



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS NIH INTRAMURAL FELLOWSHIPS TO PROMOTE DIVERSITY SPRING 2008

A major mission of the NIH Intramural Program is to train the current and next generation of biomedical researchers to tackle increasingly complex, multidisciplinary problems in human health and disease. To succeed in this mission, we must significantly increase the diversity of intramural trainees, especially at the doctoral and postdoctoral level. To expand our efforts to build an inclusive workforce, the NIH Office of Intramural Training & Education (OITE), Office of Intramural Research (OIR), Office of the Director, will provide competitive fellowships to encourage recruitment of and support for trainees from under-represented groups. US Citizens and Permanent Residents eligible for NIH Intramural Fellowships to Promote Diversity (IFPD) awards will include doctoral students in the NIH Graduate Partnerships Program (GPP) and postdoctoral fellows who come from groups underrepresented in the biomedical and behavioral sciences. Such candidates include:

- 1) Individuals from under-represented racial and ethnic groups,
- 2) Individuals with disabilities and,
- 3) Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds

While all tenure-track and tenured investigators in the NIH Intramural Research Program are potential mentors, the awarding of one of these fellows will be in recognition of strong scientific review and an excellent mentoring record. The application process will include a rigorous evaluation of the mentor's training record and require a comprehensive training plan written by the mentor on behalf of the trainee. IFPD awards will include full stipend support, health insurance, limited tuition support (for predoctoral fellows) and an educational allowance of \$3,000. This allowance will supplement, but not replace, travel funds provided by the individual mentor. IFPD fellows will be expected to select a secondary mentor outside of the lab and to participate in monthly IFPD meetings organized by the OITE. Initial IFPD funding will be for one-year but awards may be renewed for a second year pending evaluation of appropriate scientific and career development progress.

Applications will be evaluated on a rolling basis. To apply, applicants should submit the following documents to the Office of Intramural Training & Education, Building 2, Room 2E04, Attn: Dr. Sharon L. Milgram:

1. A brief cover letter describing the applicant's interest in the IFPD
2. A CV with a full list of presentations and publications
3. A research plan describing the research to be conducted during the applicant's postdoctoral experience (maximum of 5 pages)

4. A career development plan detailing experiences that are specifically planned for the fellow including classes, seminars, and opportunities for interaction with other groups and scientists, and how these will assist the applicant in achieving his/her research goals. The career plan should indicate the relationship of the proposed research training to the candidate's career goals and describe the skills (both at and away from the bench) and techniques that the candidate will learn.
5. Two letters of recommendation submitted in sealed envelopes; the NIH mentor should not submit a letter of recommendation on behalf of the applicant.
6. A letter from the NIH mentor describing in detail his/her commitment to and proposed role in guiding the individual applicant during the research training experience. The NIH mentor must provide evidence of previous outstanding mentorship of graduate students and/or fellows. In addition, the mentor should describe the research environment and available facilities and equipment and discuss the relationship of the proposed research training to the candidate's career goals.