



Request for Applications: NCS Research Training Fellowship

Deadline for full grant submission: June 14, 2021

Scientific Merit Review: Grants Review Sub-Committee

Award date: Flexible per investigator, but between 1/1/2022 - 4/1/2022

Earliest start Date: 1/1/2022

Funding Period: 1 year

General Instructions

All documents should be generated using word processing software and then converted to PDF using PDF generating software. No Word documents will be accepted.

Applications must be submitted as a single file and containing ALL the sections indicated in the table below under page limits. ***INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE REVIEWED.***

Please submit your application electronically to info@neurocriticalcare.org with the email title "*Full RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP proposal submission*"

If human subjects or animals are to be enrolled the candidate must submit a copy of the IRB letter of approval prior to receiving the funds. However, such letter is not required with the submission of the application.

File Name

Save all files with descriptive file names starting with your last name followed by the title of your project. For example, "Suarez Rhubarb Juice in Subarachnoid Hemorrhage.pdf"

Font

Prepare the application using Arial or Helvetica typeface in black font color. Font size in each final PDF document must be at least 11 points (or larger).

Paper Size and Page Margins

Final PDF documents should be formatted to be no larger than standard U.S. letter paper size (8 1/2" x 11).

The final PDF document should have at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages.

Page Formatting

Please use only a standard, single-column format for the text.

Figures, Graphs, Diagrams, and Tables

You may use a smaller type size but it must be in a black font color, readily legible, and follow the font typeface requirement. Color can be used in figures; however, all text must be in a black font color, clear and legible.

General Grantsmanship Style

Use Standard American English and avoid jargon. Spell out all abbreviations at the first time they are used and note the appropriate abbreviation in parentheses.

Page Limits

10-page limit including Specific Aims, Candidate's information and Research strategy.

Detailed limits and order of sections as follows:

Section of Grant Application	Strict Page Limit Requirements
Cover Letter	1
Specific Aims	1
Candidate's Information (Candidate's Background, Career Goals and Objectives, and Candidate's Plan for Career Development/ Training Activities During and After Award Period)	3-4
Research Strategy	5
Mentor letters of support by primary Mentor and, if applicable, co-Mentors	Max 4
Letters of Support from Collaborators, Contributors, and Consultants	Max 4
Description of Institutional Environment	1
Institutional Commitment (Chair letter) to Candidate's Research Career Development	1

Biographical Sketch (newest NIH Biosketch Format)	5 pages each for PI, Mentor, and Co-Mentors only
Budget	1
Budget Justification	1

All pages should be numbered in sequential order starting with the Cover Letter.

Page numbers should appear at the bottom center part of the page.

Specific Instructions

Candidate's Background

The candidate is the focus of this award. It is important for the candidate to elucidate their overall career goals and objectives, commitment and plan for developing an academic career. Research time dedicated to this research project must be 75% or more, protected from all other responsibilities (clinical, administrative, teaching). This translates to a maximum of 8-9 weeks of clinical time per calendar year. The candidate must outline how clinical responsibilities will be shared with research time, and how the research time will be protected (Chair commitment). Other parts of this section should contain: a description of the candidate's commitment to an academic career in Neurocritical Care; delineation of all of the candidate's professional responsibilities in the grantee institution and elsewhere and their relationship to the proposed activities on this research fellowship award (if any); presentation of evidence of the candidate's ability to interact and collaborate with other scientists/clinician scientists; description of prior training and how it relates to the objectives and long-term career plans of the candidate; summary of the candidate's research efforts to this point in his/her research career, including any publications, prior research interests and experience; evidence of the candidate's potential to develop into an independent investigator and a plan how this research fellowship may result in the next grant (such as career development awards through NIH, AHA, or other).

Career Goals and Objectives

This section should contain a description of a systematic plan that shows a logical progression from prior research and training experiences to the research and career development experiences that will occur during this research fellowship award period and then to future other larger career development grants, or even independent status. Applicant should outline the career development plan through this grant, including potential courses or other training

the candidate will obtain that line up with the career goals. Participation in training or courses that improve understanding of legal/ethical issues related to human subjects or animal research should be included.

Candidate's Plan for Career Development/Training Activities During Award Period

The candidate and the mentor are responsible for preparing the career development plan. Inclusion of a timeline is encouraged. The mentor, in consultation with the applicant, may form a mentoring team or an advisory committee to help with and oversee the development of the program of study and candidate's progress through the research fellowship. Didactics and research aspects of the plan must be designed to develop the necessary knowledge and research skills in scientific areas relevant to the candidate's career goals.

