Postdoctoral Fellowships in Environmental Health Sciences
Funded by NIEHS grant T32-ES11564

Faculty mentors participating in our NIEHS T32-ES11564 environmental health sciences training grant are invited to submit nominations for post-doctoral fellowships. Nominees who are or will be carrying out a research project with a defined focus in environmental health sciences research (as defined in NIEHS Strategic Plans accessible on the T32 training program website) will be a priority. Stipend levels for the selected candidates are set by NIH based on years of experience (available online). Teams of mentors (basic and clinical scientists or basic and population-based scientists) that emphasize the importance of multidisciplinary training and translation of basic science findings to the patient and/or community are encouraged. Postdoctoral trainees will enter with a variety of different backgrounds and may or may not matriculate into one of the MS graduate programs. Postdoctoral fellows currently supported by the training grant are invited to apply for a reappointment, but appointments are not expected to extend beyond two years. In addition to traditional PhD scientists, physician scientists also may be nominated for postdoctoral training. The T32 program is integrated with the P42 NIEHS Superfund Program and T32 trainees will be expected to participate in integrated activities.

These fellowship appointments are made for one year with reappointment based on satisfactory progress. The fellowships provide:

1) Annual stipend based on years of prior experience (see above)
2) Payment of tuition and fees
3) Annual research-related travel up to $600
4) The fellowship supports a trainee NOT an employee appointment.
5) The fellowship provides health insurance but DOES NOT provide retirement, vacation, or other employee benefits

Letters of nomination should include:

1) Nominee’s curriculum vitae, including degrees and previous research experience
2) A description of the research project and an outline of how the research is related to environmental health sciences
3) A description of how the nominee’s research is or will be funded
4) Description of the mentor’s training record
5) Projected postdoctoral training completion date
6) A copy of the nominee’s individual development plan (IDP)

All postdoctoral trainees will take the courses in Responsible Conduct of Research: Survival Skills and Research Ethics, Scientific Writing, Molecular Toxicology, and Seminar. The first two courses incorporate grantsmanship skills and project/laboratory management skills into the required curriculum of post-doctoral trainees.
Postdoctoral trainees will be expected to submit an independent research proposal before completing their fellowship. The mentoring process will be aimed at that result. In addition to the formal course work, trainees will be expected to participate actively in the seminars, lecture series, Grand Rounds, journal clubs and other research meetings held each week.

All trainees attend departmental seminars, research conferences and journal clubs and are required to make at least one seminar presentation each year. Following these presentations, trainees receive written evaluations that are discussed with them by members of the training faculty.

The NIH training grant program stipulates that trainees must be a citizen or noncitizen national of the United States or have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence at the time of appointment. A noncitizen national is a person who, although not a citizen of the United States, owes permanent allegiance to the United States. They are generally persons born in lands which are not States, but which are under U.S. sovereignty, jurisdiction, or administration (e.g., American Samoa). Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible.

The NRSA legislation requires Postdoctoral recipients of support to “pay back” the U.S. Government by engaging in health-related biomedical or behavioral research. This includes direct administration or review of health-related research, health-related teaching, or any combination of these activities. Postdoctoral trainees and fellows are required to begin engaging in acceptable payback activities within two years of their termination. Postdoctoral trainees and fellows who cannot engage in payback service can request to pay back their debt financially. Extensions of time to initiate payback service, as well as payback deferrals and waivers, are granted under certain situations and circumstances. Further information from NIH is available online.

One postdoctoral fellowship is available beginning December 1.

For full consideration, nominations are due by November 15, 2019 as a single electronic document to:

David W. Hein, Program Director
d.hein@louisville.edu