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Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America
Conquer MG
RA Pharmaceuticals

Myasthenia Gravis Network (MGNet) Scholar Program Research Funding Announcement

Key Dates

Announcement: October 1, 2019

Award notifications: January 2020

Application Due: **November 20, 2019 5 p.m. EST**

Funding commences: July 1, 2020

There is a critical need for investigators prepared to conduct clinical and translational research in myasthenia gravis (MG). The MGNet Scholar Program provides individualized training and mentorship in one of two tracks, Clinical Research or Biomarker Development Research. We strongly encourage potential applicants to contact the MGNet Scholar Program administrator to facilitate the application process (MGNet@gwu.edu).

Eligibility

Applicants must have a **M.D.** (or equivalent) or **Ph.D.** Clinical fellows, post-doctoral fellows, or junior faculty are eligible. Applicants must identify a primary mentor with appropriate content expertise and experience mentoring young investigators. Candidates should be U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents, or non U.S. citizens with a valid visa to work in the U.S. Scholars do not have to be at a MGNet site.

Award Description

The MGNet Scholar Program provides mentored research training to prepare Scholars for an independent research career in the field of MG. Selected Scholars receive up to **\$75,000** to support salary, research costs and didactics. The program will provide an additional \$3,000 per year to travel to MGNet sites to learn specific skills and/or to scientific meeting(s) to present the results of their research. After year one, Scholars are encouraged to transition to NIH, departmental or private foundation support, or to compete for a second year of funding after submission of a second application that includes a description of accomplishments and pilot data.

Research must constitute at least 50% of each Scholar's professional effort. Each Scholar must form a 2-3 member advisory committee to include a primary mentor, an additional clinician-investigator or collaborator, and a MGNet faculty sponsor. The advisory committee will meet with the Scholar at least quarterly to review progress and each Scholar will develop an individual academic career development plan and renew it with the committee at least every 6 months.

How To Apply

Applicants must submit a completed application as one document to cwashington@mfa.gwu.edu no later than close of business November 20, 2019:

- Specific Aims (1 page)
- Research proposal developed in collaboration with the primary mentor (2 pages)
- Applicant research experience, career goals, and research training plan (1 page)
- Applicant NIH Biosketch (max 5 pages)
- Three letters of recommendation supporting the applicant's research potential (primary mentor and 2 others). Primary mentor letter must detail the research training plan for the applicant, including any research skills, didactics, workshops or professional skills to be developed.
- Primary Mentor NIH biosketch
- Letter from department chair describing support for the candidate and at least 50% protected time to complete the program
- Budget and budget justification

Evaluation and Selection

Applications will be reviewed by a MGNet Scholar Program Committee. Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Applicant's commitment to MG career and promise as a scientist (30%)
- Training plan, environment and mentorship (30%)
- Scientific merits of the research plan (40%)