. Please note it can take up to two months for some labs and companies to invoice users.

If awarded, any changes made to the project plan as it appears in the initial grant application, must be submitted to the Translational Research Communities (TRCs) Program Administrator, Kelly Crowley (kelly.crowley@jhmi.edu) for approval from TRC Leadership. The Program Administrator will be in touch with the PI and designated financial manager throughout the award period to monitor spending.

Awardees are required to provide informal updates to the Program Administrator as requested. As a stipulation of the award, PIs will be invited to give a presentation, seminar or grand rounds

after returning to Johns Hopkins. Awardees can also expect to receive follow-up from ICTR Administration and TRC Leadership for NIH reporting purposes.

Eligibility

Any faculty member, including those at instructor level, at Johns Hopkins University is eligible to apply as the principal investigator for this award. Awarded Nexus PIs are not eligible to apply for the Nexus Grant Program in the subsequent grant cycle.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Required Materials

The web-based application form appears on the JHED protected [ICTR Connection Request](#) webpage under, “*Nexus Award for Scholarly Immersion in Biomarkers and Diagnostic Testing Research.*” You may also access the form via this direct link:

<https://ictrweb.johnshopkins.edu/ictr/?ApplyNexusBiomarkers>

The short web-based application form contains open-ended questions as well as a place to upload supplemental documents, which will help reviewers obtain the necessary information required to evaluate proposals.

Applications should clearly convey why external immersion is necessary and what skills and/or knowledge are to be obtained. It is important to make a compelling case as to why travel of the scholarship applicant to a given host site is necessary and why the research and collaboration could not be done as effectively without travel – e.g. electronically.

Consider the following questions when drafting an application: What is unique to the host institution or industry partner, such that the research could not be done by the applicant without the visit? In funding the scholarly immersion will the ICTR be helping to establish a new collaboration that would otherwise not happen? Will the collaboration enhance the career and research capability of the applicant? How will the collaborative relationship and work done benefit the home, and potentially the host institution?

As well as the information provided on the application form, **supplemental materials required to be uploaded via the online application include:**

- A project plan, two pages or less; single-spaced, Arial 11 font, with 0.5" margins. Outline why travel is necessary; what the nature of the collaborative relationship is with the sponsor at the external institution or company; the applicant's background and scientific foundation; how the immersion program will benefit the awardee (i.e. specific research project, grant application, career development etc.) and the larger research community at Johns Hopkins University
- A [PHS398 budget](#) listing resources needed to achieve the goals of the scholarly immersion, with line item detail to the \$1000 level.
- Proposed project timeline, including a planning period, time away at the external institution or company, and work to be done once back at Johns Hopkins
- A biosketch (NIH format) for the PI
- A biosketch or cv for the external collaborator
- A letter of support from the external collaborator
- A letter of support from the applicant's department chair (or equivalent)
- A document listing other support of the PI, and if applicable, a list of other funding sources that will be used to cover other costs associated with this project.

Dissemination and Review Process

All application materials must be submitted via the ICTR Connection Request website by **December 8, 2016 at 11:59 pm**. The month following submission, a meeting of experts will convene to discuss applications. Applications will be scored based on scientific merit, significance, impact, and need. Applications demonstrating new collaborative partnerships will be given preference. Preference will also be given to applicants showing that their host

collaborator will match or provide them with some funds for supplies or travel costs. Likewise, Cost efficient budgets will be given preference.

Applicants can expect to receive Notice of Award by **March 1, 2017**. Applicants who do not receive support will be notified, but will not receive specific feedback. **External immersion may take place anytime during the timeframe of July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018 and may last from 2 weeks to 3 months. All related expenses must post by June 30, 2018.** Investigators must plan accordingly. Please note it can take up to two months for some labs and companies to invoice users. **No NCEs will be permitted.**

Please direct any questions to Kelly Crowley, TRC Program Administrator at kelly.crowley@jhmi.edu.

Please note that the details stated here in regards to dissemination and project management are subject to change, and are project-specific.