

## **Frequently Asked Questions about the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Institutional Research Training Grants (Parent T32) and Creation of New NHGRI Postdoctoral Training Programs in Genomic Medicine Research**

### **1. Is there a limit to the number of new Genomic Medicine T32 programs that will be funded? Is this a RFA?**

The number of awards approved will depend upon the quality of the proposed program as determined by peer review, programmatic considerations, and the availability of funds. This is not a RFA (request for applications), but rather a Parent Program Announcement for Institutional Training Grants (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-14-015.html>) to which NHGRI has attached a Notice (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HG-14-017.html>) outlining NHGRI's specific needs. Applications to NHGRI's Genomic Medicine Institutional Training Grant Program will be accepted annually on May 25.

### **2. How are allowable trainee expenses calculated?**

The NIH will provide funds for tuition, fees, and training-related expenses based on the formula communicated in [NIH Guide Notice NOT-OD-15-048](#). Institutions should request full tuition in the application, the NRSA formula will be applied before an award is made. Travel expenses for the trainee to attend a scientific meeting/conference and NHGRI's annual program meeting may be requested each budget period.

NHGRI no longer accepts budget requests for training-related expenses that exceed the amount communicated in [NOT-OD-15-048](#) nor requests for additional costs to support program evaluations.

More information on allowable costs can be found here:  
[http://grants.nih.gov/training/faq\\_training.htm#1236](http://grants.nih.gov/training/faq_training.htm#1236)

### **3. How much can we budget for the NHGRI Annual Program Meeting? Surely we still want these trainees also to go to national scientific meetings?**

We strongly encourage that all full-time appointed trainees and the PI and training faculty attend the annual program meeting. Each trainee is allowed to attend two meetings a year and one of these meetings should be the annual program meeting. In addition, institutions may request a total of up to \$2,000 each year for the primary PD/PI, and other training faculty members closely associated with the training program, to travel to the meeting. The annual program meeting is a two-day meeting and will be held in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Applicants' request for travel funds must

be consistent with institutional policy and provide sufficient justification for programmatic and administrative review. Funding decisions of requested travel funds will be based on the allowability of costs and availability of funds.

#### **4. What is the purpose of the annual NHGRI Program Meeting?**

As part of the restructuring of the NHGRI research training and career development programs, we now plan to have annual program meetings that will focus more on: platform presentations by NRSA trainees and career awardees, scientists working in genomics, poster sessions by trainees, an introduction to the NIH peer review system and other career development activities.

#### **5. How many trainee slots can be requested for the Genomic Medicine T32?**

New genomic medicine training programs are limited to six (6) training slots. This will allow for programs to continuously rotate students on and off of the T32. The number of slots approved will depend upon the quality of: the proposed training program, applicant pool, proposed mentors and the appropriateness of their research to genomic medicine, environment, etc. as determined by peer review, programmatic considerations, and the availability of funds.

Since these are typically five year awards, a training program may, but is not required to, have a maximum of six trainees appointed per year. It is desirable to have a combination of new and reappointed trainees each year. Trainees are typically appointed for up to two years; it is expected that trainees will rotate off of the training grant onto an individual fellowship, K99/R00, K08, or R01, as appropriate.

#### **6. How many years of support can we request?**

T32 institutional NRSA research training grants may be awarded for project periods up to five years in duration and are renewable.

#### **7. Can trainees use time to become board certified physicians?**

No. MDs or MD/PhDs. who wish to maintain their clinical skills must commit 12 calendar months per year to the program. Up to three (3) months may be used to apply genomics knowledge and skills in the clinic.

PhDs must commit 12 calendar months per year on training in genomic medicine. Trainees should be appointed for a minimum of two years depending on the knowledge and skills that the trainee brings to the program.

All trainees should have a concrete foundation in statistics, bioinformatics and a biomedical domain, as part of their training.

## **8. What is the current policy on resubmissions for this program?**

For **all** application due dates after April 16, 2014, following an unsuccessful resubmission (A1) application, applicants may submit the same idea as a new (A0) application for the next appropriate new application due date (see [NOT-OD-14-074](#)).

Resubmissions (A1) must be submitted within 37 months of the new (A0) application (see [NOT-OD-10-140](#)).

A revised application must contain an Introduction, which addresses the comments from the previous review; a new application makes no reference to a previous submission.

We strongly advise applicants to contact program staff about new and revised applications.

**New and revised applications for the Genomic Medicine T32 are only accepted once a year and that is for the May 25 receipt date.**

## **9. Are dual mentors allowed?**

Yes, dual mentorship is strongly encouraged.

## **10. Are trainees supported by the Genomic Medicine T32 allowed to conduct an externship or rotation outside of the training institution (e.g. private sector company, other academic institution, or hospital)?**

The Genomic Medicine T32 does allow for rotations and external internships in basic and clinical laboratories and other settings that focus on genomic medicine as an effective means to introduce trainees to the myriad types of data sets that are a challenge in genomic medicine. Program staff will need to be notified in writing of a possible externship.

It is expected that MDs will commit to a minimum of nine (9) calendar months per year to the program. Up to three (3) months may be used to apply genomics in the clinic, while allowing a mixture of responsibilities that allow maintenance of clinical credentials.

If the externship is unpaid and is related to the research training of the trainee, the trainee may continue to receive stipend and training-related expenses provided the grantee institution confirms their internal policies will permit trainee support to continue. The NIH will not pay for trainee stipends and related costs while the trainee is conducting an externship that is not at the performance site listed in the original application.

**11. Can training faculty/mentors be included in the T32 budget? Can administrative staff salaries be budgeted into these expenses?**

Yes. Training-related expenses may be used to defray costs of staff salaries per Section 11.3.8.4 of the [2015 NIH Grants Policy Statement](#).

## Inquiries

Please direct all inquiries to:

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