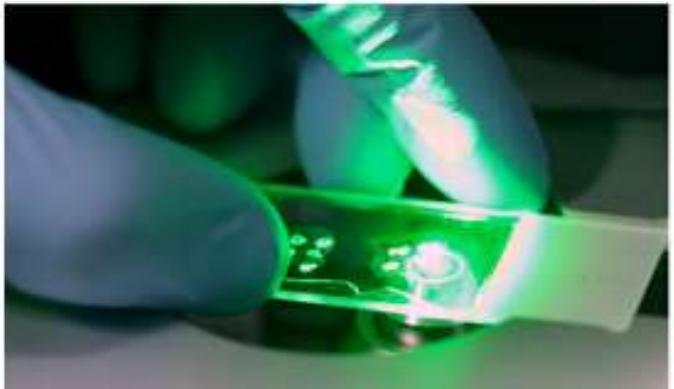
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

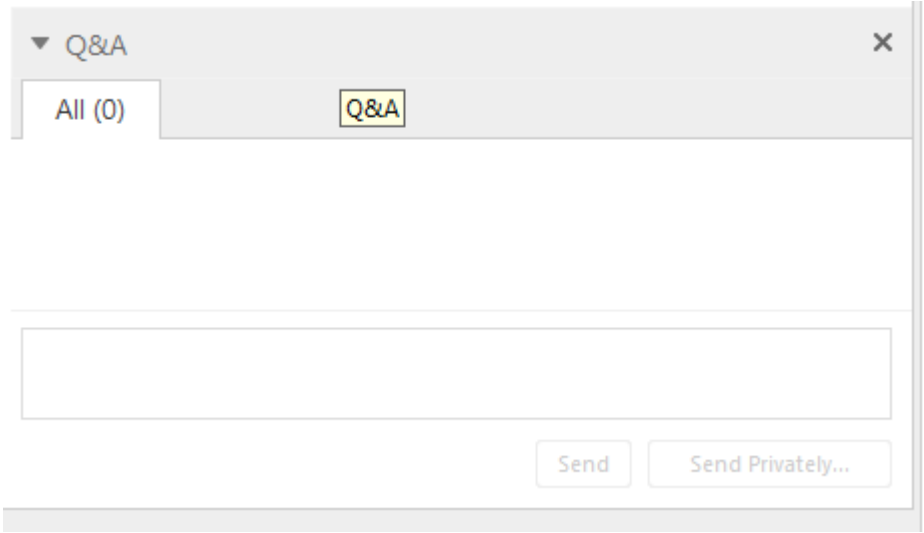
Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award Individual Predoctoral Fellowship to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research (Parent F31 - Diversity)

June 18, 2019



Questions

- You will be muted during the webinar
- Type your questions into the Q&A box and we will answer them at the end of the webinar



Outline

- Introductions
- Overview of the Diversity Predoctoral Fellowship (F31)
- The review process
- Application components
- Q&A

Speakers

Michelle Jones-London, PhD
Chief
OPEN, NINDS

Susan Gillmor, PhD
Scientific Review Officer
Center for Scientific Review

Marguerite Matthews, PhD
Health Program Specialist
OPEN, NINDS

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Introduction to OPEN & Overview of the Predoctoral Fellowship to Promote Diversity

Michelle Jones-London, PhD
Chief, OPEN
NINDS

The NINDS Diversity Office is "OPEN"

- The goal of the **Office of Programs to Enhance Neuroscience Workforce Diversity** is to *open* opportunities and access to enhance the diversity of the neuroscience workforce.
- We work across the NINDS scientific portfolio to promote inclusion, and develop and implement diversity-specific funding opportunities (individual and institutional).

