



NIH & Oxford & Cambridge Scholars Program

Dear Colleague,

Thanks for your interest in the **NIH-Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program**, an accelerated, international, and individualized doctoral program in partnership with the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge (United Kingdom). It is open to exceptional students in the field of biomedical research and to all intramural laboratories at the NIH and biomedical research faculty at Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Students admitted to the program typically design an innovative Ph.D. project, with co-mentorship by at least one NIH and one U.K. university principal investigator. The thesis research pursued by these students results in the development of interesting interdisciplinary collaborative projects carried out both at the NIH and the U.K. You can see more about the program at the program website <http://oxcam.gpp.nih.gov> and an introduction for new mentors at <http://oxcam.gpp.nih.gov/mentorsAdvisors/progIntro.asp>

The best way to recruit a student to your lab is to post a prospective project to a searchable database of student projects at <http://fmp-8.cit.nih.gov/oxcam/>. I encourage you to contact your academic friends/collaborators at the University of Cambridge or Oxford and post a potential joint research project on our on-line database using the following link: <http://fmp-8.cit.nih.gov/oxcam/add1.php>. You can also post a 'solo' project that students may link with one at the other site later.

If you already have a project in the database please check your listing(s) at <http://fmp-8.cit.nih.gov/oxcam/> to ensure that the information is up to date. Please e-mail me an updated project description at Stefan.Muljo@nih.gov. At this time, our database can only accommodate NIH-Oxford and NIH-Cambridge collaborations. However, we maintain an informal database for other collaborations in UK/Ireland that qualify for the NIH-Wellcome Trust Partnership Program. Please e-mail me if you have a potential partnership that qualifies and we will forward these project descriptions to incoming NIH-Wellcome Trust Scholars.

Questions about who pays for the training of these students often come up. The NIH faculty member is responsible for the student's stipend at pre-doc IRTA levels, health insurance (\$4,500/year) and travel support (recommended \$3,000/year) for the duration of the student's enrollment (average 4.1 years). The program pays for all tuition and fees centrally by collecting from each IC. In some IC's (e.g. NIAMS, VRC), a portion of these central costs may be passed on to the NIH lab. Historically, this small investment has paid large dividends for many NIH-OxCam mentors. You can find additional information about program finances and download a detailed costing sheet at <http://oxcam.gpp.nih.gov/mentorsAdvisors/progFunding.asp>. The majority of students who enter this program have extensive research experience as undergraduates and their

average college GPA is 3.9/4.0. In addition, a growing number of students (1/4 of the class of 2009) have scholarships that cover all or part of their stipends in the U.K. (eg. Wellcome Trust, Rhodes, Marshall, Gates, and Churchill Foundation). This year, the program received over 300 applications, giving us a large pool of top quality students from which to choose.

In closing, if you are interested in recruiting a talented NIH-OxCam student, I urge you to advertise a thoughtful project on our website. If you know of exceptional candidates, please ask them to apply in the next application cycle. Do not hesitate to call or e-mail with questions about the program. We look forward to welcoming you to the NIH-OxCam faculty!

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