

Vice President's Clinical and Translational (VPCAT) Research Scholars Program

-- Request for Application (RFA) Instructions --

2026-2027 VPCAT Scholar Cohort

(Due: Friday, September 26, 2025 by 5:00 pm MST)

We are inviting junior faculty to apply for the **2026-2027 Cohort of the Vice President's Clinical and Translational (VPCAT) Research Scholars Program**. The VPCAT Program is a competitive, two-year mentoring program designed to offer intensive mentorship and support to junior faculty committed to clinical or translational research careers in transitioning to accomplished, funded principal investigators.

VPCAT leverages our institution's resources to augment departmental resources in support of junior faculty investigators using a holistic framework, the [Matrix Mentoring Model](#), that includes five levels of mentorship: *self, scientific, peer, senior, and staff*. During the two-year program, scholars receive training in scientific career development, grant writing and management, and leadership designed to create empowered investigators.

A prospective VPCAT scholar is primarily an Instructor or Assistant Professor-level faculty member from all colleges and schools within the Health Sciences, the Colleges of Engineering, Mines & Earth Sciences, Social & Behavioral Science, and Social Work, and Intermountain Health. They should be engaged in research across the clinical and translational research [spectrum](#) and aspire to achieve research funding as a principal investigator. VPCAT expects applicants to have a clearly defined research interest, an identified scientific mentor, and a plan to apply for extramural funding during their time in the program. Ideal candidates are early-stage faculty beyond their 1st year at their institution, with preferably one or more original research publications with their scientific mentor.

Interested applicants who are not members of the colleges mentioned earlier or applicants with specific questions, please contact the VPCAT Program Coordinator, [Jess Brunt](#).

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Applicant Eligibility Criteria and Program Requirements

To determine your eligibility, we recommend that you review and understand the outlined criteria and program requirements below. If you cannot answer all of the questions affirmatively, you may not be eligible to apply, so you should contact us for guidance.

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

- Are you a faculty member from **an approved** participating School, College, or Institution, which includes the Colleges of Engineering, Health, Mines & Earth Sciences, Nursing, Pharmacy, Social & Behavioral Science, and Social Work; Schools of Dentistry and Medicine; and Intermountain Health? **If not**, review the [Overview of Formal Participation in the VPCAT Program](#) and email questions about how your School, College, or Institution can participate to [Erin Wachs](#) and [Jess Brunt](#).
- Does your research fall within the clinical & translational science research spectrum ([T0-T4](#))?
- Does your Dean and/or Chair commit to ensuring you can dedicate **a minimum of 30% FTE** (3.60 person-months) to developing your career and research program during the 2-year program?
- Have you earned an MD, PhD, DO, PharmD, DNP, DNS, an equivalent doctoral-level health science degree, or an equivalent doctoral-level degree in a field that interacts with healthcare from an accredited domestic or foreign institution?
- Will you hold a junior faculty position (typically Instructor or Assistant Professor) at the University of Utah or an equivalent rank at a VPCAT Program-affiliated health institution by the January 1st program start date?
- Can you confirm that you have never been a principal investigator on an NIH R01 or R01-equivalent research award (*i.e.*, R00, DP1, DP2, DP5, U01, R35, etc.)******; an NIH career development award (*i.e.*, K23, K08, K76, K99, DP2, etc.); an equivalent Public Health Service or VA research grant/career award; or a project lead of a subproject of a program (P01) or center grant (U54)?
- Do you have at least one scientific mentor with a) aligned research expertise, extramural funding, and a mentorship track record; b) a solid commitment to guide and support your proposed career development and research program goals; and c) a commitment to assist you in achieving extramural funding (*e.g.*, K, R, and other equivalent awards)?

***As per NIH standards, current and former PIs of an R03, R21, R36, R41, R42, R43, or R44 are eligible to apply.*

Applicant Program Requirements

- Can you show evidence of performance in clinical and translational science research and a commitment to continuing a career in clinical and translational science?
- Can you articulate your plan to transition into a funded principal investigator, including the percentage of professional effort for research you require now and in the future to achieve your proposed research plan?

