

Clinical Scholar

The designation of Clinical Scholar is a high honor, requiring a review process as rigorous as that used for tenure decisions and promotions, and that is only bestowed by the President of the University. The process for evaluation of candidates for this designation closely parallels that of appointment or promotion on the tenure track. This designation is appropriate for some of the top physician scientists at the Keck School—particularly those who have performed work of considerable impact in clinical and translational research.

General Expectations:

- Candidates are expected to demonstrate excellence in research/scholarship, AND excellence in either teaching OR service, and strength in the remaining category.
- Because excellence in research/scholarship is required, it is expected that within the profile of activities the faculty member has a minimum of 30-40% of their time dedicated to research/scholarship activities.
- Candidates for Clinical Scholar are expected to attract extramural research funding. Overall funding to support research effort (including federal, foundation, pharmaceutical or medical device company funding, for example) will be evaluated. Peer-reviewed federal funding is always valued but not required.
- The candidate must demonstrate recognition at the national level (or international level, as appropriate based on the rank) by experts in his/her field for being an innovator of clinically important research.
- Candidates must demonstrate that their work has a “theme of expertise” (e.g. a long track record of developing treatments for a particular disease or developing new and novel procedures for specific surgical problems).
- Clinical responsibilities may be included as part of Clinical Scholars’ profiles, but are not required. Because of the time commitments for any clinical responsibilities, candidates for the Clinical Scholar designation may not be able to produce the depth and focus of scholarship necessary for tenure with attainment, as principal investigator, of peer reviewed funding support.
- Clinical Scholars are not required to be physicians or practitioners, and may be PhD scientists who devote their efforts to clinical and translational research.
- In recent years, Clinical Scholars at the Keck School have enjoyed some academic benefits that had been previously reserved for tenured faculty.