

Postdoctoral PhD Fellow Training in Research.

PhD researchers are mostly referred from our own faculty, where they are already working, with work ethic and academic potential recognized under direct observation of the primary mentor. We accept trainees in basic-translational research, and clinical-translational research (principally Epidemiology, Statistical Genetics, and/or Bioinformatics).

Curricular Features Specifically for PhD postdoctoral trainees:

1. Didactic Coursework and Experiences with Rheumatic Disease Patients.

The PhD trainees participate in the seminars, symposia, journal clubs, and other activities of the program. Moreover, all active T32-funded PhD trainees are required, in their Year 1 of T32 training, to attend/audit the **UCSD SOMC2032 Rheumatology preclinical (second medical school year) course block**, which takes place in the first 2 weeks of each October. There are ~14 hours of lectures and podcasts and team-based learning exercises on the rheumatic diseases, and also a 2 hour clinical session with rheumatic disease patients. Dr. Terkeltaub directs this 16 hour course block, and multiple UCSD T32 and clinical RAI Division faculty teach in this course, including the clinical skills session with patients. In Year 2, the PhD postdocs are now required to have a rheumatic disease **patient observership** (one half day per week for 4 weeks) in the UCSD clinic of 1 of the 4 Adjunct Rheumatologist Clinical Research Faculty of this T32.

2. UCSD CTSA U54 Didactics.

PhD basic-translational and clinical-translational research trainees are encouraged, by their mentoring team, and PD/PI and EC members, to take didactic courses to complement their prior graduate school training, in a manner most relevant to their T32 research training area and career objectives. For example, PhD trainees learning to apply computational biology methods take appropriate CTSA U54 MAS program courses (cited above) in biostatistics and computational methods. PhD clinical-translational research postdocs are encouraged to take specific course offerings (eg, **Bioethics and Medical Practice**).