- Do you confirm your willingness to fully participate in the [Matrix Mentoring Model](#) by actively contributing to your own self-mentorship while collaborating with your scientific, VPCAT senior, peer, and staff mentors?
- Can you demonstrate a track record of activity in clinical or translational research (e.g., research in your proposed field of study, peer-reviewed publications with your named scientific mentor, and applying for and/or receiving intramural or small foundation awards)?
- Can you attend the **mandatory** 1-day VPCAT Orientation on Monday, December 8, 2025?
- Can you attend the **required** twice-monthly, ½-day curricular sessions held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 12:30-4:30 pm (a minimum of 80% attendance per year required)?
- Can you attend the **required** 1-hour VPCAT Initial Mentoring Team Meeting with your proposed scientific mentor, VPCAT senior mentor, and program personnel by March 2026?
- Can you commit to actively preparing for, scheduling, and attending meetings with your VPCAT senior mentor a minimum of three times over the two-year program?
- Are you willing and able to attend additional career development opportunities, including grant-writing workshops and [other applicable courses](#), to develop into a funded investigator?
- Can you confirm that you will make every effort to attend appropriate Research-In-Progress and Utah Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) [K-Club](#) meetings and present at least one of these meetings each year of the program?
- Can you confirm that you will regularly meet with your scientific mentor(s) as outlined in your application?
- Do you agree to complete and submit all required program documentation, including the initial, mid, and final [VPCAT Scholar Career Development Plans \(VS-CDP\)](#) and [Self-Assessment](#); the Mid-Program [Report](#) and [Scholar Feedback](#); Final Program [Report](#), [Scholar Feedback](#), and [Program Evaluation](#); and other information as requested by the program?
- Can you attest that **1)** you will submit at least one extramural grant application during the two-year program period and **2)** before the submission, you will attend a campus-based grant writing workshop, have members of your mentoring team review the application, or take advantage of the Utah CTSI [Peer Grant Review Program](#) to ensure competitiveness?
- Can you commit to providing copies of your full, submitted grant applications and associated summary statements to your VPCAT senior mentor and program staff?
- Can you submit at least 2 research manuscripts over the two-year program period?
- Can you submit at least 1 research abstract to a scientific conference each year of the program?

Scientific Mentor(s) Requirements and Expectations

You must propose a primary scientific mentor. You can also identify one or more secondary scientific mentor(s) if desired.

To determine your scientific mentor(s) eligibility, we recommend that, together, you and your mentor(s) review and understand the outlined eligibility criteria and program requirements below. If they cannot answer all of the questions affirmatively, you may not be eligible to apply, so you should contact us for guidance.

Scientific Mentor(s) Requirements

- Do you have or have you had extramural funding (preferably from federal agencies but also from national associations or foundations) in the applicant's proposed research area?
- Do you have a track record of successful mentoring, including supporting your mentees in obtaining their career goals and extramural funding?
- Can you demonstrate the strength of your mentee/mentor relationship with the applicant, preferably through publications, abstracts, and/or presentations?

Scientific Mentor(s) Expectations

- Can you commit to guiding the applicant in implementing their *Plan for Transitioning into a Funded Principal Investigator*?
- Can you confirm that you assisted the applicant in preparing their application?
- Can you commit to attending the 1-hour VPCAT Initial Mentoring Team Meeting with the applicant, the VPCAT senior mentor, and program personnel to take place between late January and mid-March 2026? **
- Are you committed to regular meetings with the applicant, monitoring their research progress, career development, and grant and manuscript preparations?
- Are you committed to guiding the applicant through developing and submitting extra- and intramural grant applications?
- Will you cultivate a rich and safe environment, allowing the applicant to achieve their career and research goals?
- Will you guide the applicant in completing the required [VPCAT Scholar Career Development Plan \(VS-CDP\)](#)?

**Though all are welcome, only the designated Primary Mentor is required to attend the initial meeting

Application Instructions

Formatting Requirements

- **File Type:** Documents must be in Adobe PDF format only
- **Font Size:** 11-point, not condensed (text in figures and tables can be no less than 9-point font)
- **Font Type:** Arial or Times New Roman
- **Spacing:** Single space (no more than six lines of type within a vertical inch)
- **Margins:** At least 0.5 inches (1.27 cm) in all directions
- **Tables, Graphs, Figures, etc.:** All must be included within the overall page limit
- **Application Questions:** Please direct any questions to the VPCAT Program Coordinator, [Jess Brunt](#), or see the [VPCAT Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)
- **Application Organization:** You **must** structure your application's content and requested narrative as outlined below, labeling each section clearly with the provided headers and **compiling your final documents into a single PDF as outlined in the checklist on [page 11](#)**

