Hub: University of Kentucky  
Grant: KL2  
Category: Other – KL2 Visiting Scholars Program  
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Regional KL2 Visiting Scholars Program

- Regional collaboration instituted in 2017 by the University of Kentucky (UK) and University of Indiana (IU) CTSAs to support the career development of KL2 Scholars
- Short-term (1-2 day) exchange opportunity to meet with faculty, showcase scholarly research, promote the development of new research collaborations and expand professional network
- University of Cincinnati CTSA joined in 2018
- To date, 26 KL2 scholars have exchanged between the 3 institutions
- Post Exchange evaluations – satisfaction and future collaboration metrics
- KL2 Exchange Pilot Grant Program - supports a collaborative research project between a scholar and faculty member that they engaged with during the exchange visit
- Regional collaboration program that is both time and cost efficient

Developed a KL2 Visiting Scholars Program to promote regional collaborative cross-CTSA training to support the career development of participating scholars through experiential training and the development of new partnerships. The KL2 Visiting Scholars Program was initiated by the University of Kentucky Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UK CCTS) in partnership with the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (IN CTSI) and the University of Cincinnati CTSA.

The Visiting Scholars program is a faculty exchange model that provides junior faculty with the opportunity to meet established researchers with similar interests outside of their own universities, develop new research collaborations, engage in joint publications, and increase their professional networks and visibility.

The model is innovative in providing a short-term exchange opportunity that minimizes lost work productivity and offers cost-efficient training opportunities that do not require a significant amount of administrative oversight. Scholars are competitively selected and have the opportunity to meet with faculty with similar research interests at the host institution.
The first scholar exchange occurred in 2017. Since then, a combined 60 scholars across the 3 CTSA institutions have been eligible to participate (50% physician-scientists, 65% female, and 18% underrepresented persons). To date, 20 scholars have applied to participate in the program, 12 scholars have been accepted and completed the in-person exchange program; 6 scholars participated in a virtual exchange during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Short and longer-term outcomes of the Visiting Scholar Program are collected through post-program surveys assessing satisfaction with the program in terms of structure, career development, and collaboration benefits. All scholars from the in-person cohorts agreed that giving a formal presentation on their work and meetings with faculty at the host institution was beneficial. All but one scholar agreed that the visit was valuable in terms of their research and/or career development, that they had identified at least one person to contact in the future, and that they would recommend the program to other KL2 scholars.

The outcomes survey was designed to assess longer-term program outcomes, including sustainment of collaborations with faculty at the host institution, including joint publications and grant submissions. A large majority of scholars responding to the long-term program outcomes survey stated that they had subsequent interactions with the individuals they met with during their visit.

Program improvements include sustained availability of pilot grants to expand the number of visiting scholars who report ongoing interdisciplinary collaborations and related outcomes. The KL2 Visiting Scholar Pilot program has received formal approval; joint applications will be supported from KL2 scholars and host institution faculty.

The KL2 Visiting Scholar Program is a cost- and time-efficient program for enhancing KL2 scholar career development by leveraging the academic strengths of CTSAs to promote research development and expand professional collaborative networks.