



## **BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS**

*For Funding beginning July 1, 2008*

### **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, 2008);
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 30 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). If available, a copy of these documents should be submitted with the application. If awarded a grant, these documents must be submitted before funding can begin.

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. If available, a copy of these documents should be submitted with the application. If awarded a grant, these documents must be submitted before funding can begin.

#### **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 review, applications **MUST BE RECEIVED** by the deadline date.
2. All assurances regarding human subjects should be included with the completed application, if available. If awarded, failure to provide the required documentation in a timely fashion may result in the award being rescinded.
3. All institutional signatures and approvals must be included on the application form. All original institutional signatures must be included at the time of submission for an application to be considered complete.
4. Letters of recommendation must be included with the application and not submitted separately.
5. **NO** additional information for an application will be accepted after the due date including supplemental data to the research plan and letters of recommendation.

#### **APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

All applications are due by February 29, 2008 for funding to begin July 1, 2008. **A complete application must be submitted via the proposalCentral system by 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on February 29, 2008. The proposalCentral system can be accessed at <https://www.proposalcentral.altum.com>.**

Applications will not be accepted, nor any parts of the application, if sent to the Foundation offices by U.S. mail.