

Overview: QSI RENU Clinical Scholars Program

Continuous Open Application – *Reviewed Monthly*

Regenerative engineering is an emerging field that combines materials science, stem cell biology, physical sciences, and clinical medicine to develop scalable tools to regenerate or rebuild complex tissues and organs. The [QSI RENU](#) Clinical Scholars Program supports clinical trainees across all postgraduate year (PGY) levels, early-career physicians, and clinician-scientists to transform clinically inspired ideas into regenerative technologies with direct patient impact. Designed to accelerate translational innovation, the program provides scholars with dedicated mentorship, research infrastructure, and access to a highly collaborative interdisciplinary environment.

Program Experience

Scholars will:

- Lead an independent translational research project with clearly defined milestones and deliverables
- Collaborate across engineering, clinical, and translational disciplines
- Access dedicated laboratory space, shared core facilities, and research support within QSI RENU laboratories at Northwestern University's downtown Chicago medical campus
- Contribute to the development of technologies with strong potential for clinical impact

Mentorship Model

Prior to submission, applicants must secure preliminary commitment from two QSI RENU faculty mentors. A list of eligible [faculty](#) can be found here.

Applicants must identify:

- One mentor from the School of Engineering
- One mentor from the School of Medicine

Assistance in matchmaking support or identifying potential mentors may be requested.

Duration and Time Commitment

Scholars participate in a one- to two-year program with flexible start dates to accommodate clinical responsibilities. Applicants must propose and justify their timeline in the application. Protected research time is determined in coordination with the scholar's department and faculty mentors.

Funding and Research Support

Each scholar receives dedicated research support, including:

- Access to QSI RENU laboratory space and shared core facilities
- Research supplies and technical resources
- A discretionary project budget to support proposed research activities

Application Process

Applications are accepted year-round and reviewed monthly, with decisions communicated within 4-6 weeks.

Applicants must submit:

- An online application including a personal statement and a research proposal with a project timeline and milestones
- Curriculum vitae (CV)
- Two letters of support:
 - At least one from a current advisor/mentor
 - Letters must be sent directly by recommenders to **Josefina Serrato** (Josefina.serrato@northwestern.edu)
 - Applications are considered incomplete until both letters are received

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be an early-career clinician or clinician-scientist (e.g., resident, fellow, or early-stage faculty member)
- Propose a project aligned with QSI RENU [research priorities](#)
- Secure mentorship in writing from two QSI RENU faculty advisors representing engineering and medicine

Expected Outcomes

Scholars are expected to generate meaningful translational outputs, which may include:

- Publications
- Preliminary data and results
- Intellectual property
- Clinical or technological prototypes
- Follow-on funding proposals

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Scientific and translational merit
- Clinical relevance and potential impact
- Feasibility and clarity of the proposed approach
- Innovation and interdisciplinary potential

Questions and Submission Information

For program or application inquiries, contact: Josefina.serrato@northwestern.edu

[Apply Here](#)

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