



## **2020 Nephrotic Syndrome Study Network (NEPTUNE) Career Development Fellowship RFA Now Open!**

**DEADLINE for Receipt:**

March 16, 2020 for funding commencing as early as July 1, 2020

The NEPTUNE Career Development program is designed to support advanced post-doctoral and junior faculty trainees, or established investigators interested in redirecting their investigative focus, who are preparing to become independent investigators in clinical and translational research in human glomerular disease.

Successful applicants will design and carry out an individually tailored program that combines a clearly defined training component with a mentored research experience that employs the resources of NEPTUNE to address a question relevant to glomerular disease.

### **Eligibility**

- Clinical fellows (MD, MD/PhD, or equivalent degrees) who have completed their clinical training in nephrology or pathology or a subspecialty relevant to the study of glomerular disease in humans
- Advanced PhD post-doctoral fellows with training in biostatistics or translational research who seek advanced training in clinical research in human glomerular disease
- Junior faculty with training similar to that noted above who are interested in establishing a career investigating glomerular disease in humans
- Established investigators interested in refocusing their investigative path to include studies of glomerular disease in humans

**Individuals must be specifically interested in training to do translational or clinical research.**

Translational research can be broadly interpreted to include laboratory or *in silico* investigations that can be directly applied to studying human glomerular disease. Examples of these types of investigations include, but are not limited, to identification of molecular biomarkers, studies involving techniques of human genetics, or studies involving generation or application of the tools of biostatistical modeling and epidemiological studies.

*This training program is not intended for pre-doctoral candidates or junior level post-doctoral fellows.*

## Requirements

1. Training Program should have two components:
  - a. A mentored research project that is mentored by an established investigator conducting clinical or translational research in the area of or related to human glomerular disease. This mentor should be clearly affiliated with NEPTUNE (e.g., an investigator at any NEPTUNE clinical site or the NEPTUNE Data Analysis Coordinating Center (DACC), one doing an approved NEPTUNE ancillary study, or any investigator actively involved with a NEPTUNE committee or working group). A mentorship committee with at least one co-mentor who fulfills this requirement is acceptable. To reiterate, applicants can come from Consortium participant institutions or elsewhere as long as the trainee is supervised in a direct and meaningful fashion by a NEPTUNE-affiliated mentor.
  - b. A clearly articulated individualized training program that would enhance applicants' formal skills in clinical research design, statistics, etc. relevant to their intended investigative path. If appropriate, this might include formal class work, participation in ongoing seminar series, or other appropriate training. Overall, the goal of this program is to promote an individual to an independent career in glomerular disease research and not merely to complete a well-circumscribed project. Consideration should be given to employing local resources to help defray the costs of this training. The description of this training program might be fashioned after that defined by the NIH NRSA application requirements.
2. The trainee's project must employ the unique infrastructure, clinical data, or biospecimens collected by NEPTUNE. Information regarding NEPTUNE resources is available on <https://neptune-study.org>. Applicants are encouraged to contact NEPTUNE Data Analysis and Coordination Center (DACC) to discuss their project concept and to enable them to discover opportunities using the full NEPTUNE data set by emailing [NEPTUNE-STUDY@umich.edu](mailto:NEPTUNE-STUDY@umich.edu). Questions about the program can also be directed to Dr. Larry Holzman at [lholzman@penncmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:lholzman@penncmedicine.upenn.edu).
3. Applicants must devote a minimum of 50% effort to their training.
4. Applicant institutions must provide written commitment that they will protect trainee's time and provide financial support of the applicant.

## Funding

1. A maximum of \$57,500 total costs for one year to support salary and fringe benefits only.
2. Indirect cost of no greater than 8% may be charged to this award.
3. Duration of grant support will be for 12 months.
4. Applicant institutions are encouraged to contribute to financial and other resources necessary for the success of the proposed training program. The use of CTSA funding and other institutional resources should be considered.
5. Applications that are not approved may be resubmitted after revision during the next application cycle. Revised applications should specifically address reviewer concerns and should include an additional letter that responds to reviewer concerns (2 page maximum).