Plans and Statements of Mentor and Co-mentor(s)

The applicant must choose a primary mentor who, together with the applicant, is responsible for the planning, directing, monitoring, and executing the proposed research plan. Nomination of co-mentors also is allowed as appropriate to the specific goals of the research proposal. The mentor (s) should be recognized as an accomplished investigator in the proposed research area and have a track record of success in training and placing independent investigators. In addition, the mentor (s) should have sufficient independent research support to cover the costs of the proposed research project in excess of the allowable costs of this award. The mentor should provide the following: information on his/her research qualifications and previous experience as a research supervisor; a plan that describes the nature of the supervision and mentoring that will occur during the proposed research fellowship period; a plan for career progression for the candidate; and a plan for monitoring the candidate's research, publications, and progression towards independence. Finally, the mentor should include a statement that the candidate will commit at least 75% of full-time effort. To stay within the page limit, letters written and signed by 2 more co-mentors are permitted.

Letters of Support from Collaborators and Consultants

Applications must contain signed letters from ALL individuals listed as collaborators or consultants confirming their participation in the project and describing their specific roles. Collaborators and consultants do not need to provide their biographical sketches, but information should be provided clearly documenting the appropriate expertise in the proposed

areas of consulting/collaboration. To stay within the page limit, letters written and signed by 2 more individuals are permitted.

Description of Institutional Environment

The institutional environment is extremely important in the success of a candidate. This section should outline the institutions commitment and success in fostering development and continued success of clinician-researchers, including specific information about the facilities and resources that will be available to support the candidate in the award period.

There must be clear documentation that the sponsoring institution has a strong, well-established track record of a research and career development program related to the candidate's area of interest, including a high-quality research environment with key faculty members and other investigators capable of productive collaboration with the candidate. The application must include a clear description of the resources and facilities that will be available and how the institutional research environment is particularly suited for the development of the candidate's research career.

Institutional Commitment to the Candidate's Research Career Development

The application must provide a statement of commitment from the sponsoring institution written by the applicant's departmental chair on his/her letterhead to the candidate's development into a productive, independent investigator and to meeting the requirements of this research fellowship award. It should be clear that the institutional commitment to the candidate is not contingent upon receipt of this research fellowship award. In addition, the sponsoring institution must provide the following assurances: the candidate will be able to *devote a minimum of 75% of full-time professional effort to research activities associated with this research fellowship award, which must translate to no more than 8-9 weeks of clinical, teaching and administrative time per calendar year*; the candidate will be provided with appropriate office and laboratory space, equipment, and other resources and facilities (including access to clinical and/or other research populations) as necessary to carry out the proposed research project; and that mentor(s) and other key staff will be provided appropriate time and support consistent with the career development plan.

Research Strategy

A sound research project that is consistent with the candidate's level of research development and objectives of his/her career development plan must be provided. The research description should demonstrate not only the quality of the candidate's research thus far but also the

impact, significance, innovation, creativity and approach, as well as the ability of the candidate to carry out the proposed research within the 1-year funding period. The application should also describe the relationship between the mentor's research and the candidate's proposed research plan.

Budget

The maximum award, including indirect costs up to 10%, will be \$77,000. The budget proposed should include salary support for the applicant and training activities that will contribute to his/her development to the next level of research and potentially to an independent investigator. It must not be used for mentor, collaborator, consultant or contributor salaries or fees. The award must be spent within period of the award notice, with a no-cost extension permissible with appropriate justification. The budget may be used for up to \$5,000 to allow for purchase of equipment or computer software. Up to an additional \$5,000 may be used for travel to research-related events and conferences. The award cannot be used to support clinical fellowship, graduate school or residency training.

Eligibility Criteria:

The study PI must be an active NCS member in good standing. Members in their early career stages (within 10 years after their last degree) are eligible to apply and must be at the Instructor or Assistant Professor level at the time of the award. In-training applicants may apply during training, but at the time of award the applicant must be in the early post-training professional career (Instructor or Assistant Professor level). Additional awards from other sources are permissible, except NIH K-awards. All healthcare professionals providing neurocritical care in different roles, including physicians, advanced practitioners, nurses, pharmacists, and PhD-scientists are encouraged to apply.

For all questions related to this RFA, please email

info@neurocriticalcare.org