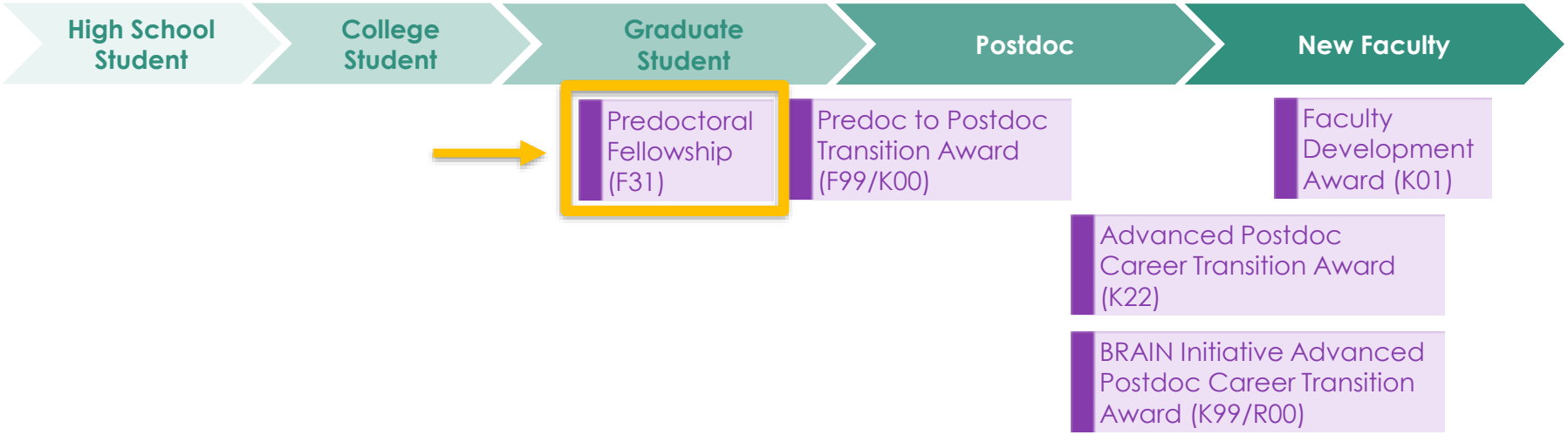
Michelle Jones-London, Ph.D.
Chief
OPEN

Marguerite Matthews, Ph.D.
Health Program Specialist

Lauren Ullrich, Ph.D.
Scientific Program Manager

Neuroscience Diversity Programs

Individuals training and career development programs that support those underrepresented in biomedical research.



Diversity and Re-entry Research Supplements:

- General parent awards
- BRAIN Initiative awards
- Alzheimer's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease-Related Dementias (AD/ADRD) Initiative awards
- Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) awards

For more information:
Visit ninds.nih.gov/About-NINDS/Workforce-Diversity
Follow twitter.com/NINDSDiversity

Diversity Predoc Fellowship (F31)

The Ruth L. Kirschstein National Service Award (NRSA) ***Individual Predoctoral Fellowship to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research (F31)*** will enable promising underrepresented predoctoral students to obtain individualized, mentored research training from outstanding faculty sponsors while conducting well-defined research projects

Diversity F31 Eligibility

- US citizen or permanent resident only
- For the purpose of this announcement, institutions are encouraged to recruit potential student participants from diverse backgrounds, such as:
  - Groups, shown by the NSF, to be nationally underrepresented in health-related sciences: *Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders*.
  - Individuals with disabilities, such as a *physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities*.
  - Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, this category refers to the financial and educational background of individuals, particularly before graduating from high school, while residing in the United States.
- Must be pursuing a PhD or equivalent research degree, or a combined professional and research doctoral degree in biomedical, behavioral, health services, or clinical sciences (e.g. MD/PhD)
- Must be within first 6 years of graduate school

Award Details

- Duration of support:
  - Up to 5 years of aggregate NRSA predoctoral support (up to 6 years for dual degree training, e.g., MD/PhD), including any combination of support from institutional training grants (T32) and an individual fellowship award
- Award budget:
  - Stipend
  - Tuition and fees
  - Institutional allowance (health insurance, research supplies, equipment, books, and travel to scientific meetings)

