



BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

For funding July 2006

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Epilepsy Foundation awards grants and fellowships for cutting-edge research in epilepsy. Program goals include understanding basic mechanisms, developing new therapeutic approaches, understanding the behavioral and psychosocial aspects of having epilepsy, and encouraging the professional development of scientists and healthcare professionals. The purpose of the Behavioral Sciences Post-doctoral Fellowship Program is to support the post-doctoral training of behavioral scientists committed to epilepsy research. The Foundation's Fellowships offer qualified individuals the opportunity to develop expertise in epilepsy research through a one-year training experience and involvement in a research project that has potential significance for understanding the causes, treatment, or consequences of epilepsy.

The Fellowship carries a stipend of up to \$40,000 dependent on funds available. Funds for the fellowships are provided by the Epilepsy Foundation and various sponsors. The number of awards granted each year is contingent on funds available.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply for a Behavioral Sciences Post-doctoral Fellowship, an applicant must:

1. Hold a Doctor of Philosophy, or equivalent degree in a field of social science. This includes, but is not limited to, sociology, social work, anthropology, nursing, or economics. The eligibility of people holding other doctoral level degrees (ex., PharmD) may be considered by the Foundation's Research Committee based on the merit of the proposal;
2. Be a clinical or postdoctoral fellow at an appropriate institution (university or medical school, or equivalent standing at a research institution or medical center) before or by the start date of the fellowship (i.e., July 1, 2006);
3. Have an acceptable research plan directed toward the Purpose of the Foundation's Research Program; and
4. Have access to institutional resources to conduct the proposed research project.

The research fellowships are designed as training opportunities, and the quality of the training plans and environment are a factor in evaluation of fellowship proposals.

Academic faculty holding the rank of Instructor or above are not eligible, nor are graduate or medical students, medical residents, permanent government employees, or employees of private industry.

Applications from women, members of minority groups, and people with disabilities are especially encouraged.

SELECTION

Applications are evaluated based upon the scientific quality of the proposed research, statement regarding relevance to research on epilepsy, the applicant's qualifications, the preceptor's qualifications, adequacy of facility, and related epilepsy programs at the institution.

SUPPORT

Successful applicants receive a stipend of up to \$40,000 over the twelve-month period of the award. Payment is made to the institution for direct expenses of the fellow's training experience as outlined in the application. No indirect costs are provided. *Submission of scientific and financial reports, no later than 90 days after completion of project, is a requirement.*

The fellowship is intended to support a full-time research effort. Individuals who are also receiving a fellowship from another source are not eligible to receive Epilepsy Foundation funding. Institutional support or other support available from the fellowship preceptor may be used for expenses directly related to the research (i.e., travel, consumables, animals). If funds from another source become available to the applicant for salary support during the review or tenure of the fellowship, the Fellow must immediately inform the Foundation in writing. The Foundation and its advisors will then make a decision about the continuation of the fellowship.

U.S. Citizenship is not required; however, research must be conducted in the U.S.

SUPPORT FROM OTHER SOURCES

An applicant may not apply for, use, or accept Foundation funds for a research project or part of a project already supported by the Foundation or supported by funds from another public or private source. Accordingly, full disclosure of all available and pending funds for research support must be made in the application. If funds from other sources become available to the applicant during the review or tenure of a Foundation research award, the applicant/recipient must inform the Foundation in writing. The Foundation and its advisors will then make a decision about the continuation of the research award.

HUMAN AND/OR ANIMAL SUBJECTS/TISSUES

When human subjects or tissues are to be used in a research project, it is the responsibility of the grantee and the institution to ensure that the institution has a complete copy of the research protocol approved by the Institution's Human Subject Review Board, a copy of that Board's current approval notice, and a copy of the patient informed consent form(s). A copy of these documents also must be submitted with the application.

When animal and/or animal tissues are used, it is the responsibility of the grantee and the institution to ensure that the institution has a complete copy of the Institution's Animal Care and Use Committee approval. A copy of this document also must be submitted with the application.

