VCU Center for Clinical and Translational Research (CCTR)
KL2 Scholar Award FAQ’s

1. **What is a VCU Center for Clinical and Translational Research (CCTR) KL2 Scholar award?** This internal K-award is funded jointly by the NIH and VCU. It provides 75% salary support (up to $75,000) and $25,000 for supplies, equipment and education annually. The awards are given to VCU junior faculty for research career development and they provide 75% protected time for research and education. Each awardee is guaranteed one year of funding and will be provided a second year of funding pending an annual review of progress. The goal of the award is to assist young researchers as they work towards external funding.

2. **Who is eligible to apply?** Any junior faculty member (not administrative faculty) at VCU working towards a career in Translational or Transdisciplinary research that has not been a PI on another grant or has a similar career development grant. Please contact me if you are not sure if participation on another grant would make you ineligible to apply at jeconomy@mcvh-vcu.edu.

   A KL2 scholar might be promoted to an Associate Professor rank during his/her award period; however, new applicants should be at an Assistant Professor or Instructor level at the time of application submission. We realize that Post-Docs might be interested in this funding opportunity; they would not be eligible for this award. There are external funding opportunities for Post-Docs and we encourage you to contact us for assistance identifying alternative funding opportunities at http://www.cctr.vcu.edu/researchincubator/index.html.

3. **If I applied unsuccessfully during a past KL2 award cycle, may I still apply?** Yes. As long as you are still a junior faculty member of VCU working towards a career in Translational or Transdisciplinary research you would be eligible and encouraged to apply.

4. **Would I have to enroll in an MS or PhD program?** Yes. All K-awards have a required education component. The CCTR education programs are designed to be completed part-time. Your schedule and educational needs are taken into account as your educational program is designed. Remember, this award will provide you with 75% protected time for your research and education, so you will have the time needed to complete the credit hours. Enrolling in the CCTR MS and PhD programs are not limited to KL2 Scholars. We encourage you to visit our website at http://www.cctr.vcu.edu/education/index.html and view our program educational offerings.

5. **What is the timeline for receiving the funds if awarded a KL2?** Despite attempting to make this process as transparent as possible, there are a few aspects of the process that are beyond our control. The timeline for the first level of applications is July 31, 2012. Notice to the applicants regarding whom will move on to the next level is dependent on the number of applications received. Every application is given thoughtful consideration by the CCTR KL2 Steering Committee before a decision is made. If the committee only has a few applications to review, notifications will go out sooner than if they have many applications to review. Regardless of the time needed to review the applications, those who make the cut to the next level will be given plenty of time (approx. 6 weeks)
to prepare their final applications and presentation. It is anticipated that the funds for this cycle would be distributed in October, 2012.

6. **How many KL2 slots are available?** The number of slots varies according to NIH and VCU funding and there is no specific annual application cycle for this type of award. The ultimate goal is to get the VCU Center for Clinical and Translational Research (CCTR) KL2 Scholar awardees external funding. As external funding is awarded, new slots will open up and a new call for applications will be made. We do anticipate more slots opening up in the next 12 months as current KL2 awardees rotate off.

7. **Why is the data on the KL2 Scholars Application Cover Page required?** The NIH, as a term for providing funds, requires that the VCU CCTR collect certain demographic data. This data is required for all investigators seeking NIH funding. Please consult our website at [http://www.cctr.vcu.edu/education/kl2/index.html](http://www.cctr.vcu.edu/education/kl2/index.html) if you have additional questions about the application process.

8. **Do the three “potential” mentors identified by me have to work at VCU?** This in an internal K-award. You will be presenting your application to people that are researchers and Professors at VCU. It is recommended, but not required, that you identify three internal mentors that can assist you with your research career on a daily basis. This does not mean that you would be restricted to just those three should you be chosen for the KL2 award. It is anticipated that the KL2 Steering Committee and the Academy of Mentors will work with you, if awarded, to build a robust mentoring team that will include external mentors.

9. **Could one of my three letters of reference be from my Chair?** Yes, as long as the letter meets the requirements needed from the Chair letter in addition to the requirements needed for a letter of reference.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jeconomy@mcvh-vcu.edu](mailto:jeconomy@mcvh-vcu.edu) or visit our website [http://www.cctr.vcu.edu/education/kl2/index.html](http://www.cctr.vcu.edu/education/kl2/index.html) for additional assistance.