**CARTI Basic Science Research Training Track**

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

**Eligibility Criteria**

**What is the eligibility criteria for participants in the CARTI Basic Science Research Training Track?**

To participate in the CARTI Basic Science Research Training Track participants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

* Be a senior postdoctoral fellow (MD, PhD, MD/PhD) or faculty member in an early stage of their research career at the University of Maryland, Baltimore with some prior research experience.
* Have a research mentor(s)\* and existing basic science research project to serve as the basis for a grant application.
* Have a letter of support from your Department Chair guaranteeing at least 20% protected time (8 hours/week) to conduct training and research over a 6-month period.
* Have NOT served as a Principal Investigator on an NIH or federally funded research (R) or career development (K series) award, except those holding a K99/R00 award. Postdoctoral fellows awarded a K99 are still eligible to apply.

**Who is considered a faculty member in an early stage of their research career?**

We are using the NIH’s definition of an early-stage investigator, which is defined as an investigator “*who has completed their terminal research degree or end of post-graduate clinical training, whichever date is later, within the past 10 years and who has not previously competed successfully as PD/PI for a substantial NIH/federal independent award*”.

**If I do not meet the definition of a faculty member in the early stage of their research career can I still apply?**

Faculty who do not meet these criteria may still be considered to participate. Exceptions will be made based on prior research experience, a clear commitment to research, and need for additional training. Prior to applying, we recommend contacting **Janea Williams** at [Janea.Williams@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:Janea.Williams@som.umaryland.edu) to discuss your eligibility.

**I am a co-investigator on an NIH/Federal funded grant application, am I still eligible?**

Yes, an applicant can serve in a supportive role on a grant application, such as a co-investigator. An applicant who has served as a principal investigator (or a multi-PI) in an NIH or Federally funded grant will not be eligible to participate.

**Mentors**

**Am I required to have a mentor to apply?**

Yes, all applicants are required to have a research mentor who provides guidance to the CARTI scholar as they develop and/or execute a basic science project. We recommend CARTI scholars conduct a Basic Science Research project that is complementary to an ongoing, funded project of the mentor. If you do not have a research mentor please contact Dr. Marey Shriver at [mshriver@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:mshriver@som.umaryland.edu) for assistance in identifying a potential mentor.

**Does my mentor need to be at the University of Maryland Baltimore?**

Yes, your primary mentor must hold a faculty position at the University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB). Applicants can have a mentoring committee, which includes mentors from outside institutions, but the chair of the committee must be located at UMB.

**What are the expectations for research mentors?**

Mentors should strive to meet weekly or bi-weekly with CARTI scholars and provide guidance on designing, executing, and overcoming obstacles of the proposed Basic Science Research submitted with this application. Specifically, mentors are expected to provide guidance on the development of a research protocol during the didactic instruction, execution of the proposed research during the experiential learning, and completion of a capstone project.

**What information should my mentor(s) provide in their letter of support for the CARTI Basic Science Research Training Track application?**

Mentors should provide a 1-2 page letter that specifically describes their research and mentoring qualifications, including the number of mentees previously advised. Additionally, the letter should describe the applicant’s career goals and need for additional training. Specially, mentors should detail how frequently they will meet with the applicant, and the guidance they will provide during participation in the CARTI training track program.

**Time Commitment & Training Activities**

**How long will the CARTI Basic Science Research Training Track program be?**

The CARTI Basic Science Research Training Track program will take approximately 6 months to complete.

**How much time will I be required to dedicate to the CARTI Basic Science Research Training Track activities?**

CARTI scholars will be expected to commit at least 8 hours a week (20% effort) to training activities.

**Does my Department need to approve my participation in the CARTI Basic Science Research Training Track**?

Yes, an applicant’s Department Chair is required to provide a letter of support, including a guarantee that the applicant will have at least 8 hours a week (20%) protected time to participate in the CARTI training track program.

**If I am selected as a CARTI Scholar, can I participate in only the didactic instruction, and not the experiential learning and capstone project?**

No, CARTI scholars cannot participate in only one element of the Basic Science Research Training Track Program, and required to complete each element of the training schedule.

**Application Submission**

**When is the application deadline to apply for the CARTI Basic Science Research Training Track?**

All applications must be received by Friday, July 26, 2024 by 5:00pm EST. There will be no extensions or flexibility for submitted applications.

**Where do I submit my application material?**

Completed applications must be submitted as one document or PDF via email to **Janea Williams** at [Janea.Williams@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:Janea.Williams@som.umaryland.edu).

**What application material is required?**

Applications must include:

1. Cover page
2. UMB curriculum vitae (CV)
3. Personal statement (1-2 page(s))
4. Preliminary summary of proposed research project to be completed during experiential learning component (1 page)
5. Letter of support from research mentor
6. Letter of support from the Departmental Chair

**General**

**Additional Information:**

For more details on the CARTI Basic Science Research Training Track Program, including the full application, visit: <https://www.medschool.umaryland.edu/carti/carti-training-tracks/basic-science-research-training-track/>

**Have Additional Questions?** Contact Janea Williams at [Janea.Williams@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:Janea.Williams@som.umaryland.edu).