

OCTRI KL2 Awardees

The OCTRI KL2 program is pleased to announce the recipients of an NIH/NCATS supported KL2 career development award. The goal of this OCTRI initiative is to develop independent clinical investigators to conduct interdisciplinary research with scientists from diverse disciplines. The scholars pursue clinical and translational research in a mentored environment for up to 2 years each and participate in ongoing training, such as enrollment in the Master of Clinical Research program. The KL2 award supports early career faculty from OHSU, Portland State University, University of Oregon, and Oregon State University.

2025 SCHOLARS AWARDED

Elizabeth Wood, Ph.D., School of Medicine, Psychiatry

Primary Mentors: Elinor Sullivan, Ph.D., Professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience; Jamie Lo, M.D., M.C.R., Associate Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Urology, and the Oregon National Primate Research Center

Research Project: Maternal-placental-fetal inflammatory programming of infant cardiometabolic disease

2024 SCHOLARS AWARDED

Jessica Hebert, Ph.D., School of Medicine, Nephrology & Hypertension

Primary Mentor: Michael Hutchens, M.D., Professor, Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine

Research Project: Determining mechanisms of longitudinal reproductive impact following recovered maternal AKI

Noah Hornick, M.D., Ph.D., School of Medicine, Dermatology

Primary Mentor: Amy Moran, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Cell, Developmental and Cancer Biology

Research Project: The role of androgens in differentiating checkpoint-induced and spontaneous lichenoid skin disease

KL2 PROGRAM CONTACTS

Melissa Mudd, M.P.H.
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RFA

Please check the [KL2 website](#) for expected KL2 RFA release dates. Contact Melissa Mudd for further details.

Hunter Spencer, D.O., School of Medicine, General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics

Primary Mentors: Todd Korthuis, M.D., M.P.H., Professor, School of Medicine, Addiction Medicine; Ryan Cook, Ph.D., M.S.P.H., Assistant Professor, School of Medicine, General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics, Addiction Medicine

Research Project: Dried Blood Spot Testing in Peer-assisted, Telemedicine-based Hepatitis C Treatment

2023 SCHOLARS AWARDED

Angie Garinis, Ph.D. M.S., School of Medicine, Otolaryngology and Audiology

Primary Mentor: Timothy Hullar, M.D., Director, Cochlear Implant Program; Professor, School of Medicine, Head and Neck Surgery

Research Project: Novel Kinematic Analyses for Detection of Aminoglycoside-Induced Vestibular Loss

Mitzi Go, M.D. M.C.R., School of Medicine, Pediatrics, Neonatology

Primary Mentor: Cindy McEvoy, M.D., M.C.R., Professor, School of Medicine, Pediatrics and Obstetrics and Gynecology

Research Project: Feasibility Study on Lung Growth and Function after Antenatal Steroid Exposure in Late Preterm Infants

Josh Kaplan, Ph.D., School of Medicine, Neurology

Primary Mentor: Barry Oken, M.D., Ph.D., Professor, School of Medicine, Neurology and Director, Oregon Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine in Neurological Disorders

Research Project: Feasibility and acceptability of stress induction, physiological data collection, and Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction among combat veterans with PTSD

Curtis Lachowicz, M.D., School of Medicine, Internal Medicine, Hematology/Oncology

Primary Mentor: Jeffrey Tyner, Ph.D., Professor, School of Medicine, Cell Developmental and Cancer Biology

Research Project: Identifying and targeting measurable residual disease following azacitidine and venetoclax therapy in acute myeloid leukemia

Bethany Sloane, P.T., D.P.T., P.C.S, School of Medicine, Institute on Development & Disability

Primary Mentors: Melanie Fried-Oken, Ph.D., CCC-Sp., Professor, School of Medicine, Neurology and Pediatrics; and Sam Logan, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Kinesiology, Oregon State University

Research Project: Feasibility of a powered mobility intervention for young children with cerebral palsy, Gross Motor Function Classification System Level V