Choosing between the General F31 and the Diversity F31

- NINDS supports both the General F31 and the Diversity F31
  - Diversity F31 is for students underrepresented in biomedical research
  - Diversity F31 funding rates are similar to the General F31
- Differences are based on career stage of the applicant
  - General F31: Applicants must be candidates for the PhD degree and have identified a dissertation research project and sponsor(s).
  - Diversity F31: Applicants may apply at any time, applications are encouraged once an applicant has identified a specific research project that will be undertaken in the sponsor's laboratory. This often occurs in the second year of a PhD program.
- You can not send the same grant to both programs and cannot apply for both at the same time
- You (and your mentor) must determine which funding mechanism is best/most appropriate for you

Before You Start…

1. **Define your career goals.** Explicitly define your career goals and area of research interest.
2. **Outline the techniques, skills, knowledge, and relationships necessary to achieve your career goals.** Describe the scientific and professional skills you will need to prepare for completing your dissertation and beyond.
3. **Perform a skills "gap analysis."** What skills from the above description have you already mastered? What skills need to be developed/improved?
4. **Define your research plan.** How will your research build off your existing strengths to provide you with skills, techniques, and data that will facilitate your success?
5. **Design a training plan that is tailored to your needs.** What activities will you perform to develop your professional skills?
6. **Assess the guidance and mentorship needed.** What will you learn from your sponsor/mentor; are all your areas of development covered?

Write a Draft with Reviewers in Mind

- Check what you have written against the **Scored Review Criteria**
  - Applicant
  - Sponsors, Collaborators, and Consultants
  - Research Training Plan
  - Training Potential
  - Institutional Environment & Commitment to Training
- Reviewers consider each of the review criteria above in the determination of scientific merit, and give a separate score for each.

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Diversity F31 Review Criteria

Susan Gillmor, PhD
Scientific Review Officer
Center for Scientific Review

Prior to the Review Meeting

- Your SRO assigns three reviewers with broad scientific backgrounds to your application
- Reviewers receive your application 5-6 weeks in advance of the meeting
- Reviewers assess each application prior to the meeting
  - Overall impact score
  - Criterion scores for each of the 5 Core Review Criteria
  - A written critique that identifies strengths and weaknesses of the application that drove their score

The Review Meeting

- About 60-100 applications are normally reviewed at each study section meeting
  - For General F31 applications, only about half (those with higher scores) will be discussed
  - For Diversity F31 applications, *all* applications will be discussed
- For applications that are discussed, the 3 assigned reviewers present their impressions and scores
  - Remaining panel members participate in discussion
  - Everyone on the panel provides scores

Application Scoring

Impact	Score	Descriptor
High Impact	1	Exceptional
	2	Outstanding
	3	Excellent
Medium Impact	4	Very Good
	5	Good
	6	Satisfactory
Low Impact	7	Fair
	8	Marginal
	9	Poor

Scored review criteria

- Fellowship Applicant
- Sponsors, Collaborators and Consultants
- Research Training Plan
- Training Potential
- Institutional Environment & Commitment to Training

Application Scoring

Impact	Score	Descriptor
High Impact	1	Exceptional
	2	Outstanding
	3	Excellent
Medium Impact	4	Very Good
	5	Good
	6	Satisfactory
Low Impact	7	Fair
	8	Marginal
	9	Poor

- High value/benefit of training to applicant
- High potential for applicant to develop into a productive, independent scientists
- Some or no weakness in criteria

- Moderate to high value/benefit of training to applicant
- Moderate to high potential for applicant to develop further
- Weaknesses reduce to medium impact

- Low to moderate value/benefit of training to applicant
- Low to moderate potential for applicant to develop further
- Weaknesses reduce to low impact

Review Criteria

Applicant

- Are the applicant's academic record and research experience of high quality?
- Does the applicant have the potential to develop into an independent and productive researcher?
- Does the applicant demonstrate commitment to a research career in the future?

Review Criteria

Sponsors, Collaborators, and Consultants

- Are the sponsor(s') research qualifications and track record of mentoring individuals at a similar stage appropriate for the applicant's needs?
- Do the applicant's research interests match the sponsor(s)? Do(es) the sponsor(s) understand the applicant's training needs and show commitment to assist in meeting those needs?
- Is there adequate funding to support the applicant's proposed research and training for the duration of the research component of the fellowship?

