



## **Clinical Orthopedic and Musculoskeletal Education and Training (COMET) Program**

Principal Investigator and Program Director: Jeffrey N. Katz, MD, MSc.

Associate Program Director: Elena Losina, PhD.

**We are pleased to announce a call for applications for the Clinical Orthopedic and Musculoskeletal Education and Training (COMET) Program (NIH-funded T32) housed at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health.**

**Applications for pre- and post-doctoral training are invited for the academic year beginning July/August 2012.**

The program is intended to train highly qualified pre and postdoctoral trainees in rigorous clinical research methodology to address pressing problems relating to orthopedic and musculoskeletal disorders. The range of methodologies suitable for support is wide, including epidemiology, biostatistics, economics, pharmaco-epidemiology, biomechanics, policy modeling, and behavioral research among others. The range of substantive areas is similarly wide. It encompasses orthopedic surgical interventions and disorders affecting the musculoskeletal system including, but not limited to, osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, spinal disorders, regional musculoskeletal disorders, tendon, ligament and other soft tissue conditions and musculoskeletal pain. The research must be carried out on humans. Laboratory research carried out on animals or on human tissues is not appropriate for this award. Research focused on immunologically mediated inflammatory disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, vasculitis and the like are appropriate for this award if the research specifically involves orthopedic interventions or musculoskeletal manifestations such as osteoporosis and fracture.

Per NIH guidelines, applicants must be a citizen or non-citizen national of the United States or have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence at the time of appointment. Underrepresented minority groups including, but not limited to, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives and Pacific Islanders are strongly encouraged to apply.

Trainees accepted for the program will be funded, in general, for two years, conditional on a progress report at the end of the first year. The training grant covers salary or stipend, travel to professional meetings, and other training-related expenses. The postdoctoral award will cover 60% of tuition for the Program in Clinical Effectiveness at Harvard School of Public Health. The predoctoral award includes a stipend for 60% of tuition for PhD candidates. Applicants must be nominated by a mentor who is an independently funded investigator. One or more COMET program core faculty members (Appendix A) must be involved in the trainee's work.

**The application for COMET (T32) support consists of 6 required components:**

1. Application (Form I)
2. Applicant Statement (Form II):
  - a. Specific aims
  - b. Background
  - c. Research design and methods
  - d. Training structure and content (didactic and informal)
  - e. Career goals
3. Applicant CV
4. Mentor's biosketch
5. Letter of nomination from 1 mentor including role of the mentor in the candidate's training and research
6. 2 additional letters of support from faculty who can speak to the candidate's potential for success in clinical research (biosketches not required)

The following application materials should be sent by email to Doris Strnad (see contact information below), attention to Dr. Jeffrey Katz. The application should conform to the following format guidelines:

- Application components 1-4 should be formatted in the order listed above
- The applicant should compile components 1-4 and submit in one complete PDF file
- The three letters of recommendation (components 5-6) should be sent by mentors *directly* to Doris Strnad at [dstrnad@partners.org](mailto:dstrnad@partners.org).

**Application materials are due by 5PM EST, Wednesday, February 22, 2012.**

\*Please note: Applications for the HSPH Summer Program in Clinical Effectiveness are due at HSPH on February 1, 2012 and have a separate, different application from this one. For more information, visit: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/clineff/>. If you plan to participate in the Program in Clinical Effectiveness as part of your T32 experience, submit your application to the Program in Clinical Effectiveness on time.

*We look forward to reviewing your application.*

Contact Information for T32:

Doris Strnad  
Administrative Coordinator  
Brigham and Women's Hospital  
75 Francis St, BC-4016  
Boston, MA 02115  
[dstrnad@partners.org](mailto:dstrnad@partners.org)  
Tel: 617-732-5338  
Fax: 617-525-7900

COMET T32 Core Faculty

The COMET Core Faculty members include potential primary mentors. These faculty members lead federally funded research programs and may serve as primary mentors of co-mentors to candidates. The second group of faculty also participate in research programs and may serve as co-mentors to candidates in the program.

Primary Mentors:

Arthur Barsky, MD  
David Bates, MD, MSc  
Karen Costenbader, MD, MPH  
Jack Dennerlein, PhD  
Sue Goldie, MD, MPH  
Jeffrey N. Katz, MD, MSc  
Elena Losina, PhD  
Sebastian Schneeweiss, MD, ScD  
Brian Snyder, MD, MPH  
Daniel Solomon, MD, MPH  
Milton Weinstein, PhD

Co-mentors:

E. Francis Cook, ScD  
Mitchel Harris, MD  
Laurence Higgins, MD  
Robert Jamison, PhD  
Mininder Kocher, MD, MSc