



ROBERT A. WINN  
**EXCELLENCE**  
IN CLINICAL TRIALS  
AWARD PROGRAM  
Established by the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation

## **Robert A. Winn Excellence in Clinical Trials: Career Development Award Frequently Asked Questions**

### **General Eligibility**

#### **Q: I currently have a visa but am in the process of applying for my green card. Am I allowed to apply?**

Unfortunately, visa holders are not eligible for this award. Applicants must currently be a Lawful Permanent Resident (green card holder) as defined by the US Department of Homeland Security, or be a US Citizen.

#### **Q: I have a PhD only. Am I allowed to apply?**

No. Currently, candidates must hold the degree of MD, DO, or international equivalent AND have an active US medical license.

### **Research Experience**

#### **Q: I currently have a K award or other type of career development award. Am I still eligible?**

Applicants with concurrent career development awards (e.g., K23, K08, etc.) and institutional training grants (T32, KL2/K12 or equivalent) are eligible to apply. If the applicant currently has more than 50% protected time, the applicant will need to explain how they plan to fulfill all program requirements and be a fully engaged participant in the program.

Applicants who are Principal Investigators on any substantial project grants (e.g., R01 or equivalent) are ineligible.

Note: Winn CDA must be informed when a recipient receives other career development awards during the term of the CDA.

### **Commitment/Protected Time**

#### **Q: What does the 40% protected time entail?**

Applicants must be able to commit at least 40% of their time for the program (this includes time for active program participation, research, and career development activities) during the award period. This 40% is expected to provide the protected time so that the scholar can attend all virtual weekly (in year 1) and biweekly (in year 2) scholar forum sessions, and fulfill all program assignments and deliverables. Institution letters of support MUST guarantee their protected time.



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**Q: What if 40% of my salary is more than \$120,000/yr?**

It is the expectation that for most applicants, the \$120,000 will be allocated for salary support. The 40% protected time does not necessarily have to correlate directly with 40% of the Scholar's salary.

**Q: What if I have more than 40% protected time already?**

If applicants have research commitments that provide more than 50% protected time, they will need to justify how they plan to fulfill all program requirements and be a fully engaged participant in the program.

If there are other research projects or other commitments that already have a substantial amount of their time taken up, the scholar may not have time to participate in this program.

**Project**

**Q: Why is the Winn CDA focused on the disease areas of cancer, cardiovascular and cardiometabolic diseases, and neuropsychiatric disorders?**

These are the therapeutic focus areas of the program funding partners. The strategy of the partners is to fund early career clinician scientists in these areas. For learning purposes, the project (whether the mentor's or the applicant's) for the application must be directly related to one of these therapeutic areas.

**Q: For the application, am I proposing my own research study or am I writing about my mentor's research study?**

The purpose of the project for this application submission is to provide the applicant with a real-world opportunity to apply the skills that they learn throughout this program. This project can be the applicant's own clinical trial OR their mentor's clinical trial (it is not expected that you have your own trial). The trial should be approved and open for enrollment by the time the program starts. Winn CDA does not fund the project.

PLEASE NOTE: During the program, scholars will work on an independent Capstone Project, which is separate from the project in this application, but it can be related. More guidance will be provided upon acceptance into the program.



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**Q. Can I apply with an Industry Sponsored Trial (IST) or does it have to be an Investigator Initiated Trial (IIT)? What about Cooperative Group Trials?**

You can apply with any of these types of trials, whether it's yours or that of your mentor's.

**Q. Is it ok that my mentor is the site PI on the study?**

Yes. This is allowed.

**Q: Can I apply if I am conducting clinical trials internationally?**

Yes, applicants who are doing global clinical trials can apply as long as they are employed by a US institution, and meet all other eligibility criteria.

**Q: What is the capstone project?**

As part of the program, scholars will be working on a capstone project – to design a clinical trial protocol that would be submitted for future funding. This is a separate clinical research project from the clinical trial that they apply with, but can be related.

**Institutional Mentor**

**Q: What are the Institutional Mentor qualifications?**

Institutional Mentors must hold an MD, DO, or international equivalent and be a senior level faculty member (i.e., Professor, Associate Professor, Associate Member) who can mentor on the development and conduct of clinical trials and applicant's career development. Mentors are expected to be established Clinical Investigators. For many mentors, they are the Principal Investigators of the trials that the applicants will submit with their application.

**Q: Can I have more than one mentor?**

Applicants must apply with one institutional mentor - the institutional mentor is the one who will provide the majority or all of the mentorship for career development and the conduct of clinical trials. The institutional mentor is also the one who will receive a \$4,800 honorarium at the completion of each year upon the submission of their annual program evaluation. Although we are grateful to the support you may receive from your mentorship team and other secondary mentors, only the institutional mentor is compensated for their time.



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We recognize that some applicants may have more than 1 mentor or a mentoring team. Applicants can have secondary mentors who will provide further support in the areas of career development and the conduct of clinical trials.

If the mentor is (1) at a different institution, (2) not a senior level faculty member, (3) not able to mentor one of the mentoring aspects (clinical trials or career development), the applicant is required to apply with a secondary mentor/mentoring team to fulfill the required mentoring components.

**Q: Is there a mentor onboarding so that my mentor understands their role?**

Yes! Mentors are invited to a virtual orientation shortly after the program begins. Mentors will also need to sign a memorandum of understanding that will outline the roles and expectations of the mentorship.

**Q: Is the mentor honorarium included in the annual \$120,000 budget?**

The mentor's honoraria is not included in the scholar's budget. Applicants should not be including the mentor's honoraria in their budget.

**Q: How often do I need to meet with my mentor?**

Applicants should plan to meet with their mentors at least twice a month to discuss the conduct of clinical trials and career development.

## **Curriculum Requirements**

**Q: What does the program curriculum entail?**

The vision of the Winn CDA is to transform the clinical research landscape by building and strengthening partnerships between clinical investigators and the communities where their patients reside with a goal of ultimately engaging a patient population that mirrors the epidemiology of the diseases studied.

The program curriculum is built around the following major components:

- Robert A. Winn Excellence in Clinical Trials: Design and Implementation of Clinical Trials (DICT) Workshop in Partnership with American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) "Winn-AACR DICT Workshop"
  - *Intensive in-person 4.5 day training in clinical research*
- Capstone project
  - *In-person project presentations will occur at both annual convenings*
- Virtual scholar forum sessions
  - *Weekly 2-hour sessions in year 1*



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- *Bi-weekly 2-hour sessions in year 2*
- Tiered mentorship
  - *Receive structured mentoring provided by institutional mentors, program mentors, and Workshop faculty*
  - *Provide mentoring to Winn CIPP students*
- Individual professional development plan (IPDP)
- Practical assignments and exercises
- Status reports
- Annual convenings (in-person attendance required)

**Note:** *Components of the curriculum are subject to change.*