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Clinical Research in ALS and Related Disorders for Therapeutic Development (CReATe) Clinical Research Scholars Program

Key Dates

Announcement: August 14, 2017

Award notifications: January 8, 2018

Application Due: 5 p.m EST. October 16, 2017

Funding commences: July 1, 2018

Purpose of this RFA

The CReATe Clinical Research Scholars program is designed to provide talented and highly motivated clinicians and researchers with an opportunity to launch or support an early stage career in clinical and translational research focused on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and related disorders (primary lateral sclerosis, progressive muscular atrophy, hereditary spastic paraplegia, and frontotemporal dementia). Clinical fellows, post-docs and junior faculty are encouraged to apply. While the specific activities of the CReATe scholar will vary depending on prior experience and the training needs of the applicant, all scholars will share in: 1) salary support for a minimum of 50% protected time to dedicate to clinical and translational research; 2) a mentored research experience; 3) formal didactic training in clinical and translational research; and 4) research and travel support.

Eligible Applicants

- Applicants must articulate a commitment to pursue clinical or translational research in ALS or related disorders, and in rare disease clinical research.
- Priority will be given to applicants who have completed a medical residency and preferably one year of a clinical fellowship (MD) or a post-doctoral fellowship (PhD) within the past three years; junior faculty members are also encouraged to apply.
- In addition, established scientists in other disciplines who wish to re-orient to careers in ALS or related disorders are encouraged to apply (e.g. biomedical engineers, mathematicians, biostatisticians, bioinformatics, chemists, radiologists, physicists, neuropsychologists, etc.).
- Applicants must be at an institution participating in the CReATe Consortium and be at the same institution as their mentor/collaborator.
- Applications from minorities and groups under-represented in biomedical sciences are encouraged.
- Permanent residency or US citizenship is **not** required.

If you have any questions regarding your eligibility, please contact Dr. Michael Benatar (PI of CReATe) or Dr. Richard Barohn, MD (CReATe Training Director) at mbenatar@med.miami.edu and rbarohn@kumc.edu respectively.



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Funding

The CReATe Scholars program is funded through the NIH and through an unrestricted educational grant from Avanir Pharmaceuticals. The CReATe Scholars program provides \$65,000 over 18 months that can be used for salary support and tuition; as well as \$4,000 for scientific meetings (including travel), and \$2,000 for research supply costs. Indirect costs (IDCs) may or may not be permitted depending on the source of funding (NIH vs. Avanir) for your award, your local institution's federally-negotiated rate agreement and their policies for fellowships.

Application Process

Step one is to identify a participating CReATe network mentor or collaborator. Once you have identified a mentor or collaborator they can help you formulate a research project and educational plan.

Step two is to discuss training options with your mentor and create an educational plan.

All applicants should submit the following materials:

- A one page cover letter describing: 1) your interest in research in ALS or related disorders and rare disease research; 2) your commitment to apply for a training grant in the fellowship period (e.g. ALSA/MDA Clinical Training Grant, NIH K23 or K08); and 3) your willingness to provide annual updates to the CReATe Consortium on the progress of your training/career
- A one page research plan in the format of an NIH Specific Aims page
- A one page education plan detailing your plans for didactic coursework, workshops, or webinars during your training period
- A letter of nomination from your department chair, supporting your application for the CReATe Clinical Research Scholars program, and assuring clinical responsibilities will account for no more than 50% of your time during the funding period
- A one page letter of reference from your CReATe Consortium mentor
- NIH style biosketch
- Brief budget and budget justification for an 18-month period

Please email your completed application to: ProjectCReATe@med.miami.edu no later than October 16, 2017. A short-list of candidates will be invited for a video-interview with the selection committee sometime during November/December.



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Reporting Requirements:

All CReATe Clinical Research Scholars will be required to provide yearly reports detailing: 1) progress towards specific aims of your research plan; 2) progress towards completion of your educational plan; 3) application for research grants for continued funding; and 4) detailing your actual grant expenses.

If the project entails prospective enrollment of human subjects, CReATe Research Scholars will be required to submit a protocol to the RDCRN for NIH approval. All CReATe Scholars will also be asked to present their work at an annual CReATe Consortium meeting and appropriately acknowledge funding in presentations/publications.

In addition, at completion of your funding period, the CReATe Consortium may ask for annual reports detailing your progress on a path towards independence as a researcher in the field of ALS and related diseases or other rare diseases research.