## Application Format

1. Except where noted, applicants should use the NIH Form 398 application form and complete all items on indicated forms following 398 form instructions. Please see:  
<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>
  - a. Please use the following checklist:
    - 398 Form Page 1: Face Page (*application must include signature from Institutional Representative*)
    - 398 Form Page 2: Abstract
    - 398 Form Page 4: Budget (*a modular budget should not be used*)
    - Budget Justification (In addition to role on project, please detail any personnel or items being cost shared and reference letters of support as needed.)
    - NIH Biographical Sketch (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>)
    - 398 Format Resources
    - Research Plan

The following format should be employed:

    - Specific Aims
    - Background and Significance
    - Preliminary Data if any
    - Research Design
    - Literature Cited

**Research plan is limited to 5 pages. This page limit includes figures and tables. Literature Citations are not included in these limits.**
  - b. Formatting requirements: Applicants must use an 11 pt Arial font, 1 inch margins, adhere to page limitations, and use English language. **These requirements will be strictly enforced. Applications that fail to comply with this format will be returned to the applicant without review.**
2. Describe applicant's career plans (0.5 page)
3. Describe applicant's planned training program (1 page)
  - a. Will the applicant participate in formal class work or other programs that will supplement their training experience?
  - b. As associated career development activities, trainees are required to participate in NEPTUNE Steering Committee meetings, to present their research at scientific meetings, and to publish their work at the earliest opportunity. They are expected to present their work at a Neptune Investigators Meeting at the end of each grant year.

In addition, trainees are expected to create a mentoring committee of 3 investigators in addition to their primary mentor; this committee will meet twice yearly to supervise the fellow's project and to provide career counseling.

Trainees should participate in seminar programs at their home institutions relevant to their area of interest.

**Details of these elements should be included in the submitted training program plan.**

4. Human studies (provide evidence of local IRB approval; may be provided just prior to issuance of notice of award)
5. Sharing Plan: Please provide a statement that you will impose no restrictions in sharing data or reagents generated by this project in accordance with the NEPTUNE Ancillary Studies Policy and the NEPTUNE Publications and Presentations Policy.
6. Letters of support:
  - a. From mentor detailing commitment, providing evidence of mentor's training experience, and describing training plan; include description of mentor's research program (0.5 pages) and include mentor's Biosketch.
  - b. Letter of reference (1).
7. **No appendix of any type permitted.**
8. Grant submission:
  - a. All applications should be compiled into a single pdf format document that can be read using the Adobe Reader or Acrobat application.
  - b. Applications should be emailed to [NEPTUNE-STUDY@umich.edu](mailto:NEPTUNE-STUDY@umich.edu), attention Tina Mainieri.
  - c. Please place "NEPTUNE Fellow Applic/Your last name" in the subject line.
  - d. A receipt will be provided on the following day.

### **Terms of Support**

1. Funds are provided to investigator's institution for use by the applicant; it is the applicant institution's obligation to ensure proper use of funds and timely submission of progress reports.
2. The investigator's institution is required to submit invoices to the University of Michigan to receive funds.
3. Principal investigators must comply with human institutional review board requirements and demonstrate current approval of these committees
4. Reporting requirements: Principal investigators *must* provide an annual report by the last day of the funding cycle describing briefly progress made during the previous year.
5. It is expected that results obtained will be shared with the consortium in a manner consistent with the ancillary studies policy of NEPTUNE.
6. It is required that the management of data and publications will be conducted in accordance with the NEPTUNE Ancillary Studies Policy and the NEPTUNE Publications and Presentations Policy. See: <https://neptune-study@umich.edu>
7. NEPTUNE and its associated investigators do not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religious, or ethnic group.