Review Criteria

Research Training Plan

- Is the research project of high scientific quality and well integrated with the proposed training plan?
- Is the proposed research project sufficiently distinct from the sponsor's funded research, and consistent with the applicant's stage of research development?
- Is the time frame feasible to accomplish the proposed training?

Review Criteria

Training Potential

- Are the proposed research project and training plan likely to provide the applicant with the requisite individualized and mentored experiences in order to obtain appropriate skills for a research career?
- Does the training plan take advantage of the applicant's strengths and address gaps in needed skills, and document a clear need for, and value of, the proposed training?
- Will the proposed training enhance the applicant's ability to develop into a productive researcher?

Review Criteria

Institutional Environment & Commitment to Training

- Are the research facilities, resources (e.g., equipment, laboratory space, computer time, subject populations), and training opportunities (e.g. seminars, workshops, professional development opportunities) adequate and appropriate?
- Is the institutional environment for the applicant's scientific development of high quality?
- Is there appropriate institutional commitment to fostering the applicant's mentored training.

Additional Review Criteria

- As applicable for the project proposed, reviewers will evaluate the following additional items while determining scientific and technical merit, and in providing an overall impact score, but will not give separate scores for these items.
  - Protections for Human Subjects
  - Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Individuals Across the Lifespan
  - Vertebrate Animals
  - Biohazards
  - Resubmissions

After the Meeting…

Your Scientific Review Officer (SRO) will:

- Release the scores
- Prepare and release summary statements
- Provide information to NIH Institutes and Centers

You should:

- Check the status of your application in eRA Commons
- Contact your Program Officer *after* you have received your summary statement

Summary Statements

- Contains:
  - Scores for each of 5 review criterion from 3 assigned reviewers
  - Critiques from 3 assigned reviewers
  - An overall impact/priority score and percentile ranking (only for discussed applications*)
  - A written summary of the review discussion (only for discussed applications*)

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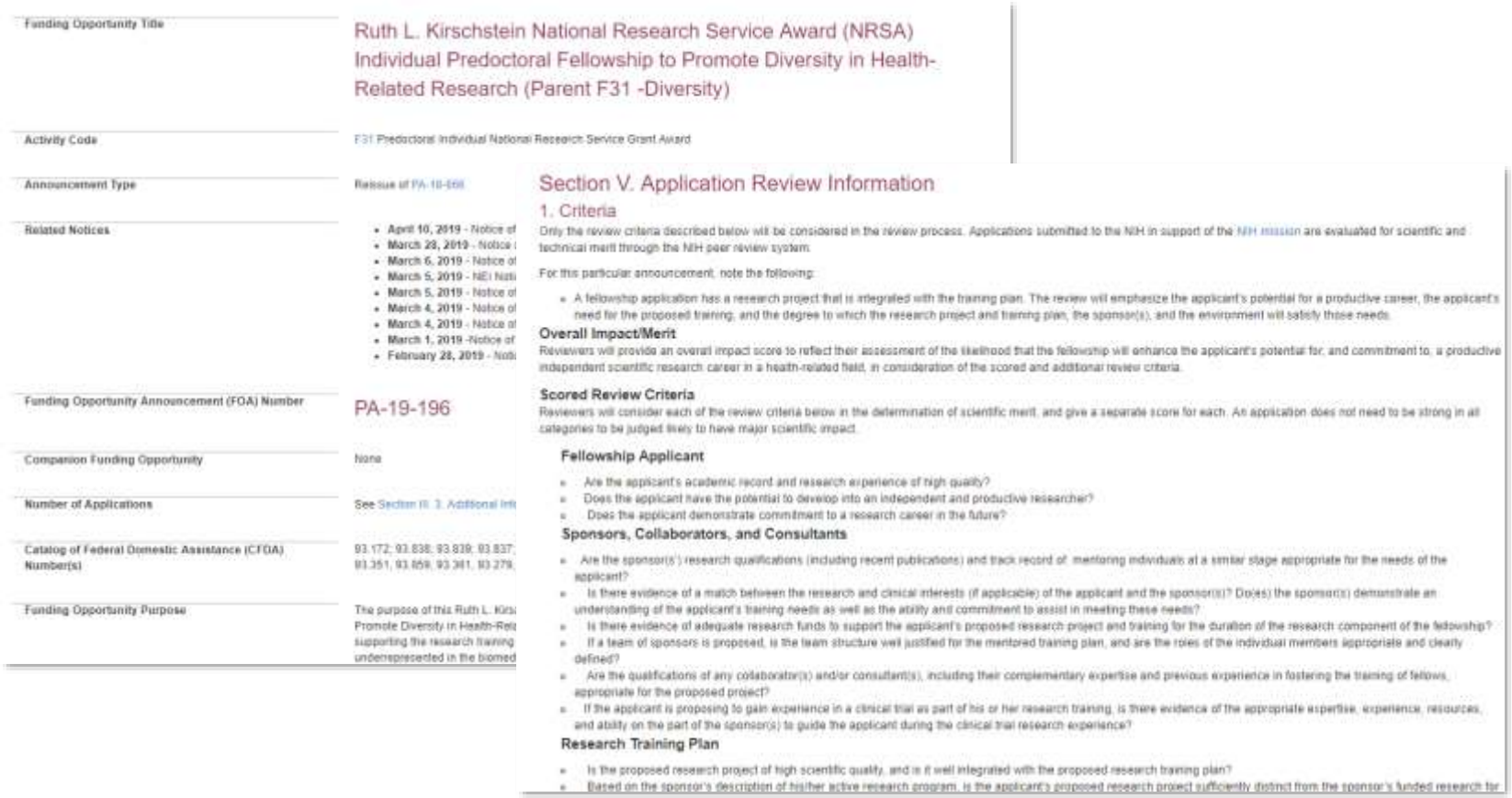
Diversity F31 Application Components

