

2021 TS Alliance and Developmental Synaptopathies Consortium TSC Young Investigator Fellowship

We are seeking highly qualified MD, PhD, or MD/PhD applicants for the Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance/Developmental Synaptopathies Consortium Young Investigator Fellowship.

The ideal candidate has a clinical or research background in either TSC biology or neurodevelopmental disorders and seeks to complement their expertise to become a leader in this growing field. Areas of potential research include, but are not limited to, iPSC derived neuronal modelling of TSC, characterization of the natural history of TSC, and development of endpoints for clinical trials in TSC.

The fellow will work within the NIH-funded Developmental Synaptopathies Consortium (DSC), a project within the Rare Disease Clinical Research Network (RDCRN), under the training of leaders in the field with a pre-established infrastructure for recruiting and phenotyping large numbers of patients with this rare disorder. The training environment afforded by the Consortium includes access to TSC investigators, clinicians and patients, plus interaction with other groups working on similar genetic disorders, specifically PTEN Hamartoma Tumor Syndrome and Phelan-McDermid Syndrome.

Priority will be given to fellows proposing work that will utilize the rich datasets that have been generated by the DSC, including genetic, behavioral phenotyping, neuroimaging and biosample collections. Additional details describing the research resources available through the DSC are described in Appendix 1: Resources of the Developmental Synaptopathies Consortium document.

Fellowship Details

- Two-years in duration, MD, PhD, or MD/PhD candidates.
 - Includes salary, fringe and research stipend up to \$110,000 per year (\$100,000 direct costs, \$10,000 indirect)
- Eligible as described below in the **Eligibility** section
- Applications will include a **one-page statement of career plan** explaining why the applicant is applying and how receipt of this award would impact the applicant's career trajectory and plans, an **NIH-style biosketch**, a **description of the research proposed for the fellowship** (maximum 3 pages), a **current CV** and **letters of support** from the proposed mentor and two additional clinicians or researchers who can speak to the applicant's qualifications and capability to carry out the proposed research.
- Priority will be given to applicants that **leverage the resources being developed within the DSC and applicants who are building a career focused on TSC research.**

- Applications will be evaluated by a review committee convened by the TS Alliance in conjunction with DSC members.
- The award is not intended to fund technical support for the project or to purchase equipment in the Mentor's laboratory. The trainee applicant is considered to be the "Principal Investigator" for the purpose of applying for this award online.

Key Dates

- Online submission for proposals due: Monday, March 15, 2021
- Earliest project start date: Thursday, July 1, 2021

Eligibility

This opportunity is open to all investigators able to work with any of the Developmental Synaptopathies Consortium TSC sites: **Boston Children's Hospital, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, University of Texas at Houston, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Stanford University and University of California, Los Angeles.** **If not located at a DSC site as above:** the applicant can either identify an investigator from one of the DSC sites with complementary research interests or propose an experimental plan to be matched with the appropriate mentor by the DSC. Applicant's institution is where the applicant will be carrying out the work, which may or may not be a DSC site. Mentor must be at a DSC site. **If you anticipate needing to be matched with a mentor, please contact TNC@childrens.harvard.edu no later than February 10, 2021.**

Researchers residing in the United States do not need to be U.S. citizens to apply for funding. Funding is not restricted to US residents or citizens.

Process

- Applications will only be accepted through the [online submission system](#).
- Applicants should create an online proposal early to invite one letter of reference from their proposed Mentor and two additional letters of reference from other clinicians or researchers who can speak to their qualifications and capability to carry out the proposed research.
- Applications will be evaluated by reviewers identified by the TS Alliance in conjunction with the DSC, including experts selected from the International Scientific Advisory Board or *ad hoc* reviewers who will evaluate the applications for scientific rationale, innovation, and potential impact on TSC and on the applicant's career trajectory. Additionally, applications will be evaluated on the candidate's productivity and qualifications for successfully carrying out the research based on their biosketch and letters of recommendation.

Required Components

For all applicants:

1. Principal investigator's (the applicant's) contact information
2. Description of Proposed Research:
 - a) A technical abstract describing the proposed work and its potential impact, not to exceed 2500 characters, including spaces
 - b) A lay abstract describing the proposed work and its potential impact, not to exceed 2500 characters, including spaces
 - c) A research plan of no more than three pages, including the rationale, the concept of how the research will be carried out, potential impact of the proposed work, and any references
3. Keywords selected from a list online during the application process
4. An [NIH-style biosketch of the principal investigator](#)
5. A one-page statement of the principal investigator's (applicant's) Career Plan:
 - a) Describe the new or enhanced research skills and knowledge you will acquire as a result of the proposed award
 - b) Describe any structural activities that are part of the developmental plan, such as coursework or workshops that will help you learn new techniques or develop needed professional skills
 - c) Describe your short-term and long-term career development goals and how this fellowship would help you achieve them
6. The principal investigator's (applicant's) CV
7. Mentor's NIH-style biosketch and contact information
8. Letters of Reference from Mentor willing to support the applicant's candidacy for a fellowship and two additional letters of reference from other clinicians or researchers who can speak to the applicant's qualifications and capability to carry out the proposed research.

Please note: attached documents must:

- Be in PDF format on letter- or A4-size pages,
- Have no smaller than a 0.5-inch margin on all sides, and
- Use a readable typeface [meeting NIH requirements](#), specifically 11 points or larger using Georgia, Palatino, Arial, or Helvetica typefaces.

The components above must be submitted through proposalCENTRAL no later than March 15, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. US EDT.

For Grant-Related Inquiries, Contact: TNC@childrens.harvard.edu