

Request for Nominations

UAB Training Program in Neurodegeneration, T32NS095775

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Program Administrator: Katherine Belue, Department of Neurology, kbelue@uab.edu

This is a call for nominations for the newly funded NINDS T32 **Pre-doctoral Training Program in Neurodegeneration**. We anticipate funding 2 positions for the 2017–18 academic year. Below are pertinent program and application details. A full Program Description detailing program elements and requirements is attached separately.

Program overview: This is a focused program for predoctoral students in basic and translational approaches to neurodegenerative disease. A primary goal is to expose students to biological mechanisms and research approaches used across neurodegenerative disease, rather than single-disease training. Our core philosophy is to provide a robust training pathway in translational research to enable the discovery of cures of neurodegenerative diseases. This unique emphasis will enable our students to take leading roles in therapeutic discovery across the spectrum of different skill sets and enterprises which are required to deliver the vitally needed treatments of the future.

Program Synopsis: This is a 2-year program with doctoral students enrolling at the beginning of their third or fourth year of training in their graduate programs (current second or third year students at the time of application). The program incorporates required didactic course work in neurodegeneration, a newly developed formal course in experimental rigor, training in new tools and technologies, instruction in the translational pathway and drug development, a journal club focused on neurodegeneration research, an annual retreat, and mentor and outcomes evaluations. All students appointed to the training program are expected to complete the full course of study requirements.

Eligibility:

- UAB predoctoral student in good standing in a relevant graduate program.
- This program is designed primarily for predoctoral students preparing to enter the third or fourth year of training (finishing second or third year at the time of nomination).
- Interest in basic and translational science in neurodegeneration
- US citizen or permanent resident
- Trainees from diverse or disadvantaged backgrounds are encouraged to apply

Support provided to each trainee:

- Stipend support in accordance with current NIH guidelines for predoctoral stipend levels
- 60% of tuition and fees
- Health insurance
- Travel funds for one national meeting per year (maximum allowable determined annually based on available funds)

Application: Applicants should submit the following in a single PDF to Katherine Belue (kbelue@uab.edu).

- Trainee's CV. Please ensure that this includes undergraduate and graduate GPA, as well as author lists and titles for abstracts/posters.
- A description of the planned research project, written by the trainee, presenting the specific aims and highlighting the significance, innovation, and approach. The text and any figures should not exceed three pages (standard NIH guidelines on margins and font size), plus a reference list not included in the 3-page limit.
- A description of the trainee's career goals, including a summary of their prior experiences and how participating in the Training Program in Neurodegeneration would enhance pursuit of those goals. This should not exceed one page (standard NIH guidelines on margins and font size).

- Trainee's graduate transcript.
- A recommendation letter from the trainee's dissertation research mentor that includes a) statement that the student is in good academic standing, b) statement of approval for the student to apply, and c) agreement that the trainee will meet all program requirements.
- The mentor's up-to-date NIH biosketch including current and pending funding.
- List of mentor's past and current predoctoral trainees, including current position and complete citations of their publications. The following format is preferred:

Trainee Name	Past or Current	Training Period	Current Position	Publications (Authors, Year, Title, Journal, Volume, Inclusive Pages)
Doe, Jane A.	Past	2012–2016	Postdoctoral Fellow, Jones Lab, Harvard	<list all of trainee's publications resulting from their predoctoral studies in your lab>

Review and selection: The following criteria will be considered by the Selection Committee during review of applications:

- Relevance of proposed research project and career goals
- Trainee's academic record, publications, abstracts, and achievements
- Mentor's track record of trainee productivity and outcomes
- Trainee's potential to exert a sustained influence in a research-intensive or research-related career
- Trainee's potential to both contribute to the program and benefit from the program
- Evidence of trainee's grit, hardiness, "distance travelled", and/or ability to enhance program diversity

Timeline:

- Application deadline: May 1, 2017, by 8:00 am
- Applicants notified by May 19, 2017
- Dates of award: July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2017 (second year subject to satisfactory progress and evaluation of student's progress at the end of first year of support)

If you have any questions, please contact program administrator Katherine Belue at kbelue@uab.edu or 975-2955.