Marguerite Matthews, PhD
Health Program Specialist
OPEN @ NINDS

General Guidance

- Read the entire FOA carefully, paying special attention to the review criteria (Section V)



Funding Opportunity Title

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Predoctoral Fellowship to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research (Parent F31 -Diversity)

Activity Code

F31 Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Grant Award

Announcement Type

Reissue of PA-18-866

Related Notices

- April 10, 2019 - Notice of
- March 28, 2019 - Notice
- March 6, 2019 - Notice of
- March 5, 2019 - NEI Noti
- March 5, 2019 - Notice of
- March 4, 2019 - Notice of
- March 4, 2019 - Notice of
- March 1, 2019 -Notice of
- February 28, 2019 - Noti

Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Number

PA-19-196

Companion Funding Opportunity

None

Number of Applications

See Section III. 3. Additional Info

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number(s)

93.172, 93.838, 93.839, 93.837, 93.351, 93.859, 93.361, 93.279,

Funding Opportunity Purpose

The purpose of this Ruth L. Kirs Promote Diversity in Health-Rel supporting the research training underrepresented in the biomed

Section V. Application Review Information

1. Criteria

Only the review criteria described below will be considered in the review process. Applications submitted to the NIH in support of the NIH mission are evaluated for scientific and technical merit through the NIH peer review system.

For this particular announcement, note the following:

- A fellowship application has a research project that is integrated with the training plan. The review will emphasize the applicant's potential for a productive career, the applicant's need for the proposed training, and the degree to which the research project and training plan, the sponsor(s), and the environment will satisfy those needs.

Overall Impact/Merit

Reviewers will provide an overall impact score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood that the fellowship will enhance the applicant's potential for, and commitment to, a productive independent scientific research career in a health-related field, in consideration of the scored and additional review criteria.

Scored Review Criteria

Reviewers will consider each of the review criteria below in the determination of scientific merit, and give a separate score for each. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific impact.

Fellowship Applicant

- Are the applicant's academic record and research experience of high quality?
- Does the applicant have the potential to develop into an independent and productive researcher?
- Does the applicant demonstrate commitment to a research career in the future?

