

Dear Colleague,

The Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) has identified a critical gap in available learning opportunities geared for clinical research staff professionals to equip them with the knowledge, skills and perspectives to harness the power of collective success to advance clinical investigation. The RISE leadership course is a hands-on, didactic and pragmatic career development program to advance mastery of collaborative research leadership. This program will strengthen essential leadership skills including:

- **Fundamental Concepts of Leadership** - Project leadership and teamwork, delegation and accountability and Navigating circumstances with diplomacy
- **Interpersonal Effectiveness** - Emotional Intelligence, Communication and Biases
- **Trust Building** - Critical conversations, Inclusive Intelligence and Conflict Management
- **Building a Community of Practice** - Clinical and Translational Science, Managing Up and Networking

With a mission of mastering collaborative research leadership skills, having a well-trained and competent research management is essential. This program will consist of 10 in-person sessions, 2h each over a 10-week period, to include didactic knowledge transfer and hands-on activities. These sessions are mandatory to receive credit for the completion of this program.

These sessions are scheduled for September 14 – November 16, 2026, each Monday from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Your support of the applicant is key in determining success in the program as well as having the time allotted to attend the training program. Additionally, as a part of this program we will be seeking additional feedback from you regarding the applicant’s progress at six-months following the completion of this program.

Please sign and date below indicating your support of the applicant.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor Signature / Date

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Croker, PhD  
Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Clinical  
Immunology & Rheumatology  
Senior Administrative Director, Center for Clinical and  
Translational Science  
Course Lead, CCTS RISE  
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Kimberly A. Smith, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Family and Community Medicine  
Director of Evaluation, Center for Clinical and  
Translational Science  
University of Alabama at Birmingham