

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
INTRAMURAL AIDS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS for
GRADUATE STUDENTS and POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS
2013**

A major mission of the NIH Intramural Research Program and the Office of AIDS Research (OAR), in the Office of the Director, is to train the next generation of researchers to continue the battle to halt the AIDS pandemic. To expand our efforts to build this workforce, the Office of AIDS Research, the Office of Intramural Research, and the Office of Intramural Research & Training will provide competitive fellowships to encourage the recruitment of new researchers from other scientific disciplines to the broad field of AIDS research. Postdoctoral trainees in the NIH Intramural Research Program and graduate students in the NIH Graduate Partnerships Program, both U.S. citizens and students from abroad, whose work is directly applicable to HIV/AIDS research, will be eligible for support.

Please visit the FY 2013 Trans-NIH Plan for HIV-Related Research, accessible at <http://www.oar.nih.gov/strategicplan/fy2013/index.asp>, to learn more about the breadth and scope of NIH AIDS research, a unique and comprehensive multi-institute, multi-disciplinary, global research program. Perhaps no other disease so thoroughly transcends every area of clinical medicine and basic scientific investigation, crossing the boundaries of all of the NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs).

The NIH comprehensive portfolio of basic and clinical AIDS research includes: natural history and epidemiology; etiology and pathogenesis; therapeutics research; vaccines; microbicides; and behavioral and social science research to address HIV infection and its associated coinfections, opportunistic infections, malignancies, and other complications. This research focuses not only on the critical elements of the epidemic in the U.S., particularly among specific racial and ethnic populations, but also on the global pandemic. Fellowship proposals addressing one or more of these scientific areas will be considered for support under this initiative.

Intramural AIDS Research Fellowship (IARF) awards will include full stipend support, health insurance, and limited tuition support (for graduate students). Initial funding of IARF awards will be for one year, but awards may be renewed for a second year pending availability of funds and evaluation of scientific and career development progress.

Successful candidates will demonstrate outstanding scientific potential through both an imaginative and thoughtful research plan and a well thought out career development plan. In evaluating the latter, the mentoring history of the proposed mentor and the mentor's description of the ways in which he/she will contribute to the career and professional development of the applicant will be considered as will the applicant's discussion of proposed career development activities. During application review, *equal* emphasis will be placed on the following five criteria: the candidate (based on CV), the research proposal, the career development plan, the relationship to the Trans-NIH Plan for HIV-Related Research, and the mentor.

The research and career development plans must be prepared by the graduate student or postdoctoral fellow, but it is expected that the mentor will provide guidance and input. Applicants should submit a single electronic package containing the following documents to Office of Intramural Training & Education, at IARF@mail.nih.gov.

1. A cover page that provides the following information:
 - Project title
 - Applicant's name and title
 - Mentor's name and title
 - Sponsoring IC
 - Proposed start date
 - The signatures of the proposed mentor and the IC Scientific Director (or designee), indicating their approval of the submission and that the proposal was indeed written by the applicant
2. The applicant's *curriculum vitae* (3 page limit)
3. A research plan describing the research to be conducted during the applicant's year of IARF support. This research plan should be no longer than four pages, single-spaced. It must demonstrate clear relationship to the Trans-NIH Plan for HIV-Related Research.
4. A career development plan (two pages, double-spaced) specifying the activities the applicant proposes to complete, including interactions with other research groups and scientists, attendance at meetings and presentations of ongoing research, and participation in career/professional development programs offered by the IC, the OITE, or other groups. The relationship of these activities to the long-range career plans of the applicant must be discussed. The skills that the trainee will learn, both at and away from the bench, must be described. Plans that fail to discuss relevant transferrable skills (e.g., communication, teaching, management, conflict resolution), putting them in the context of the applicant's career goals, will not be considered responsive.
5. A letter from the proposed mentor describing prior outstanding mentorship of postdocs and/or graduate students, the research environment and facilities available to the trainee, and the mentor's commitment to helping the applicant meet his/her career goals and encouraging the applicant to participate in appropriate IC- and OITE-sponsored training activities.

The application deadline for 2013 AIDS Research Fellowships is March 1, 2013 at 5:00 pm (EST). Decisions will be announced in mid to late April. Applications will be accepted from current or new graduate students and postdoctoral fellows (only IRTAs, CRTAs, and Visiting Fellows may apply; applications from Research or Clinical Fellows will not be accepted). There are no citizenship restrictions. Individuals from disadvantaged populations are particularly encouraged to apply.

Renewal applications from 2012 fellows will be considered. A complete application, as outlined above, is required for renewal applications. Research plans for renewal applications should clearly summarize accomplishments made during 2012 and describe the research that will be conducted during the second year of IARF support.

Please address inquiries to Dr. Phil Ryan and Dr. Shauna Clark at IARF@mail.nih.gov.