MICHR KL2
Frequently Asked Questions

Please read the application instructions for answers to most common questions.

What clinical degrees qualify an early career faculty member for this award?
An investigator may have an MD, Pharm D, DDS or a terminal professional degree (see below)

I have a PhD. Can I apply for this award?
The KL2 provides two years of protected time for clinical scientists to conduct research. If you are a clinician whose terminal professional degree is a PhD (nurse, clinical psychologist, etc...) you are eligible to apply. The award "protects" your time from clinical duties caring for patients by paying a portion of your salary.

Where does the funding come from for this award, is it an NIH award?
The KL2 is an NIH career development award awarded to the University of Michigan, otherwise known as an institutional K award. A clinical investigator who is awarded a KL2 begins their "K Clock", that is the awardee begins using their allotment of total time allowed under the NIH K awards program

Can I apply for a K23 the same year I apply for the KL2?
No. NIH explicitly prohibits an applicant from having two NIH training grant applications under review simultaneously. If you have submitted a K23 or another individual mentored career development award in October you may not submit for the KL2. However, if by our application due date, you already know the outcome of a career development grant submitted to the NIH you may submit your KL2.

What is the difference between an individual NIH K award and a KL2?
The KL2 is only two years and the proposed research project and training must conform to this limited time frame. The individual K awards (K23, K08, etc.) are up to five years long.

Can I take my KL2 with me if I get a position elsewhere?
No. This award comes through the University of Michigan to the investigator.

Is a training grant right for me?
If you have questions about whether or not a career development award is right for you, please talk to your mentors. Training grants are designed for people who have gaps in their knowledge or skills that they must address before they can move their research forward. If you can’t come up with some clear gaps, you may be ready for an independent research grant! Talk to your mentors.
I have an appointment at the VA. Can the VA and my Michigan home department split the 37.5% cost-shared salary? NO. According to the NIH KL2 guidelines: “Federal salaries cannot be considered as part of this commitment, as federal salaries are separate appointments that are not included in the institutional appointment or payroll distribution. As an example, scholars may NOT be supplemented with VA sources in a manner to meet the basic eligibility requirement of a KL2 (75 percent of a full-time appointment with the institution, which is separate from the VA position).” As long as 75% of their effort is showing on the KL2 award, then your remaining 25% effort can be on anything else including VA. There are no exceptions to this rule.

NEW: Acceptance into the program and appointment as a K scholar will be contingent upon final approval of human subject and animal use protocols by NIH, which is contingent upon UM IRB/IACUC approval. Applicants planning to conduct human or animal research should be prepared to complete the UM IRB/IACUC process AND the NIH human subjects/animal approval process prior to receiving their appointment.