Sponsors, Collaborators, and Consultants

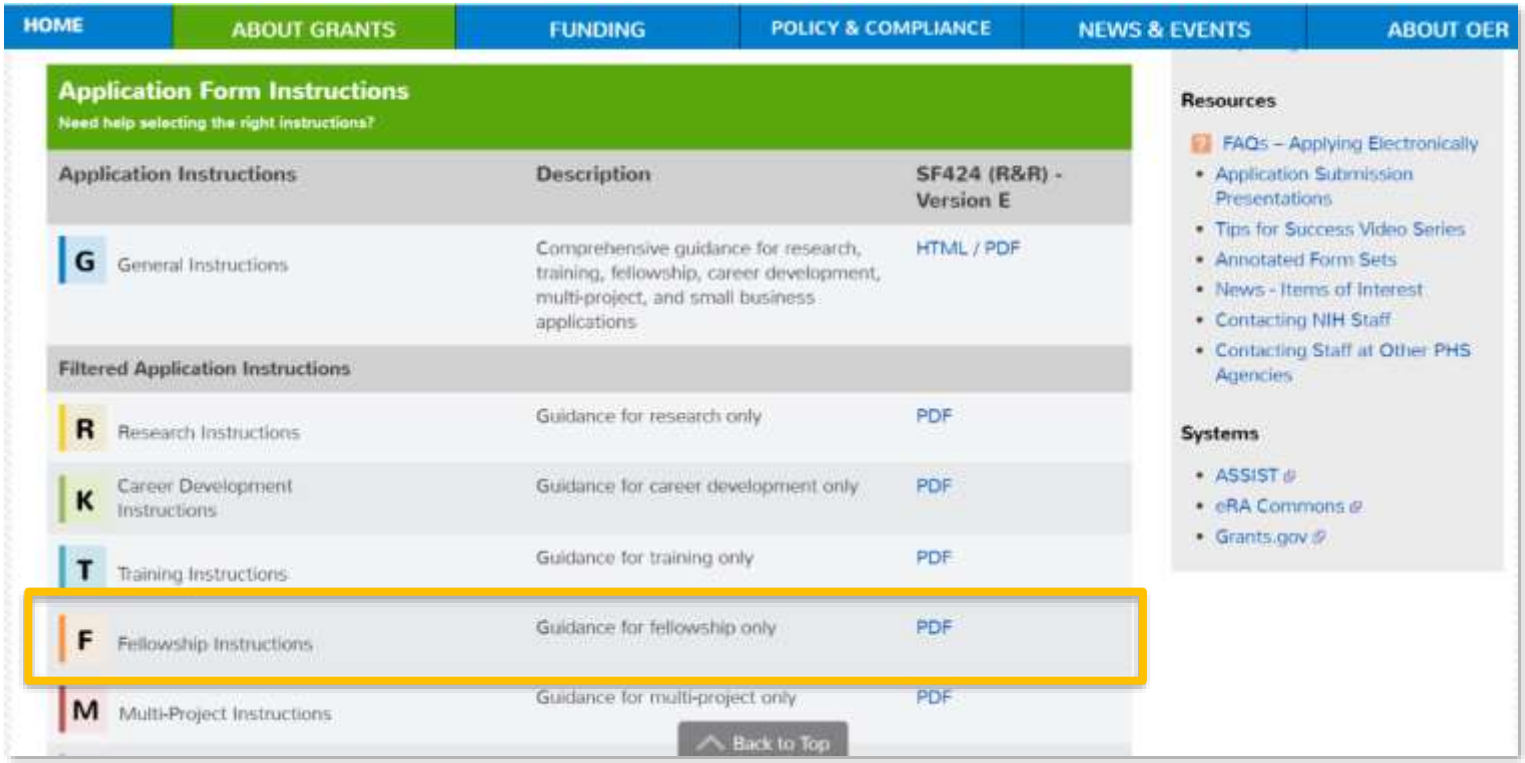
- Are the sponsor(s)' research qualifications (including recent publications) and track record of mentoring individuals at a similar stage appropriate for the needs of the applicant?
- Is there evidence of a match between the research and clinical interests (if applicable) of the applicant and the sponsor(s)? Do(es) the sponsor(s) demonstrate an understanding of the applicant's training needs as well as the ability and commitment to assist in meeting these needs?
- Is there evidence of adequate research funds to support the applicant's proposed research project and training for the duration of the research component of the fellowship?
- If a team of sponsors is proposed, is the team structure well justified for the mentored training plan, and are the roles of the individual members appropriate and clearly defined?
- Are the qualifications of any collaborator(s) and/or consultant(s), including their complementary expertise and previous experience in fostering the training of fellows, appropriate for the proposed project?
- If the applicant is proposing to gain experience in a clinical trial as part of his or her research training, is there evidence of the appropriate expertise, experience, resources, and ability on the part of the sponsor(s) to guide the applicant during the clinical trial research experience?

