

# Trial Innovation Network Section Chief, Division of Clinical Innovation, Clinical Affairs Branch

National Institutes of Health  
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences  
Division of Clinical Innovation  
Clinical Affairs Branch  
Bethesda, Maryland

## Description

The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), a major research component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), seeks applications from exceptional candidates for a [Trial Innovation Network](#) section chief position in the center's [Division of Clinical Innovation \(DCI\)](#). Candidates should have recognized leadership and demonstrated expertise in improving clinical trial efficiency through tool development, clinical trial training and education. The selected candidate also will be expected to broaden the scope of clinical trial questions and the clinical trial enterprise so that trials address the health concerns of people in a broad variety of situations and locations, including those living in rural and remote locations, individuals of diverse cultures and beliefs, and minority populations.

The section chief will be responsible for developing a strategy to test, disseminate and incorporate the tools developed by this section and from other parts of the NCATS Trial Innovation Network, ensuring the dissemination and sustainability of these tools within NCATS-funded programs, NIH and the extramural research community. Dissemination should include a variety of organization types and geographic locations. To facilitate this, the Trial Innovation Network section chief will work with clinical trial networks and training programs through NIH and non-NIH programs to ensure that the tools are accessible and used appropriately. This process will be iterative and bilateral, such that suggestions and requests from collaborators will be provided to the Trial Innovation Network to make sure the needs of participants, families, communities, providers and researchers are optimized. To this end, community engagement will be important to enhance the tool development process, increase uptake and dissemination, and ensure that the necessary types of tools are developed.

Clinical trials are balanced by understanding efficacy/effectiveness and outcome measures, but safety is paramount. Therefore, the section chief will be responsible for tool development that highlights, flags or streamlines safety issues and will lead clinical safety protocol activities within DCI. The position will be within the Clinical Affairs Branch of DCI, which supports the NCATS Trial Innovation Network and [The Helping to End Addiction Long-term® Initiative, or NIH HEAL Initiative®](#).

## Core Responsibilities

The Trial Innovation Network section chief will be responsible for providing authoritative, technical and scientific leadership and guidance for the clinical trial activities within DCI and when needed by NCATS and NIH. The section chief will direct the activities of the section, including providing a national resource for rapid response to public health emergencies via the Trial Innovation Network and promoting the identification, development and dissemination of innovative clinical trial designs and recruitment strategies. The section chief will develop and provide resources for the planning, implementation and

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conduct of NIH-supported clinical trials. The section's products and resources aim to improve clinical trial efficiency, maximize safety and enhance the types of information within clinical trials. Examples of the activities within the section will include the implementation of techniques/tools to enhance trial design, site selection efficiency, Institutional Review Board efficiency, startup and expansion efficiency, realistic cost, and time calculations for both NIH and investigator expectations, personnel, and site turnover issues.

The section chief will serve as a senior leader, representing DCI and NCATS in clinical, research and clinical trial training/career development programs across NIH, other government agencies, industry, academia and patient-support organizations. The section chief will provide advice to the clinical affairs branch chief and the DCI director on trial-, safety- and clinical-related matters. The section chief will also work to diversify the clinical trial landscape by working in coordination with the various components of DCI, including the Education and Training Section of the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Program Branch. The CTSA Program Branch supports the [CTSA Program](#), an innovative national network of more than 60 medical research centers that aims to improve human health by transforming the research and training environment to enhance the efficiency and quality of clinical and translational research.

### **Qualifications**

The successful candidate will have a Medical Doctorate (M.D.), an active state medical license, and real-world experience in academia or industry in clinical trial development and conduct. The successful candidate will have experience in trial bottlenecks/barriers, optimization strategies and potential efficiencies. An important aspect of the position will be safety; therefore, the successful candidate will have extensive experience with clinical safety issues. The successful candidate also will have strong and demonstrable experience in conceiving, developing and testing tools to support clinical trials in novel groups and settings. The successful candidate will also have a strong history of working with diverse federal and nonfederal organizations and partners.

The successful candidate must have extensive experience in (1) leading a diverse, highly complex research program and employing strategies for implementing and disseminating research tools and products; (2) providing expert advice to senior leaders on scientific and clinically relevant policies and programs; (3) developing innovative training programs for advancing clinical tool development, dissemination and usage by trainees; and (4) leading teams. The successful candidate must appreciate new trends in the clinical trial enterprise, such as the novel use of informatics, big data and site-selection strategies to improve the conduct of trials. The successful candidate will have the ability to communicate and collaborate well with others.

Candidates should demonstrate (1) a clear pattern of success in setting, planning, implementing and analyzing research projects, program objectives and priorities; (2) the ability to communicate and collaborate effectively with diverse scientific and lay audiences; and (3) the ability to form collaborations with national and international organizations, as well as with individuals who represent wide-ranging disciplines and competing priorities.

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### **Salary/Benefits**

Salary is commensurate with qualifications, experience and accomplishments; a full civil service package of benefits — including retirement; health, life and long-term care insurance; and Thrift Savings Plan (401[k] equivalent) participation — is available.

### **Equal Opportunity Employment**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and NIH are Equal Opportunity Employers. Selection for this position will be based solely on merit with no discrimination for nonmerit reasons, such as race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, political affiliation, marital status, disability, age, or membership or nonmembership in an employee organization. NIH encourages the application and nomination of qualified women, minorities and individuals with disabilities.

### **Standards of Conduct/Financial Disclosure**

NIH inspires public confidence in our science by maintaining high ethical principles. NIH employees are subject to federal governmentwide regulations and statutes, as well as agency-specific regulations described on the [NIH Ethics Website](#). We encourage you to review this information. The position is subject to a background investigation and requires the incumbent to complete a public financial disclosure report prior to the effective date of the appointment.

### **Foreign Education**

Applicants who have completed part or all of their education outside of the United States must have their foreign education evaluated by an accredited organization to ensure that the foreign education is equivalent to education received in accredited educational institutions in the United States. We will accept only the completed foreign education evaluation. For more information on foreign education verification, visit the [National Association of Credential Evaluation Services website](#). Verification must be received prior to the effective date of the appointment.

### **Reasonable Accommodation**

NIH provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you require reasonable accommodation during any part of the application and hiring process, please notify us. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

### **How to Apply**

Interested individuals should apply from **May 13, 2024 to July 12, 2024** (submission deadline may be extended if needed) by submitting (via email) a cover letter describing their interest in the position and **a curriculum vitae with a complete bibliography, and the names of and contact information for at least three references** to [NCATSSBRBPASPosition@nih.gov](mailto:NCATSSBRBPASPosition@nih.gov). Include **your name and name of the position** in the subject line. Please submit questions about this position to [Salina Waddy, M.D.](mailto:Salina Waddy, M.D.), via [salina.waddy@nih.gov](mailto:salina.waddy@nih.gov). Review of applications will begin **July 13, 2024**, and will continue until the position is filled. **Do not include your birthdate or social security number on application materials.**

### **Additional Information**

Employment is subject to the successful completion of the preappointment process (e.g., background investigation, verification of qualifications and job requirements, completion of onboarding forms, submission of required documents).

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At the discretion of the supervisor and NIH policy, you may be eligible for workplace flexibilities, which may include remote work or telework options and/or flexible work scheduling. These flexibilities may be requested in accordance with the [NIH Workplace Flexibilities](#) policy.

**HHS AND NIH ARE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.**