Application Components

Cover Letter (*maximum 2 pages*)

- Letter should be addressed to:
Michael A. Rubin, MD, PhD, MS
Director, VPCAT Research Scholars Program
University of Utah Health, Office of the AVPHSE
EHSEB 5515
- Include an introduction of yourself
 - Describe your prior training and how it relates to your career and research goals
 - Summarize your research efforts to date, describing prior and/or current funded research
 - Present evidence of your commitment to an academic career in clinical and translational research
 - Outline all of your current professional responsibilities/roles with an estimated % level of effort (VPCAT requires an institutional commitment of a minimum of 30% protected research time, which multiple sources can support)
 - For the research funding/responsibilities that support your protected research time, delineate those supporting your independent research program from those that primarily support or contribute to the research of others (*a small table presenting % effort is advisable*)
- Explain why we should consider you for the VPCAT program at this stage of your academic career
 - Describe gaps in your career development that your time in VPCAT could address
 - Describe why you would benefit from the VPCAT program
 - Provide evidence of your potential to develop into a funded principal investigator

Curriculum Vitae (CV) (*no page limit*)

- Include an up-to-date CV with content reflecting your eligibility for the program (see [pages 2-3](#))

Application Narrative (*5-page limit, not including References*)

Application reviewers are VPCAT senior mentors and Alumni Advisory Board members with broad expertise. Reviewers may be in a related field rather than an expert directly in your area. Therefore,

we advise you to use a clear and concise writing style, avoiding jargon that someone outside your field may not understand.

1. Career Goals (1 page recommended)

a. Career Statement

- In **boldface**, include 2-3 sentences stating your long-term goals for your academic career (i.e., a career vision statement, "elevator speech") and your proposed unique research contribution

b. Career Goals and Objectives

- Clearly define and list 2-3 career goals and objectives you aim to achieve while in the program
 - Must reflect a logical progression from your prior research and training experiences, as described in the **Cover Letter** and **Section 3c. Preliminary Studies**
 - Provide evidence of a gap in your skillset or expertise that, if filled, will position you to obtain external funding
 - Your career goals and objectives must clearly align with those described in **Section 3e. Future Research Plan**
 - For instance, an applicant seeking to submit a career development award (CDA) will have different career goals and objectives than an applicant seeking to submit an R01 or R-equivalent award; either way, your stated goals and objectives should directly contribute to achieving your proposed future funding
- Outline your career goals and objectives, describing the skills you plan to develop while in the VPCAT program (e.g., methodological expertise, grant writing, laboratory management, leadership, creating a network) and how they will support your overarching career trajectory
 - Specify any training, coursework, and/or other activities you plan to participate in during the program and how these will advance your career goals and objectives

2. Scientific Mentoring Plan (½-1 page recommended)

- Name your scientific mentor who, together with you, is responsible for planning, directing, monitoring, and executing your career and research development
 - If more than one mentor, identify your primary mentor and name your co-mentor(s), briefly describing your mentoring plan with each and how these plans will interrelate
- Provide a description of:
 - Your mentors' background of qualifications, track record of success in research, and previous experience as a mentor with evidence of successfully guiding young faculty to funding as principal investigators
 - How your mentor(s) will contribute to the development of your research career
 - How your mentor(s) will assist and guide you in moving your academic career forward
- Outline your mentoring plan, which should:
 - Reflect on your mentors' commitment to your development during and beyond the program
 - Demonstrate an established working relationship with your mentor(s)
 - Describe how often you plan to meet, as well as the nature and extent of supervision
 - Describe not only research but also other developmental activities you will undertake with your mentor (e.g., seminars, scientific meetings, training in the responsible conduct of research)
 - Provide an evaluation/monitoring plan and measurable milestones (e.g., publications, grant submissions, coursework) you will adhere to during the program period

3. Research Overview (3-3½ pages recommended)

Provide a description of the research effort you are currently engaged in that most closely aligns with your **Section 3e. Future Research Plan** (e.g., CDA, R01, or equivalent application).

If you have already started writing a grant proposal that advances your future research plan or have already established a clear vision for your proposal (e.g., a Specific Aims page), this section should focus on the research outlined in that proposal. If you are currently still conceiving a proposal and are engaged in a project intended to generate preliminary data to support your future research plans, this section should focus on your ongoing research project and the body of work you intend to complete during your two years in the program. In either case, the research you describe should closely align with the objectives outlined in **Section 3e**.