Alex Speers, N.D., M.S. School of Medicine, Neurology

Primary Mentors: Amala Soumyanath, Ph.D., B.Pharm., Professor, School of Medicine, Neurology

Research Project: Safety, tolerability, and pharmacokinetics of an oral *Withania somnifera* product in older adults

2022 SCHOLARS AWARDED

Patrick Lyons, M.D. M.Sc., School of Medicine, Pulmonary Critical Care & Allergy

Primary Mentor: Terri Hough, M.D., M.Sc., Professor and Director, School of Medicine, Pulmonary and Critical Care

Research Project: SOUL (Sepsis in Oncology: Understanding the Landscape)

2021 SCHOLARS AWARDED

Raina Croff, Ph.D., School of Medicine, Neurology

Primary Mentors: Jeffrey Kaye, M.D., Professor, School of Medicine, Neurology

Research Project: Efficacy of a Technology-Based Multimodal Brain Health Intervention for Older African Americans

C. Estela Vasquez Guzman, Ph.D., School of Medicine, Family Medicine

Primary Mentors: Erika Cottrell, Ph.D., Research Assistant Professor, School of Medicine, Family Medicine; John Heintzman, M.D., Associate Professor, School of Medicine, Family Medicine; and Cynthia Morris, Ph.D., M.P.H., Professor, School of Medicine, Medical Informatics and Clinical Epidemiology

Research Project: Taking a Life Course Perspective to Examine Critical Points of Intervention for Migrant Latinx Immigrant Women diagnosed with Cervical Cancer

De'Sha Wolf, Ph.D., Portland State University, School of Social Work and Social Research, PSU

Primary Mentor: Erika Cottrell, Ph.D., Research Assistant Professor, School of Medicine, Family Medicine; Cynthia Morris, Ph.D., M.P.H., Professor, School of Medicine, Medical Informatics and Clinical Epidemiology

Research Project: Interrupting the pain-stress-reactivity cycle in African American women with chronic pain

2020 SCHOLARS AWARDED

Marian Dale, M.D., M.C.R., School of Medicine, Neurology

Primary Mentor: Fay Horak, Ph.D., P.T., Professor, School of Medicine, Neurology

Research Project: Cerebellar TMS for postural instability in progressive supranuclear palsy

Marcia Friedman, M.D., School of Medicine, Arthritis and Rheumatic Diseases

Primary Mentor: Jim Rosenbaum, M.D., Professor, School of Medicine, Ophthalmology, Division of Arthritis and Rheumatic Diseases

Research Project: Endothelial cell biomarkers in the diagnosis of giant cell arteritis

2019 SCHOLARS AWARDED

Ramon Barajas, M.D., School of Medicine, Diagnostic Radiology and Advanced Imaging Research Center

Primary Mentor: Edward Neuwelt, M.D., Professor, School of Medicine, Neurology and Neurosurgery

Research Project: Therapeutic Efficacy by Modulating and Characterizing Glioblastoma Neuroinflammation

Nicole Bowles, Ph.D., School of Medicine, Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences

Primary Mentor: Steven Shea, Ph.D., Professor and Director, Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences

Research Project: Role of the Circadian System in Endocannabinoid Responses to an Acute Stress.

Ted Braun, M.D., Ph.D., School of Medicine, Hematology and Oncology

Primary Mentor: Brian Druker, M.D., Director, Knight Cancer Institute; Associate Dean for Oncology, School of Medicine

Research Project: Epigenetics of Mutation-Order-Dependent Phenotypes in Myeloid Leukemia

Brian Jordan, M.D., Ph.D., School of Medicine, Pediatric Neonatology

Primary Mentor: Cindy McEvoy, M.D., M.C.R., Professor, School of Medicine, Pediatrics and Obstetrics and Gynecology

Research Project: Trajectories in Lung Function in Extremely Premature Infants

Dora Raymaker, Ph.D., Portland State University, School of Social Work, Regional Research Institute for Human Services

