

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### 2019 – 2021 AFTD Basic Science Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

**Letter of Intent due:** November 30, 2018  
**Full applications due:** January 25, 2019  
**Funding period:** July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2021

AFTD Postdoctoral Fellowships provide \$55,000 (US)/year for two years to support basic, translational, clinical, and epidemiological research on frontotemporal degeneration (FTD) by outstanding scientists during the postdoctoral phase of their careers. Fellowship projects can address disorders across the full spectrum of FTD disorders: behavioral variant FTD, primary progressive aphasia, progressive supranuclear palsy, corticobasal degeneration, and FTD-ALS.

The AFTD *Basic Science Postdoctoral Fellowship* will support projects seeking to answer questions about the biology or pathophysiology of FTD, utilizing tissue samples, biospecimens, animal models, cultured cells (including iPSC-derived neurons or other nervous system cell types), or *in silico* models. **Approaches that employ novel technologies or methodologies for data analysis are especially encouraged.**

Examples of research topics suitable for the Basic Science Postdoctoral Fellowship include, *but are not limited to:*

- Cellular and molecular biological pathologies caused by FTD gene mutations
- Mechanisms of protein aggregation, spread, and toxicity
- Stress granules, RNA binding proteins, and other aspects of RNA metabolism
- Novel vertebrate and invertebrate animal models of FTD symptoms; can include drug discovery or preclinical studies of new or repurposed drugs in these models
- Synaptic dysfunction in FTD
- Neuroinflammatory pathways in FTD
- The role of glia in FTD disorders
- “-omics” approaches to understanding disease mechanisms

Projects that involve human research subjects, human genetics, or early-stage development of pharmacological as well as nonpharmacological therapies are typically better suited to the AFTD Clinical Research Postdoctoral Fellowship. If you are unsure which fellowship category is the best fit for your project, please contact the AFTD Scientific Director or Research Manager to discuss.

#### **Who Can Apply**

- Applicants must have a PhD, MD, or MD-PhD degree and be engaged in postdoctoral research at an academic institution, teaching hospital, or nonprofit research institute.
- An applicant’s postdoctoral appointment must extend through the full 2-year funding period. Typically, applicants will be entering the first, second, or third year of their postdoctoral appointment at the start of the fellowship term.
- Both US and international postdoctoral researchers are eligible.
- Researchers holding temporary or permanent staff scientist positions are not eligible.

### **Fellowship Specifics**

- One Basic Science Postdoctoral Fellowship will be awarded for 2019–2021.
- 2-year duration; funding period July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2021
- \$55,000 (US)/year
- Funds cover postdoctoral stipend and benefits
- Remaining funds may be applied to:
  - Travel to relevant scientific meetings
  - Research expenses
  - Publication costs
- Direct costs only

### **AFTD-Target ALS Collaboration to Access Core Resources**

Through a cooperative arrangement with AFTD, Target ALS, a nonprofit organization committed to advancing research on the related neurodegenerative disorder amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, is extending access to its core facilities for post-mortem brain tissue, human stem cells, and viral vectors to AFTD postdoctoral fellows and will cover most of the associated costs. Core resources utilized by an AFTD postdoctoral fellow who transitions to an independent investigator position will transfer with that fellow. Additional information on accessing Target ALS core resources to support relevant research projects will be provided in the AFTD Postdoctoral Fellowship application packet.

### **Application procedure**

- Contact Debra Niehoff, AFTD Research Manager, at [dniehoff@theaftd.org](mailto:dniehoff@theaftd.org) to request a 2019 –2021 Basic Science Postdoctoral Fellowship application packet. Please complete and submit all forms included in the packet electronically by the specified deadlines.
- Applicants must submit a Letter of Intent, using the form included in the application packet, to [grants+postdoc@theaftd.org](mailto:grants+postdoc@theaftd.org) by **Friday, November 30, 2018, 5:00 pm EST**.
- Following confirmation of eligibility, relevance of the proposed project to FTD, and appropriate faculty supervision, applicants will be invited to submit a full application by **Friday, January 25, 2019, 5:00 pm EST**.
- The application must include a curriculum vitae and letter of sponsorship from the applicant's faculty mentor that describes the training plan developed for the funding period and its relevance to the applicant's future career plans.
- The application must also include two letters of support from independent referees familiar with the applicant's background and scientific accomplishments.
- Applications will be reviewed confidentially by AFTD and an external Scientific Review Panel that includes members of the AFTD Medical Advisory Council.

### **Contact Information**

For more information contact:

*Specific questions about the scientific or financial aspects of proposals:*

Nadine Tatton, PhD, Scientific Director  
Phone: 267-758-8644  
Email: [ntatton@theaftd.org](mailto:ntatton@theaftd.org)

*Questions about the Postdoctoral Fellowship program, application materials, or review process:*

Debra Niehoff, PhD, Research Manager  
Phone: 267-758-8654  
Email: [dniehoff@theaftd.org](mailto:dniehoff@theaftd.org)