EPILEPSY FOUNDATION POLICY ON USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH

All entities that receive funding from the Epilepsy Foundation must adhere to the following principles:

1. Animals shall be used in biomedical research only when no other means of obtaining scientifically sound, valid, and useful results are available.
2. The minimum number of appropriate animals required to obtain and validate results shall be used.
3. The acquisition, care, and use of animals must be in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
4. Certifications must be received from research facilities prior to being approved for a research fellowship that the facility(ies), its researchers, and employees adhere to the Animal Welfare Act, National Research Council *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, and any appropriate U.S. Department of Agriculture or National Institutes of Health regulations and standards.
5. In cases requiring the death of an animal, only the most appropriate and humane form of euthanasia shall be used consistent with the purpose of the research.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

1. In order to guarantee acceptance and review, applications **MUST BE RECEIVED** by the deadline date.
2. The abstract and text of the application should be clear and readily legible, standard size, which is 10 to 12 points (approximately 1/8 inch in height for capital letters). If constant spacing is used, there should be no more than 15 characters per inch (cpi), whereas proportional spacing should provide an average of no more than 15 cpi. Finally, there must be no more than six lines of text within a vertical inch. Figures, charts, tables, figure legends, and footnotes may be smaller in size but must be clear and readily legible. Applications not meeting these requirements will be returned without review.
3. All assurances regarding animal and human subjects should be included with the completed application. Failure to provide the required documentation in a timely fashion may result in administrative disapproval of the application.
4. All institutional signatures and approvals must be included on the application form.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

An original and 15 two-sided copies of all components of the application are due by March 1, 2006 for funding beginning July 2006. **Applications must be received by March 1, 2006.**

Applicants who desire confirmation that their applications have been received should send them by certified mail (return receipt requested) or enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard with the application.

The completed Fellowship application and all attachments must be sent to:

Epilepsy Foundation
Behavioral Sciences Post-doctoral Fellowship Program
4351 Garden City Drive
Landover, MD 20785
(301) 459-3700



EPILEPSY FOUNDATION®

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP
RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
FOR FUNDING IN 2006

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. **Cover Sheet Form:** Complete the cover sheet form.
- B. **Abstract:** Complete on the attached form, the abstract should summarize the proposal and is limited to 200 words.
- C. **Lay Summary:** In addition to the abstract requested above, provide a brief description (approximately 50 words) of the proposed research project written in lay language.
- D. **Personnel:** List all professional engaged on the project.
- E. **Facilities Available:** Provide a profile of the institutional environment and the facilities available in the space provided.
- F. **Funding:** The fellow and preceptor must include information about their financial support. List title, amount of funding, and year of current and pending support in the forms provided. Please include any Epilepsy Foundation or American Epilepsy Society support received by the fellow and preceptor in the form provided.
- G. **Biographical Sketch:** The fellow and preceptor may either complete the form provided or a copy of the equivalent pages in the PHS 398 form used for NIH grant applications.
- H. **Statement of Intent:** Include a statement of intent from the applicant describing his/her reasons for choosing epilepsy as a research field, his/her career goals and other possible sources of funding that would overlap with the fellowship being applied for.
- I. **Letters of Recommendation:** Include letters of recommendation from the preceptor accepting responsibility for supervision of the applicant's training and research program. One or two (no more than two) additional letters from others familiar with the applicant's work should be submitted.

PROPOSED RESEARCH PLAN

Proposals should be written by the applicant, reflecting independent thought, with direction from the preceptor. This section may not exceed a total of 9 pages (excluding references). Each of the following six headings must appear in the stipulated order. This section must be paginated.

- A. **Specific Aims:** (*maximum 1 page*)
- B. **Background and Significance** (*sections B-D should not exceed 8 pages*)
- C. **Previous Work by the Applicant Directly Related to this Research:** Preliminary data is not required, but if it is available it should be presented in this section. Any previous work by the applicant that is relevant as background for the current proposal should also be presented in this section.

D. Research Plan and Methods: This section should include the design and rationale of the proposed studies, methods and procedures, anticipated methods of statistical analyses, anticipated outcomes, limitations and alternative approaches, and a timetable for completion of the study.

E. References