Primary Mentor: Christina Nicolaidis, M.D., M.P.H., Portland State University, Professor, School of Social Work; Adjunct Associate Professor, OHSU School of Medicine

Research Project: Community Based Participatory Research to Explore Employer Training in Support of Autistic Professionals

Saurabh Thosar, Ph.D., School of Medicine, Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences

Primary Mentor: Jonathan Lindner, M.D., M Lowell Edwards Professor, School of Medicine, Cardiovascular Medicine

Research Project: Circadian Rhythms in Vascular Function in Obesity

Kirsten Wright, N.D., M.S., School of Medicine, Neurology

Primary Mentor: Jeffrey Kaye, M.D., Professor, School of Medicine, Neurology

Research Project: Dietary Behavior and Nutritional Health in the Setting of Aging, Cognitive Impairment, and Alzheimer's Disease

2017 SCHOLARS AWARDED

Amanda Bruegl, M.D., M.S., School of Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology

Primary Mentors: Jackie Shannon, Ph.D., Associate Professor, School of Medicine, Public Health and Preventive Medicine; and Cynthia Morris, Ph.D., M.P.H., Professor, School of Medicine, Medical Informatics and Clinical Epidemiology

Research Project: Evaluation of HPV Subtyping Among American Indian/Alaska Native Women

Ian Greenhouse, Ph.D., University of Oregon, Human Physiology

Primary Mentor: Li-Shan Chou, Ph.D., University of Oregon, Department Head, Professor, Human Physiology

Research Project: Beyond Dopamine: Thalamic GABA and Motor Inhibitor in Health and Parkinson's Disease

Andrew McHill, Ph.D., School of Medicine, Occupational Health Sciences

Primary Mentor: Steven Shea, Ph.D., Professor, Occupational Health Sciences; Professor, OHSU-PSU School of Public Health

Research Project: Influence of Circadian Misalignment on Energy Expenditure and Glucose Regulation in Obstructive Sleep Apnea

Sean Newsom, Ph.D., Oregon State University, Biological and Population Health Sciences

Primary Mentor: Donald Jump, Ph.D., Professor, Oregon State University, Biological and Population Health Sciences

Research Project: Mechanisms of lipid-related skeletal muscle insulin resistance in obesity

Olena Taratula, Ph.D., Oregon State University, School of Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Sciences

Primary Mentor: Wassana Yantasee, Ph.D., M.B.A., Professor, Biomedical Engineering

Research Project: Single Theranostic Agent for Image-Guided Surgery and Intraoperative Phototherapy

2014 SCHOLARS AWARDED

Scott Chadderdon, M.D., School of Medicine, Medicine, Cardiovascular Medicine

Primary Mentor: Jonathan Lindner, M.D., Professor, Medicine, Cardiology

Research Project: Physical Activity and Obesity: The Role of Eicosanoids in Regulating Capillary Perfusion and Vascular Insulin Resistance

Brett Fling, Ph.D., School of Medicine, Neurology

Primary Mentor: Fay Horak, Ph.D., P.T. Professor, School of Medicine, Neurology and Biomedical Engineering; Director of Balance Disorders Laboratory

Research Project: Neural mechanisms underlying freezing of gait resulting from Parkinsonism

Donald Sullivan, M.D., M.A., School of Medicine, Medicine, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine

Primary Mentor: Linda Ganzini, M.D., M.P.H., Professor, School of Medicine, Psychiatry and VA Medical Center

Research Project: Impact of Specialist Palliative Care on Outcomes in Advanced Stage Lung Cancer Patients

2013 SCHOLAR AWARDED

Kristen Mackiewicz Seghete, Ph.D., School of Medicine, Psychiatry

Primary Mentor: Bonnie Nagel, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience

Research Project: Neural Mechanisms of Cognitive Inhibition in Trauma-exposed Adolescents

