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Subject: Jointly Sponsored Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award Institutional Predoctoral Training Program in the Neurosciences (T32)

Date: April 22, 2015

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact Corey Ford at 272-6950 for more information.

The JSPTPN financially supports a program of broad-based education and research experience during the first two years of graduate training. As such, training programs supported by a JSPTPN training grant must have a comprehensive, two year training plan. Individual programs may choose, however, to use funds from this award to support students for either two years or just a single year. Trainees are expected to participate in a predoctoral curriculum that provides broad and fundamental training in the neurosciences. This curriculum should include education in multiple levels of analysis (which may include, for example, genetic, molecular, cellular, systems, behavior and/or computational; note that not all programs will necessarily cover all levels of analysis, but there must be enough coverage to be considered adequate for an broad understanding of neurobiological function and the technologies used for neuroscience research). In addition, programs are encouraged to expose students to basic, clinical and translational research approaches, and should provide significant exposure to the neuroscience of disease and disorders. It is critical that students obtain a thorough understanding of experimental design, including the principles of experimental rigor (see http://www.ninds.nih.gov/funding/transparency_in_reporting_guidance.pdf , http://www.nature.com/news/policy-nih-plans-to-enhance-reproducibility-1.14586 , http://www.nih.gov/about/reporting-preclinical-research.htm) through formal training activities (note that, although some of these examples focus on preclinical and clinical research, the principles are important, and applicable training is necessary, for all research). Programs should ensure that students have a solid understanding of statistics appropriate for neuroscience research, and should provide students with broad exposure to experimental methodologies, as success in future neuroscience research is likely to depend upon a working knowledge of multiple methodological approaches to answering scientific questions. Programs are strongly encouraged to engage students in quantitative approaches to research, which may include quantitative problem-solving, an introduction to programming, exercises in quantitative analysis of experimental research, and/or other didactic or hands-on activities that will enhance student understanding of the value of quantitative approaches to answering scientific questions.

The overall goal of the NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) program is to help ensure that a diverse pool of highly trained scientists is available in appropriate scientific disciplines to address the Nation's biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research needs. In order to accomplish this goal, NRSA training programs are designed to train individuals to conduct research and to prepare for research careers. More information about NRSA programs may be found at the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/url_redirect.htm.?id=41125 website.This jointly sponsored funding opportunity is designed to support outstanding neuroscience programs that will provide students with the skills and knowledge necessary for successful pursuit of careers as independent scientists. Institutional research training grants must be used to support a program of full-time research training. The program may not be used to support studies leading to the M.D., D.D.S., or other clinical, health professional training.

LOI due date: May 11, 2015. (30 days prior to application date. LOI is recommended but not required.)
Full application due date: June 10, 2015.
Earliest start date: April 2016. Project period: Up to 5 years.

Award Budget: The number of awards is contingent upon NIH appropriations and the submission of a sufficient number of meritorious applications. Application budgets are not limited, but need to reflect the actual needs of the proposed project. Indirect Costs (also known as Facilities & Administration) are reimbursed at 8% of modified total direct costs (exclusive of tuition and fees, consortium costs in excess of $25,000, and expenditures for equipment), rather than on the basis of a negotiated rate agreement. No cost sharing is required.

For more details about this opportunity, please see: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-15-178.html

This is a limited competition. Only one application per institution (normally identified by having a unique DUNS number or NIH IPF number) is allowed. Please submit your 3-page preproposal (plus budget and CV; all documents in a SINGLE PDF file, 11 point font) by NOON on Wednesday, May 6, 2015 to limited@unm.edu with the subject line indicating: NIH PAR-15-178 - your name. No late submissions will be considered. The pre-proposal should address the major points that will be included in the proposal narrative (including: 1) Relate the strengths, leadership and administrative skills, training experience, scientific expertise, and active research of the PD/PIs to the proposed management of the training program. Describe the planned strategy and administrative structure to be used to oversee and monitor the program. 2) Provide an overview of the proposed program. Outline the objectives of the program and the program activities that will be used to meet these objectives. Describe for whom the training program is intended, including the training level(s) of the trainees, the academic and research background needed to pursue the proposed training, and, as appropriate, plans to accommodate differences in preparation among trainees. 3.) Describe a plan to review and determine the quality and effectiveness of the training program.) The narrative should be accompanied by a **draft budget overview** and an **abbreviated PI CV.** The scoring will be weighted as follows: proposal narrative (70%), draft budget overview (15%), and abbreviated PI CV (15%).

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact Monica Fishel (mlfishel@unm.edu) or Allison Hagerman (alphao@unm.edu).