Structure your overview as follows, ensuring reviewers understand the work you propose to do, its feasibility, and its applicability to your future funding efforts.

a. *Specific Aims* (1-page limit)

- Concisely state your proposed research goals and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact the results of your work will have on your research field(s)
- Include details on the knowledge gap you are addressing, the significance of the work you want to do, and the innovation of your project (i.e., research niche)
- Succinctly list the specific objectives of the research proposed (e.g., solve a specific problem, test a stated hypothesis, address a critical barrier to progress in the field)
- As appropriate, describe your study design or population under study (e.g., community-dwelling women age 65 and older, genetically modified mice, TriNetX database)
- Demonstrate objectives appropriate to achieving your academic career and research goals and obtaining extramural funding
- Conclude with short "Future Directions," in which you briefly describe the grant mechanism that you will be targeting for this work during the VPCAT period

b. *Background and Significance* (½-page recommended)

- Explain why your proposed research should be done and the need your research will address
- Briefly describe what has been done in your field so far and the scientific basis of your research
- Describe the potential innovation of your research

c. *Preliminary Studies* (½-page recommended)

- Discuss preliminary studies, data, and/or experience pertinent to your application
- Figures or tables are included in the page limitations

d. *Proof of Feasibility* (½-page recommended)

- Provide a brief summary of why your proposed research is feasible
- Elements could include, but are not limited to:
 - General summary of the design and methods to be used
 - Description of planned primary and secondary outcomes
 - Your experience with a method, technique, or population to be used
 - Description of your participant population or vertebrate animals and your access to them
 - A rough sample size calculation with evidence of your ability to achieve the sample goal (highly encouraged)
 - Details on the resources you have or will have access to by the time you start VPCAT (e.g., a crucial piece of equipment, a critical database, a mouse model)

- Your progress or status in the submission/approval process for IRB, UPDB, IACUC, or other approvals that could impact the feasibility of the time frame

e. *Future Research Plan (½-page recommended)*

- Describe how your proposed career goals & objectives and research plan will contribute to your long-term academic success
- Specifically indicate the intra- and extramural applications you plan to apply for and how they will contribute to establishing or expanding your research platform
 - Include agency titles and mechanism types
 - Designate applications you plan to submit *while* in the program, including anticipated submission dates
 - Indicate future applications you plan to submit *after* the program period, including anticipated submission dates
- Overall, you should demonstrate a thoughtful plan commensurate with your career and research goals and **Plan for Transitioning into a Funded Principal Investigator** (below)

f. *Timeline (½-page recommended)*

- Include a Gantt chart or table summarizing your stated career and research activities, publications, and grant submissions during the program

4. References (*not included in 5-page limit | no page limit*)

- Should consist of references cited in the Research Overview
- Advise Journal of the American Medical Association citation style ([here](#))

Plan for Transitioning into a Funded Principal Investigator (1-page limit)

- This plan must be signed by both you and your senior leader (*i.e.*, chair, chief, or dean)
- Your plan must clearly:
 - Detail the % protected research effort you require now in order to 1) ensure your full participation in the program and 2) achieve your proposed career and research goals during the program
 - Provide specific examples of the steps you and your senior leader(s) have taken to date to ensure your current protected research effort
 - If your current level of protected effort is insufficient to achieve your proposed plan, outline in detail the steps that will be taken to accommodate the effort you require (*e.g.*, a timeline to transition from clinical, teaching, and/or administrative efforts, steps to transition effort away from other research grants)
 - Assuming your future anticipated external grant is awarded, outline the specific plan you and your senior leader(s) will take to ensure you can fully execute the award
 - Include **all specific steps** for transitioning away from clinical, teaching, and/or administrative efforts and/or transitioning efforts from other research grants
 - Plans to accommodate future required effort should be consistent with **Section 3e. Future Research Plan** (*e.g.*, most CDAs require a 75% commitment, and most R-level awards require a 30-40% commitment)
- Any effort discrepancies or overlaps that we suspect may hinder you from gaining the full benefit of the program or achieving your future plans may require further clarification before program acceptance

Mentor(s) Letter of Support (no page limit)

