Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award

Institutional Training Grant Awards 2009

Participating Institutions

- National Cancer Institute (NCI), (http://www.nci.nih.gov)
- National Eye Institute (NEI), (http://www.nei.nih.gov)
- National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), (http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov)
- National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), (http://www.nhgri.nih.gov)
- National Institute on Aging (NIA), (http://www.nia.nih.gov)
- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), (http://www.niaaa.nih.gov)
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), (http://www.niaid.nih.gov)
- National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS), (http://www.niams.nih.gov)
- National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB), (http://www.nibib.nih.gov)
- Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), (http://www.nichd.nih.gov)
- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), (http://www.nidcd.nih.gov)
- National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), (http://www.niddk.nih.gov)
- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), (http://www.nida.nih.gov)
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), (http://www.niehs.nih.gov)
- National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), (http://www.nigms.nih.gov)
- National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), (http://www.nimh.nih.gov)
- National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), (http://www.ninds.nih.gov)
- National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), (http://www.ninr.nih.gov/)
- Fogarty International Center (FIC), (http://www.fic.nih.gov/)
- National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM), (http://www.nccam.nih.gov)
- National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), (http://www.ncrr.nih.gov)
- Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS), (http://www.ods.od.nih.gov)

Purpose and Background Information

- The purpose of the NRSA research training program is to help ensure that a diverse and highly trained workforce is available to assume leadership roles related to the Nation's biomedical and behavioral research agenda. The NRSA program has been the primary means of supporting predoctoral and postdoctoral research training programs since enactment of the NRSA legislation in 1974. More information about NRSA programs may be found at http://grants.nih.gov/training/nrsa.htm.

Allowable Costs

- Stipends
  - 2009 Predoctoral NIH Pay Scale: $20,976
- Tuition and Fees
- Trainee Travel
- Training Related Expenses, including Health Insurance
  - 2008 Predoctoral $4,200 annually

Eligibility Information

- Must be citizen or noncitizen national of the United States
- Must have received a baccalaureate degree by the beginning date of their NRSA appointment
- Must be enrolled in a program leading to a Ph.D. in science or in an equivalent research doctoral degree program.
- Submission Dates: January 25, May 25, September 25

Application Components

- Face page
- Summary, relevance, project/performance sites, senior/key personnel, other significant contributers
- Research Grant Table of Contents
- Detailed Budget
- Biographical Sketch
- Resources Format Page
- Personal Data Form Page
- Targeted/Planned Enrollment Table Format Page
- Inclusion Enrollment Report Format Page

Review and Selection Process

- Initial Merit Review
  - Applications with highest scientific merit (generally the top half) will be discussed and assigned a priority score.
  - Each application receives a written critique
  - Each application receives a second level of review
- Considerations
  - Scientific Merit
  - Relevance to program priorities
  - Availability of funds

Evaluation Criteria

- **Training Program:** Are the objectives, design and direction of the proposed research training program appropriate? Does the proposed program provide suitable training for the levels of trainees being proposed and the area of science to be supported by the program? Is the quality of proposed course contents and training experience appropriate for all levels of trainees to be included in the program? Are inter- and multi-disciplinary research training opportunities or novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, or technologies appropriately utilized?

Evaluation Criteria

- **Training Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI):** Does the Training PD/PI have the scientific background, expertise, and experience appropriate to direct, manage, coordinate, and administer the proposed research training program? Does the PD/PI plan to commit adequate time to the program? For applications designating multiple PD/PIs, is the leadership approach, including the designated roles and responsibilities, governance and organizational structure consistent with and justified by the aims of the research training program and the expertise of each of the PD/PIs? Does the PD/PI team bring complementary and integrated expertise to the proposed research training program? Does the leadership plan describe how multiple PD/PIs will benefit the program and the trainees?

Evaluation Criteria

- **Preceptors/Mentors:** Is the caliber of preceptors/mentors as researchers, including successful competition for research support in areas directly related to the proposed research training program appropriate for their role in the training program? Is there a sufficient number of experienced mentors with appropriate expertise and funding available at the applicant institution to support the number of trainees and levels of trainees being proposed in the application?

Evaluation Criteria

- **Past Training Record:** Is the past research training record of the program, the Training PD/PI, and designated preceptors/mentors appropriate? How successful are former trainees in seeking further career development and in establishing productive scientific careers? Is there evidence of successful completion of programs, receipt of subsequent fellowships and/or career awards, further training appointments, and similar accomplishments? Is there evidence of a productive scientific career, such as a record of successful competition for research grants, receipt of special honors or award, a record of publications, receipt of patents, promotion to scientific positions, and any other measure of success consistent with the nature and duration of the training received. What is the track record of proposed mentors in similar research training programs? Is there a record in retaining health-professional postdoctorates (i.e., individuals with the M.D., D.O, D.D.S. D.N.Sc., etc.) for at least 2 years in research training or other research activities, if appropriate?

Evaluation Criteria

- **Institutional Training Environment, Commitment, and Resources:** Is the quality of the research environment for the proposed research training program appropriate? Is the level of institutional commitment, quality of available facilities, courses, research and research training support suitable? Is the proposed program to be an integral component of the applicant institution's overall research program/mission?

Evaluation Criteria

- **Trainee Recruitment, Selection, and Retention Plan:** Are the quality of the applicant pool and plans for the selection and retention of individuals appointed to the training program appropriate? Specifically, what is the size and quality of the applicant pool? Are the recruiting procedures, trainee selection criteria, and retention strategies appropriate and well defined? Are there advertising plans or other effective strategies to recruit high-quality trainees?