

## **Cancer Research Training Award (CRTA) Fellowship in the Nutritional Science Research Group at the National Cancer Institute**

The National Cancer Institute (NCI), a major research component of the National Institutes of Health and of the Department of Health and Human Services, is pleased to invite applications from qualified candidates for a Cancer Research Training Award (CRTA) fellowship, with an emphasis on gene- nutrition interactions and cancer prevention. This CRTA appointment is a one-year award, with an option to renew, with the Nutritional Science Research group (NSRG), Division of Cancer Prevention (DCP) at the National Cancer Institute (<http://prevention.cancer.gov/>).

This is a full-time position within the NSRG and will be based in its Rockville, Maryland office. The position will allow the applicant to interact with a large number of scientists representing the disciplines of nutrition, genetics, chemoprevention, medical oncology, and clinical trial research at the NCI, the NIH and at affiliated government laboratories.

The Cancer Research Training Award provides an outstanding opportunity for an individual with a strong interest in gene-bioactive food component interactions and the role of nutrients in cancer prevention to gain experience working as an extramural (nutritional) scientist at the National Cancer Institute.

### **Position Description**

The trainee will function as a member of the NSRG and work directly with NSRG scientists on projects related to the NSRG mission. Areas of research include diet and nutrition, as modifiers of cancer risk and tumor biology, to help establishing a comprehensive understanding of the precise role of bioactive food components in cancer prevention. Projects focus on determining how specific genes and/or molecular targets are influenced by either essential or non-essential nutrients. Research is aimed at identifying people who will benefit from dietary intervention strategies. Research priorities include: nutritional modulation of genetic pathways leading to cancer; dietary modulation of epigenetic events; molecular targets for bioactive food components; nutrient and nutrient-drug interactions; dose and temporal response to bioactive food components and cancer risk/tumor behavior; validation of biomarkers for assessing dietary exposures, their biological effect(s), and susceptibility factors; and use of exfoliated cells and/ fluids as surrogates for predicting target-tissue responses to bioactive food components and cancer.

Day-to-day activities might include conducting literature reviews; performing data analyses and preparing scientific manuscripts; aiding in the development of Program Announcements or other initiatives; analyzing the NSRG research portfolio; participating in NSRG meetings; and attending lectures or other training opportunities sponsored by the National Institutes of Health. Additionally, the trainee may have opportunities to initiate and develop their own projects, as well as work with other scientific staff at the National Cancer Institute and other Institutes/Centers at the National Institutes of Health.

## **Qualifications**

- Ph.D. or equivalent degree in nutrition, or a related discipline, or a M.D. with clinical training in medical or surgical oncology
- A strong interest in gene-nutrient interactions and cancer prevention research
- For a Ph.D., experience conducting research or serving as a research assistant on a scientific project is required. For a medical/surgical oncologist pre- or post-graduate research experience in a laboratory is strongly recommended.
- Excellent organizational, planning, writing, and project management skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- The ability to work independently and on research teams
- Data management skills (proficiency with EXCEL and statistical software packages is preferred)

## **Application Requirements**

- A cover letter or email message/ and contact information with an explanation of your interest and experience in gene-nutrient-cancer prevention research, specifically within the areas of nutrition and nutrigenomics. Include a statement explaining how you see the CRTA position furthering your career goals. Please provide your earliest possible start date.
- Two letters of reference from supervisors or professors signed and on letterhead with email addresses and phone numbers included. If signed letters are unavailable electronically, an initial unsigned version is acceptable; however, a signed copy must follow by mail to the address below
- Curriculum vitae
- Official graduate transcripts. If an official transcript is unavailable electronically, an unofficial transcript is acceptable; however, an official transcript must follow by mail to the address below. For foreign graduates, a copy of the transcripts with an attached translation is acceptable for the application. Original transcript and official/sworn translation must be produced if applicant is selected for the fellowship.
- Educational requirements must usually be met by the time of the application. However, applications from Ph.D. candidates in nutrition or closely related disciplines that are about to give their dissertation will also be considered. In this case, the Ph.D. degree must be acquired and official graduate transcripts produced before the CRTA can be awarded.
- Must be a US citizen or resident alien

## **Stipend and Benefits**

The trainee stipend is commensurate with education and experience. The stipend for a doctoral degree trainee with minimal experience starts at \$42,600 - \$47,200. Stipend amount increases based on years of postdoctoral experience. Health benefits are available at no cost to you. Some flexibility on work hours will be allowed. Participation in conferences and continued training is encouraged.

## **Start Date**

The CRTA start-date is negotiable.

## **Application Deadline**

Applications must be received by June 15, 2012.

## **Inquiries and Mailing Address**

For further information about the CRTA position, contact:

Maria Agelli, MD, MS, FACPM  
NSRG, DCP, NCI  
6130 Executive Boulevard Room 3104  
Bethesda, MD 20892  
Tel: 301-451-3993 or 301-443-7072  
Email: agellim@mail.nih.gov

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