Request for Applications
NIBIB Translational Research Scholars
August 13, 2018

The National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) has released a program announcement for the NIBIB Translational Research Scholars program [PA-18-851]. The NIBIB program aims to support a two-year research career development experience for a junior faculty member in the engineering, computational or physical sciences (a “quantitative researcher”). To be eligible, a quantitative researcher must collaborate with a junior faculty clinician-scientist scholar. The partners are expected to develop a novel research proposal that is relevant to NIBIB’s scientific mission and that will be undertaken jointly by the research team, if the supplement is awarded. Both partners will be part of the Yale Center for Clinical Investigation (YCCI) Scholars Program. No more than two applications are allowed from a single institution; thus YCCI invites junior faculty to apply to an internal selection process to choose candidates who will subsequently apply to the NIBIB program.

The purpose of the NIBIB program is to facilitate multidisciplinary translational research by supporting the formation of research teams consisting of quantitative researchers and clinician scientists. A successful application to the NIBIB program will result in a supplement to the Yale Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) which will provide support for the quantitative researcher. The partnering clinician scientist will be supported through the parent CTSA. The proposed research should align with the mission of the NIBIB and the NCATS CTSA program. Specifically, the research plan must fall strictly under one or more of the Scientific Program Areas supported by the NIBIB.

Key Dates
Internal RFA release date: August 13, 2018
Internal application due date: September 24, 2018
Internal decision date: on or about October 22, 2018
NIBIB application due date: December 11, 2018
Expected program start date: June 1, 2019

Support Provided
• The NIBIB program provides, for the quantitative researcher, $170,000/year in direct costs (up to $120,000 for salary and benefits, and up to $50,000 for tuition and fees, research expenses, travel (limited to $2,500) and statistical services).
• The parent CTSA provides, for the clinician scientist, $120,000/year in direct costs (up to $100,000 for salary and benefits, and up to $20,000 for non-salary research costs).
Eligibility

- Each of the two members of the research team must have a full-time Yale faculty appointment at the level of assistant professor, instructor or associate research scientist by December 11, 2018. The faculty appointment must not be contingent upon receipt of the award. Faculty who do not have an appointment as assistant professor must have a letter from their dean, department chair or section chief that describes the unit’s long-term commitment to the applicant and the applicant’s trajectory for promotion while at Yale. The trajectory for promotion must not be contingent upon receipt of this award.
- The clinician scientist applicant must hold a doctoral-level clinical professional degree, such as an MD or equivalent.
- The quantitative researcher must hold a doctoral degree or equivalent in engineering or the computational or physical sciences (PhD, DSc, etc.).
- Neither applicant may have been a faculty member for more than 5 years by the anticipated start date of June 1, 2019. This 5-year period is cumulative and includes all appointments as assistant professor, associate research scientist, lecturer, instructor or their equivalents at any institution. Any part time appointments and leaves of absence should be described and will be considered in calculating the total time at a faculty rank.
- Applicants may not be and may not have been (a) a principal investigator on any NIH research project grant (R01) or equivalent non-PHS peer reviewed grants that provided more than $100,000 in direct costs per year, (b) a project leader on a sub-project of a program project (P01) or center grant (P50), or (c) principal investigator of an NIBIB Trailblazer Award (R21). Experience as a PI on NIH small grants (R03), other exploratory developmental grants (R21) or SBIR/STTR grant (R41, R42, R43, R44) is allowable.
- Neither applicant may have had previous support from an NIH career development award.
- At the time of appointment to the CTSA career development award, applicants may not have a pending application for any PHS mentored career development award (e.g. K07, K08, K22, K23) that duplicates any of the provisions of the Scholars Program. Therefore, applicants must disclose pending applications for such career development awards and must withdraw such applications prior to appointment to the Scholars Program.
- Applicants must be citizens, non-citizen nationals or permanent residents of the United States.

Application and Review Process

- The research team must submit its application for internal review by 5pm on October 22, 2018, via an online form available at http://ycci.yale.edu/education/jrfacscholars/NIBIB_TRS.aspx. The application must be formatted according to the instructions in the application package available on the same page.
- An internal committee convened by YCCI will review and rank applications and make recommendations to YCCI leadership. YCCI leadership will invite one or two research teams to apply for the NIBIB program, with invitations extended on or about October 15, 2018.
• The research team will develop and submit the NIBIB application, due on December 11, 2018. See PA-18-851 for details regarding the application form and content.

Other Terms and Conditions

• Both members of the research team must devote 75% effort (9 calendar months) to the Scholars Program, regardless of the amount of salary support they receive from the award. An exception may be made for clinical scholars in procedure-intensive specialties that require substantial clinical time to maintain clinical skills. In such cases, clinician scholars may request less than a 75% commitment, but no less than 50% commitment, if sufficiently justified and approved by program leadership.

• Recipients will be required to complete training in the responsible conduct of research appropriate to their career stage and consistent with NIH guidelines. A recommended option is the course IMED 630, Ethical Issues in Biomedical Research, which meets Tuesday afternoons during the fall semester.

• The research team will be assigned to a YCCI program mentor; the assigned program mentor will meet with the team twice per year for ongoing guidance.

• Trainees are expected to participate in the YCCI Research in Progress series (2nd and 4th Mondays, 12pm to 1pm, September through May), as well as other YCCI events and programs.

• Trainees are encouraged to attend the ACTS Translational Science meeting in Washington, DC (March 6-9, 2019) and present a poster.

• Recipients who do not already have a biomedical research-related master’s or PhD degree will be required to enroll in the Master of Health Science degree program at Yale.

• Recipients whose proposed research is a significant departure from their previous studies will be required to take additional didactic training.

• The quantitative researcher may lead an independent clinical trial within the scope of the supplemental award. However, supported trials are limited to early-stage clinical trials through Phase I, first-in-human, safety, feasibility, or other small clinical trials that inform early-stage technology development in the submitted application. NIBIB will not support applications proposing Phase II, III, IV or pivotal clinical trials, or trials in which the primary outcome is efficacy, effectiveness, or a post-market concern.

• Recipients must be prepared to start the award on time, which means that all required approvals (IRB, IACUC, etc.) must be obtained by the award start date. Projects that involve human subjects research or live vertebrate animals will also need to obtain prior approval from the NIH before YCCI can release funds for the research component of the proposal.

• The second year of a YCCI scholar award is contingent upon satisfactory progress during the first year.

• Funds remaining at the end of the award year (for either research or salary support) CANNOT be rolled over to the following year.

• After appointment as a YCCI scholar, an awardee may apply for an individual K award. If such an application is successful, the scholar will generally be required to give up YCCI salary support, thereby opening the slot for another appropriate candidate. In rare instances it
may be possible to retain YCCI research support, provided that funds are available and the project is distinct from that supported by the individual K award. In either event, the individual’s term as a YCCI scholar will continue until the end of the original term and the individual is expected to continue to participate in YCCI scholar activities.

- Foreign subcontracts are not allowable under this mechanism, and research at foreign sites will require approval by NCATS prior to an award.
- Please see PA-18-851 for additional terms and conditions.

**Important Note on Effort Commitment**

At least 75 percent of the scholar’s full-time effort must be dedicated to the awarded career development activities regardless of the source(s) of salary funding (or, as noted above, 50% for clinician scholars in certain specialties). The fact that a department funds a portion of the scholar’s salary can in no case result in the scholar redirecting effort toward departmental priorities outside of the research and career development activities of the YCCI award. Institutional funds may include funds from departments or sections, philanthropic foundations, hospitals and health care systems, components of university systems, and private industry.
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