

2020 SA OAIC RL5 Scholar Application Instructions

APPLICATION SUBMISSION: Applications should be submitted by email to LIANGH0@uthscsa.edu as a **single PDF document in the order listed under "Application Requirements" below, with the exception of letters of recommendation.**

Letters of recommendation must be on letterhead, with signature, and must be e-mailed directly from the recommender to LIANGH0@uthscsa.edu. Letters of recommendation will not be accepted from the applicant's email.

Mentor biosketch(es), other support form, and trainee tables should be submitted electronically as part of the PDF document.

The application packet and all letters of recommendation must be received by e-mail no later than 11:59PM CST on May 1, 2020.

RL5 SCHOLAR PROGRAM APPLICATION TIPS

- Complete the Application Face Page completely.
- Proofread your application thoroughly for accuracy and completeness.
- Apply as early as possible, and encourage persons providing letters of recommendation to submit their letters promptly.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- **Face Page:** Information on applicant's name, school/department, contact information, mentor contact information, citizenship status, and research area of interest.
- **Abstract:** A summary of the proposed career development activities including the applicant's well-articulated career goals and research interests and plans.
- **Applicant's PHS 398 Biosketch (Use Current Format) and Other Support Form**
- **Narrative:** Up to 10 pages total; 11 point Arial font. Summarize your career goals, career development plan, reasons for applying to the RL5 Program, and proposed research. Three sections should include:
 - **Candidate.** Describe your commitment to a career in clinical and/or translational research, and how and why a multidisciplinary training program is important for your future research career. This section should address:
 - The applicant's potential to develop into a successful independent investigator as evidenced by research training/experience, scholarships, publications and presentations, and grant awards. (Separately, letters of recommendation

submitted with the application should complement this section.)

- The basis for selection of the Mentor.

- Willingness to commit 50-75% professional effort towards the objectives of the RL5 Program, efforts below 50% will be reviewed for appropriateness with goals of the application; a description of residual professional efforts should also be included.

- Plans to develop and submit an extramural application for career development or other research support while in the RL5 Program

- **Career Development Plan**. Describe objectives of your immediate research interests/goals and how and why the RL5 Program is important to and will help achieve these objectives as well as future research career success. This section may include planned participation in lab meetings or journal clubs; attendance at research conferences; formal coursework on clinical and translational science topics; participation in additional training experiences in clinical or basic science; or informal educational activities such as short courses or workshops. Also, include a timeline of plans for the development and submission of an extramural application for continued career development or other research support.

- **Research Plan**. Describe the proposed clinical/translational research project/plan. The Research plan must include separate sections on:

- Specific Aims (one page)

- Research Strategy

- Significance

- Innovation

- Approach (including Hypotheses, Rationale, Preliminary Studies, Approach, Methods, and Analyses)

- Cited literature (this will not be included in the 10 page limit)

- **List of Persons Providing Letters**: List all persons who will submit a letter of support for your application. The list should include the names of the three people providing letters of recommendation, but it may also include the names of people who will provide letters as collaborators, consultants, or other roles that will support your proposed research project.

- **Letters of Recommendation**:

- **A letter of recommendation from the Research Mentor(s)** addressing:

- **the Applicant's**:

- potential for a career in multidisciplinary clinical and/or translational research

- potential as a future independent investigator

- capability in pursuing the chosen research topic

- career development plan towards the applicant's career goals/objectives
- **the Mentor's:**
 - willingness to serve as the applicant's mentor in research and career development
 - qualifications in the proposed research area
 - previous experience as a research supervisor, including a description of the nature and extent of supervision experience with professional post-doctoral trainees or junior faculty
- **Supporting information from the Mentor(s)** must include:
 - PHS Form 398 Biosketch (Use Current Format)
 - PHS Form 398 Other Support form
 - PHS Data Table 5A – Predoctoral Trainees of Participating Faculty Members
 - PHS Data Table 5B – Postdoctoral Trainees of Participating Faculty Members
- PHS 398 forms may be found at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html> and <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/data-tables.htm>
- **Two additional letters of recommendation** addressing, at a minimum, the 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 independent research investigator in clinical and/or translational science. At least one of these letters must be from a UT Health Science Center at San Antonio faculty member.

APPLICATION REVIEW AND SELECTION OF RL5 SCHOLARS

- The SA OAIC Program Directors or designee will review applications for completeness.
- Qualified applicants will be selected on the basis of:
 - Evidence that the RL5 program will facilitate the applicant's long-term research and career development goals in clinical and translational science
 - Prior research training and demonstrated performance
 - The Research Mentor
 - Recommendations from the Research Mentor and two independent references
- The scope and focus of the research and career development/educational plan provided in the application. Specifically, how well will the RL5 program activities help achieve the applicant's well-

articulated learning objectives?

• The RL5 Review Committee will evaluate applications for scientific and technical merit. All applications will be scored on the 1-9 scale used by the NIH Center for Scientific Review. The following factors will be considered during the review:

- **Quality of the Applicant**

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

- **Quality of Career Plans**

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

- **Quality of Proposed Research**

- 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

RL5 SCHOLAR SELECTION

- RL5 Scholar will be selected after consideration of the following factors:
- Quality and appropriateness of the applicant for this program
- Quality and appropriateness of the career development plans
- Quality of the proposed research
- Overall diversity represented in the final scholar group
- If an application is reviewed favorably, **final acceptance into the Program will be contingent on receipt of a letter from the director/chairperson of the sponsoring unit documenting a commitment to providing sufficient time to meet the effort requirement of this award.** Failure to successfully address this issue may jeopardize final acceptance of the applicant into the RL5 program.