- Letters must be on letterhead and include a signature

- If more than one mentor, the identified primary mentor's letter must be included first, followed by the proposed co-mentor(s) letter(s)
- Letter(s) must:
 - Describe the mentor's research qualifications and prior experience and how this is appropriate to your proposed research and career development, including:
 - Record of extramural funding (preferably NIH, AHRQ, VA, DoD, or other equivalent)
 - Mentoring experience and success in training funded principal investigators (a table of current and past mentees outlining mentee status is encouraged)
 - Additional resources in terms of space, finances, and/or protected time they can afford you
 - Summarize your mentee/mentor relationship, as evidenced by publication(s), abstract(s), etc.
 - Outline the training and expertise they believe you already have and what career development gaps remain that participation in VPCAT could fill
 - State that they have read, understood, and can meet the required responsibilities outlined in the *Scientific Mentor(s) Requirements and Expectations* (see [page 4](#)), and include an agreement with and commitment to implementing your **Plan for Transitioning into a Funded Principal Investigator** to ensure your success
 - Include a mentoring plan that describes:
 - The specific nature of the supervision and mentoring to occur during and beyond your time in the program, including:
 - Their role in your career development
 - Their role in your proposed research goals
 - Their planned involvement in facilitating research collaborations, helping to outline experimental design, critiquing rough drafts, etc.
 - The proposed evaluation/monitoring plan to ensure accountability and progress, including:
 - Frequency and duration of face-to-face meetings
 - Measurable milestones and outcomes (e.g., submission of abstracts, manuscripts, and applications, achievement of career and research goals)
 - Plan to address anticipated barriers or challenges
 - If you have proposed co-mentor(s), how the primary mentor will interact with your co-mentor(s)
- If you propose co-mentor(s), their letter(s) of support must contain similar information as listed above, clearly describing how they will coordinate mentorship

Institutional Letter of Commitment (*no page limit*)

- Letters must be on letterhead and include a signature
- Letters must:
 - Include a statement of their commitment to your development into a productive, funded principal investigator, as well as to meet the requirements of the 2-year program
 - Include a statement agreeing to release your time to attend:
 - The **mandatory** 1-day VPCAT Orientation on Monday, December 8, 2025 (in-person location TBA)
 - The **required** twice-monthly, ½-day curricular sessions held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 12:30 to 4:30 pm to achieve your minimum 80% attendance requirement
 - The **required** AVP Office for Faculty leadership workshops and seminars during the program period
 - The **mandatory** 1-hour VPCAT Initial Mentoring Team Meeting

- A minimum of three **mandatory** VPCAT mentor meetings over the 2-year program
- Supplemental career development opportunities, including grant-writing workshops, Utah Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) K-Club, or other applicable courses
- Describe how the institution will provide you with appropriate office and laboratory space, equipment, personnel, finances, and/or other resources to carry out the proposed career goals & objectives and research plan
- State their commitment to ensuring you have **a minimum of 30% FTE** (3.60-person months) dedicated to the development of your career and research program during the two-year program
- Include detailed descriptions of:
 - Your responsibilities/activities **with** associated levels of % FTE, **clearly** delineating independent research program development responsibilities/activities from those that primarily support or contribute to the research of others
 - An anticipated plan, including steps of action that will be taken to prevent and/or address issues of inadequate devoted time to your career and research development due to a change in clinical, teaching, and/or administrative effort
 - Descriptions of effort should align with and affirm the **Transitioning into a Funded Principal Investigator Plan**

Mentor(s) NIH Biographical Sketch *(5-page limit)*

- Biographical sketches must follow the NIH format ([here](#))
- Personal statements must be personalized to reflect their specific role during your time in the program
- Include up-to-date position and honors information and accurate research support details
- If more than one mentor, the identified primary mentor's biosketch must be included first

Mentor(s) NIH Other Support Form *(no page limit)*

- Other Support Form must follow the NIH format ([here](#))
- If more than one mentor, the identified primary mentor's other support form must be included first

Application Checklist

The Application Checklist will help you prepare and double-check your 2026-2027 VPCAT Scholar Cohort Application. As you write your application, refer to it occasionally to ensure you are on track.

