

Board Meeting  
November 14, 2007

ESTABLISH MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL  
SCIENCE, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, CHICAGO

**Action:** Approve the Establishment of the Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Science in the School of Public Health, Chicago

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor at Chicago with the advice of the Chicago Senate, the Graduate College, and the School of Public Health, recommends the establishment of a new degree program, the Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Science.

The Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Science (MSCTS) was developed as part of the National Institutes of Health funded Clinical Research Training Program and is intended to train clinicians, primarily post-doctoral and post-residency fellows and junior faculty, to become leaders in clinical research. The MSCTS would draw clinically-trained students from across the Chicago campus as well as clinicians from collaborating institutions into an interdisciplinary degree program that aims to help build the clinical research community in Chicago.

There is a consensus in the biomedical research community that there is a shortage of qualified researchers and mentors in clinical research. Graduates of the MSCTS program will have the skills to direct a broad range of clinical studies, including the translation of scientific knowledge into clinical practice, and will be able to interact

effectively with complementary disciplines with which clinical investigators need to collaborate.

Clinical research must be interdisciplinary in order to yield significant translational results. The MSCTS was designed with input from representatives across the six Chicago campus health sciences colleges. Core courses will be offered by the School of Public Health and the College of Medicine; elective courses will be chosen from coursework offered by colleges across the University. Through 18 hours of core coursework, 14 hours of broad-ranging electives, supplementary workshops and seminars, and a project consisting of 16 hours of mentored thesis research, the MSCTS will help develop a new generation of skilled clinician-investigators focused on improving patient health through research. The program's participants are expected to come primarily from the Chicago campus, and the skills they acquire through the MSCTS can be applied to enhance the campus' reputation as a center for excellence in both scientific research and clinical care.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.