Research Training Plan

- Is the proposed research project of high scientific quality, and is it well integrated with the proposed research training plan?
- Based on the sponsor's description of his/her active research program, is the applicant's proposed research project sufficiently distinct from the sponsor's funded research for

General Guidance

- Read and follow the Fellowship (F) Instructions of the SF424 Application Guide



Grants Application Package

There are several options to submit your application to the agency through Grants.gov. You can use the ASSIST system to prepare, submit and track your application online. You can download an application package from Grants.gov, complete the forms offline, submit the completed forms to Grants.gov and track your application in eRA Commons. Or, you can use other institutional system-to-system solutions to prepare and submit your application to Grants.gov and track your application in eRA Commons. Learn more.

Apply Online Using ASSIST **Apply Using Downloadable Forms**

Problems accessing or using ASSIST should be directed to the eRA Service Desk.
Problems downloading forms should be directed to Grants.gov Customer Support.

Biosketch

A. Personal Statement
B. Positions and Honors
C. Contributions to Science
   - Briefly describe up to five contributions
   - Up to 4 publications or research products per contribution
D. Additional Information: Research Support and/or Scholastic Performance

Biosketch

OMB No. 0925-0001 and 0925-0002 (Rev. 09/17 Approved Through 03/31/2020)

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors.
Follow this format for each person. **DO NOT EXCEED FIVE PAGES.**

NAME: Robertson-Chang, Leilani

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login): RobertsonL

POSITION TITLE: Graduate Student Research Assistant

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE *(if applicable)*	START DATE MM/YYYY	END DATE MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
Swarthmore College	BA	08/2008	05/2012	Biology
UC San Diego	PHD	08/2012	05/2018	Molecular Biology

A. Personal Statement

My long term research interests involve the development of a comprehensive understanding of key developmental pathways and how alterations in gene expression contribute to human disease. My academic training and research experience to date have provided me with an excellent background in molecular biology and microbiology. While in high school I was awarded an NIH Diversity Supplement award to work as a research technician for two summers in Dr. Indira Creative's lab at the University of Hawaii. As an undergraduate at Swarthmore College, I conducted research with Dr. Xavier Factor on the mechanisms of action of a new class of antibiotics. This resulted in a co-authorship publication, as well as an invitation to present a poster at the annual Antibiotica meeting in Denver, Colorado. For my graduate training at UC San Diego, I have moved into the fields of genetics and biochemistry by studying the regulation of transcription in yeast, under Dr. Tanti Auguri. Dr. Auguri is an internationally recognized leader in the field of yeast genetics and has an extensive record for training predoctoral and postdoctoral fellows. Along with giving me new conceptual and technical training, the proposed training plan outlines a set of career development activities and workshops – e.g. public speaking, literature analysis, biomedical ethics, and career options. For my initial project I am currently developing a novel protocol for the purification for components of large transcription complexes which I hope to submit as a first author publication in the next few months. As a native Hawaiian, I am the first in my family to graduate from college so I am excited to keep pushing forward with my education. Overall, I feel that my choice of sponsor, research project, and the training I will get from this fellowship will give me a solid foundation for my long-term goal to become an academic researcher.

1. Robertson-Chang L, Factor X. Testing the ability of antibiotic Gen Y to kill Gram-negative bacteria. Antibiotica annual meeting; 2011 September; Denver, CO.