Application	Submission Method	Length/Limit
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant and Project Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant and Contact Details Applicant Demographics Primary Scientific Mentor Details 	Enter online into Competition Space	Not Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/> VPCAT Senior Mentor Selection Form [here]	Name file "VPCATMentorSelection_Last Name" and upload into Competition Space	
<input type="checkbox"/> High-Resolution Professional Headshot (JPEG format preferred)	Name file "VPCATHeadshot_Last Name" and upload into Competition Space	
<input type="checkbox"/> VPCAT Application <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cover Letter Candidate's Curriculum Vitae Application Narrative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Career Goals Scientific Mentoring Plan Research Overview References Plan for Transitioning into a Funded Principal Investigator Mentor(s) Letter of Support** Institutional Letter of Commitment Mentor(s) NIH Biographical Sketch** Mentor(s) NIH Other Support Form** 	Name file "VPCATApplication_Last Name" and upload into Competition Space as a single file	2-page limit No page limit 5-page limit (<i>total</i>) <i>1-page recommended</i> <i>½-1 page recommended</i> <i>3-3 ½ pages recommended</i> <i>No page limit</i> 1-page limit No page limit No page limit 5-page limit per bio No page limit
<p>**If more than one mentor, include the primary mentor's document first</p>		

Review and Scoring Criteria

The review panel consists of VPCAT senior mentors and VPCAT Alumni Advisory Board members. Applications will be assigned a primary, secondary, and tertiary reviewer. We will identify any conflicts of interest prior to assignment to assure impartiality, fairness, and integrity.

Reviewers will competitively review and independently rate the *Career Goals, Scientific Mentoring Plan and Mentor(s), Research Overview, Institutional Support and Transition Plan, and Applicant's Potential and Fit* using the NIH scoring format (scoring 1-9). They will provide comments and recommendations for each criterion, which will be compiled and provided to the applicant.

Overall Impact

Reviewers will provide their assessment of 1) the career goals and objectives' potential to fill skillset and expertise gaps, 2) the strength of existing support and mentor(s) relationships, 3) the research's feasibility and demonstrated niche, 4) the likelihood of the applicant achieving their future goals, and 5) the applicant's readiness and need for the program.

Scored Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following five criteria:

1. Career Goals

- Evidence of an appropriate academic career vision
- Likelihood that the career goals and objectives will fill the applicant's skillset and expertise gaps, positioning them to achieve their future research goals
- Appropriateness of content and scope of the applicant's career goals and objectives as they align with the applicant's prior experience, stated skills and expertise they plan to develop (where applicable), and future research goals

2. Scientific Mentoring Plan and Mentor(s)

- Compliance with the *Scientific Mentor(s) Requirements and Expectations* (see [page 4](#))
- Detailed mentoring plan, including 1) the mentor's specific role in supervision and 2) an evaluation/monitoring plan with measurable milestones and outcomes
- Suitability of mentor's qualifications
- Demonstrates mentoring success
- Substantiates an established working relationship
- Evidence of enthusiasm and commitment to the applicant's development

3. Research Overview

- Clearly stated Specific Aims with measurable objectives
- Alignment of applicant's research, prior efforts, and stated career goals and objectives
- Represents the applicant's research niche and the likelihood of addressing a critical need
- Demonstrates proposed research is feasible and applicant's ability to execute the research
- Likelihood that the project will contribute to their future research plans and advance their academic career in clinical and translational science

4. Institutional Support and Transition Plan

- Compliance with VPCAT requirements (see [Letter of Institutional Commitment](#))

- Commitment of the necessary resources and protected time (minimum 30% FTE)
- Detailed *Plan for Transitioning into a Funded Principal Investigator*, including specific steps taken or to be taken to ensure 1) *current* protected effort allows for full participation and achievement of career and research goals and 2) *future* protected effort is available to accept and execute planned research awards
- Breakdown of applicant's associated research funding/responsibilities, clearly delineating independent research program development responsibilities/activities from those that primarily support or contribute to the research of others
- Likelihood of addressing encroachment of clinical, teaching, and/or administrative effort on committed protected time
- Demonstrates a dedicated investment in the applicant's long-term success

5. Applicant's Potential and Fit

- Compliance with the *Applicant Eligibility Criteria and Program Requirements* (see [pages 2-3](#))
- Exhibits high quality with the potential to contribute to clinical and translational research
- The combination of the applicant's experience and research niche with the quality of the mentoring relationships and institutional support shows readiness and need for the program at this time
- Demonstrates an understanding of the steps to take to obtain their future research plans