2012 SCHOLARS AWARDED

Laurie King, Ph.D., P.T., School of Medicine, Neurology

Primary Mentor: Fay Horak, Ph.D., P.T. Professor, School of Medicine, Neurology and Biomedical Engineering; Director of Balance Disorder's Laboratory

Research Project: Wearable Sensor to Detect Postural Instability in People After Concussion

Nicole Marshall, M.D., M.C.R., School of Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Primary Mentor: Kent Thornburg, Ph.D., M. Lowell Edwards Chair, Professor and Chief, School of Medicine, Medicine, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine; Biomedical Engineering and Physiology and Pharmacology

Research Project: Maternal Body Composition Regulates Placental Function and Fetal Growth

Elie Traer, MD, PhD, School of Medicine, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology

Primary Mentor: Brian Druker, MD, School of Medicine, Associate Dean for Oncology, JELD-WEN Chair of Leukemia Research; Director, Knight Cancer Institute

Research Project: Extrinsic Mechanisms of Kinase Resistance

2011 SCHOLARS AWARDED

Andrea Debarber, Ph.D., School of Medicine, Medicine, Physiology and Pharmacology

Primary Mentor: Robert Steiner, M.D., Professor, School of Medicine, Pediatrics and Molecular and Medical Genetics

Research Project: Newborn Screening for Cerebrotendinous Xanthomatosis: A Paradigm for Screening in Newborns with Bile Acide Synthesis Disorders.

Seth O'Neal, M.D., M.P.H., School of Medicine, Medicine, Public Health and Preventive Medicine

Primary Mentor: William Lambert, Ph.D., Associate Professor, School of Medicine, Public Health and Preventive Medicine

Research Project: Taenia Solium Infection among Refugees from Burma

2010 SCHOLAR AWARDED

Eric Adler, M.D., School of Medicine, Medicine, Cardiovascular Medicine (now at University of California, Davis)

Primary Mentor: Markus Grompe, M.D. Professor, School of Medicine, Molecular and Medical Genetics

Research Project: Identification of novel signatures of arrhythmia using induced pluripotent stem cell derived cardiomyocytes

2008 SCHOLARS AWARDED

Jessina McGregor, Ph.D., Oregon State University, School of Pharmacy, Pharmacy Practice

Primary Mentor: David H. Smith, Ph.D., M.H.A., R.Ph., Kaiser Permanente, Center for Health Research

Research Project: Antimicrobial resistance surveillance to improve empiric therapy in outpatients

Melissa Nyendak, M.D., M.H.S., School of Medicine, Medicine, Infectious Disease

Primary Mentor: David Lewinsohn, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor, School of Medicine, Medicine, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine

Research Project: Definition of Human Immunodominant CD8 Antigens in Tuberculosis

2007 SCHOLARS AWARDED

Joshi Alumkal, M.D., School of Medicine, Medicine, Hematology and Oncology, Prostate Research Program

Primary Mentors: Tomasz Beer, M.D., Associate Professor, Director, Prostate Cancer Research, OHSU Cancer Institute; Grover C. Bagby, M.D., Professor, School of Medicine, Medicine and Medical and Molecular Genetics

Research Project: The Elucidation of Clinically Significant Mechanisms of Gene Silencing

Jessica Gregg, M.D., Ph.D., School of Medicine, Medicine, General Internal Medicine

Primary Mentor: Thomas Becker, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Chair, School of Medicine, Public Health and Preventive Medicine

Research Project: Health Beliefs, Level of Acculturation, and Pap Smear Use among Latinos from Mexico.

Anh Nguyen-Huynh, M.D., School of Medicine, Medicine, Otolaryngology

Primary Mentor: Peter Gillespie, Ph.D., Professor, School of Medicine, Otolaryngology and Cell Biology; Director, Neuroscience Graduate Program

Research Project: The Role of Endolymphatic Sac in the Pathophysiology of Meniere's disease.