<u>Center for Alzheimer's and Neurodegenerative Diseases Scholars Program</u>

Objectives

The Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) Center for Alzheimer's and Neurodegenerative Diseases (CAND) was established to promote cross-disciplinary clinical, research, and educational programs that advance precision diagnosis and personalized therapies for Alzheimer's disease (AD) and AD-related dementias (ADRDs), including Parkinson's disease (PD) and other neurodegenerative disorders. A major goal of the center is to support BCM trainees involved in mentored research related to neurodegeneration and to cultivate future leaders in basic, clinical, and translational investigation for AD/PD/ADRDs.

The CAND Scholars program seeks talented BCM postdoctoral trainees who are engaged in neurodegeneration research and committed to AD/ADRD research careers. The selected Scholars will receive partial salary support along with funds to support travel, research, and educational expenses. In addition, Scholars will be supported by an advisory committee consisting of 2-4 CAND faculty with complementary expertise in AD/PD/ADRD research. Scholars will meet with their advisory committee to solicit feedback on their research project and guidance on career development in the neurodegenerative disease field. Scholars will also be invited to participate in CAND activities, becoming valued members of our vibrant, cross-disciplinary research community.

We anticipate making up to two 12-month awards of $25,000 each. These funds may be used for salary support and/or as an allowance for travel, research, or educational expenses. If the applicant already has fellowship support (e.g. F32, T32, or from foundations), this award may be used as a salary supplement. The budgeting of funds is left to the discretion of the scholar in consultation with their mentor.

Deadline

Friday, November 10, 2023, 5:00 PM

Eligibility

Applicants must:

(1) currently be engaged in full-time postdoctoral research in the AD/PD/ADRD field at BCM or a BCM-affiliated laboratory. For physician-scientists, a minimum 80% research commitment is required. All areas of clinical, translational, and basic research are eligible.

(2) have completed their degree (Ph.D.) or medical residency (M.D. or M.D., Ph.D.) no more than 5 years prior to the application deadline.

(3) intend to remain at BCM for the duration of the award period.

Research Topics and Available Resources

CAND Scholars will be engaged in research projects addressing a significant research question relevant to AD, PD, ADRD (e.g., frontotemporal dementia, vascular dementia, and Lewy body dementia, and other neurodegenerative diseases (Huntington's disease, spinocerebellar ataxia). Special consideration may be given to projects that take advantage of AD/ADRD data and biospecimen resources generated through collaborations between BCM-CAND and Houston Methodist. A full description of these valuable research resources and how to access them can be found here: http://3.138.247.8/human_data_des.html .

Application requirements

Documents should be formatted for US letter size (8.5"x11"), with 0.5-inch margins on all sides, and Arial font size 11 pt. (9 pt. for captions and tables, if applicable). Applications should include:

Cover Page (1 page)

The cover page must identify the proposal title, the PI (postdoctoral applicant), their research advisor, and any key co-investigators or collaborators, along with their affiliations and contact information. If applicable, describe relevant safeguards and procedures for human subjects and animals, including any relevant IRB / IACUC approval information.

Specific Aims (1 page)

NIH-style specific aims presenting background, significance, main project objectives, and potential impact. A multi-year project can be outlined, but the applicant should indicate the scope of work being proposed for the

year to be funded. References Cited are not included in the 1-page limit, and may be appended as an additional page, if desired.

Personal Statement (1/2 page)
The applicant should provide a 1-paragaph statement describing their career goals, commitment to AD/PD/ADRD research, and the potential impact of this award on their career development. Though not required, this space may also be used to describe plans for how the travel, research, and educational allowance will be used.

Biosketches (*5 pages per investigator*)
Provide an NIH-style biosketch for the PI, research advisor, and any co-I's, if applicable.

Letter of Support (2 pages)
The research advisor must provide a letter of support agreeing to host the candidate for research studies, describing the other main sources of funding available for the project, and highlighting the candidate's qualifications for this award.

Review Process and Criteria
Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
      a. Qualifications of the applicant and training potential
      b. Quality of the proposed research
      c. Likelihood that the applicant will pursue an impactful career in AD/PD/ADRD research
      d. Mentor's strength and qualifications to guide the applicant's research / career planning

Deliverables, Reporting, and Acknowledgment
CAND Scholars will be expected to present a short update on their research during a planned 2024 research symposium. Notice should be given of publications or presentations resulting from the award. The grantee should acknowledge institutional support in all publications or presentations resulting from the award in the following manner: "This study was supported by funds from the Center for Alzheimer's and Neurodegenerative Diseases at Baylor College of Medicine."

The final composite PDF proposal application, including all sections indicated above, should be emailed by the deadline, Friday, November 10, 2024 at 5PM, to CAND-mail@bcm.edu.

Effective Date
The review committee will evaluate each proposal with the goal of announcing and disbursing funding by January 1, 2024 for the 12-month project period.

Questions related to this program can be directed to Joanna Jankowsky (jankowsk@bcm.edu), George Jackson (george.jackson2@bcm.edu), or Joshua Shulman (joshua.shulman@bcm.edu).