- **Personal Statement:**
  - Describe your interests and why you are well-suited for your role in your project
  - Relevant factors to your training; previous work on this specific topic or related topics; technical expertise; collaborators or scientific environment; and/or past performance in this or related fields
  - Explain factors that may have affected your past productivity (i.e. family care responsibilities, illness, disability, military service, etc.)

Applicant's Background and Goals for Fellowship Training

- Doctoral Dissertation and Research Experience
- Training Goals and Objectives
- Activities Planned Under this Award

Applicant's Background and Goals for Fellowship Training

- **Doctoral Dissertation and Research Experience**
  - Summarize your past research experience, results, and conclusions
  - Describe how that experience relates to the proposed fellowship
  - Proposed fellowship may (1) build directly on previous research experiences, results, and conclusions, or (2) past research experiences may lead a candidate to apply for a fellowship in a new or different area of research

Applicant's Background and Goals for Fellowship Training

- **Training Goals and Objectives**
  - Describe your overall training goals for the duration of the fellowship and how the proposed fellowship will enable the attainment of these goals
  - Identify the skills, theories, conceptual approaches, etc. to be learned or enhanced during the award period
  - Discuss how the proposed research will facilitate your transition to the next career stage, if applicable

Applicant's Background and Goals for Fellowship Training

- **Activities Planned Under this Award**
  - Describe, by year, the activities (research, coursework, professional development, etc.) you will be involved in during the proposed award and estimate the percentage of time to be devoted to each activity (percentage should total 100 for each year)
  - Describe the research skills and techniques that you intend to learn during the award period
  - Provide a timeline detailing the proposed research training and professional development for the duration of the fellowship award

Research Training Plan Section

- **Specific Aims**
- **Research Strategy**
- Respective Contributions
- Selection of Sponsor and Institution
- Progress Report Publication List
- Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research

Specific Aims

- State the goal(s) of the proposed research
- List specific objectives of the proposed research
  - Test a stated hypothesis, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology, etc
- Summarize the expected outcome(s) and the impact that results of the proposed research will have on the research field

Research Strategy

- **Significance**
  - Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress that the proposed project addresses
  - Describe how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge and/or technical capability in one or more broad fields
  - Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, etc. that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved

Research Strategy

- **Approach**
  - Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project
  - Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims
  - If the project is in early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high risk aspects of the proposed work

Sponsor and Co-Sponsor Statements

- To be provided by the sponsor and each co-sponsor (if applicable), addressing each of the following:
  - Research Support Available
  - Sponsor's/Co-Sponsor's Previous Fellows/Trainees
  - Training Plan, Environment, Research Facilities
  - Number of Fellows/Trainees to be Supervised During the Fellowship
  - Applicant's Qualifications and Potential for a Research Career

Letters of Reference

- Start NOW on obtaining letters of reference
  - Referees should not be directly involved in the application (not sponsor or co-sponsor)
  - 3 minimum, 5 maximum
  - **Provide explicit instructions to your referees**
- Check the status of the letters often
  - Late letters are not accepted
  - If letters are missing, application will not be reviewed

How to Apply - Application Guide » Submission Process » Reference Letters

Letters of Reference

- What should your letters of reference say about you?
  - Current work and future plans
  - Skills and strengths
  - Your potential to succeed
- What information will help your referees speak to your strengths and goals?
  - CV/Biosketch
  - Link to the FOA to which you are applying
  - Description of your current work and future plans

Next Steps

Confirm your eligibility.

Work with your mentor to prepare a competitive application by August 8.

Receive feedback, revise your work, and re-watch this webinar as necessary.

The Big Picture…

- This is a fantastic opportunity to design a thoughtful plan for your future research and career pathway – the money is secondary
- Your application should be tailored to YOU and your interests, strengths, and training needs
- This should be a collaborative effort between you and your research mentor(s)
- Tell a compelling story that justifies the investment regarding research significance and your potential as a researcher

Points of Contact

Michelle Jones-London, PhD
jonesmiche@ninds.nih.gov

Marguerite Matthews, PhD
marguerite.matthews@nih.gov

Q&A

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