ACTRI TL1 Post-doctoral Fellowship
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are some expected outcomes of fellows?
A: The ACTRI fellowship should serve to enhance fellows’ clinical research skills and better prepare them for a career development or an independent research award. Additionally, fellows would develop new skills by completing courses through the CREST/MAS programs to obtain didactic training in clinical research.

Q: Do I need to have a current post-doc or fellow position?
A: No, but you do need to eligible for a post-doc position.

Q: I see that this is a two-year fellowship, with one year supported by the department. Does it matter if my department supports me during my first or second year?
A: ACTRI may support the fellow’s first or second year, depending on ACTRI and department needs. If you department has specific requirements, they should include those in the department letter.

Q: Are non-UC San Diego postdocs eligible to apply?
A: Yes, non-UC San Diego postdocs may apply, under the following circumstances:
- Their primary mentor in the application is a UC San Diego faculty member
- They are currently at one of the UC San Diego ACTRI partner institutes: San Diego State University, La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology, Salk Institute, J. Craig Venter Institute, or Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute
- They are willing and able to transfer their appointment to UC San Diego if awarded. We are not able to transfer funding to other institutions.

Q: Are there limits to how long I can be funded as a post-doc?
A: Yes.

Per NIH requirements, no individual can receive more than 3 years of aggregate Kirschstein-NRSA support at the postdoctoral level, including any combination of Kirschstein-NRSA support from institutional research training grants and individual fellowships.
As an NIH funded TL1-type award, the ACTRI fellowship is included in this 3-year limit, as are all T32 training grants. Applicants and their mentors should be aware that prior appointments to T32s or other training grants will affect eligibility for the fellowship. Applicants are invited to email actri-education@ucsd.edu for instructions on how to determine eligibility, as well as special circumstances in which exceptions to the 3-year limit may be requested.

Q: Do I need to be a citizen to receive the fellowship?

A: As our funding source is NIH, we are required to adhere to their eligibility requirements. To apply, you must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. You may apply as a non-permanent resident, but you must be a permanent resident by time of award.

Q: What is the funding amount?

A: This award funds stipends for fellows, consistent with pre-set NIH stipend levels. The table below enumerates stipend amounts, based on years of postdoctoral experience upon initiation of award. Fellows who continue their fellowship for a second year will be eligible for an appropriate increase in stipend funding.

Please note that fellows’ home departments are responsible for supplementing stipends, using non-federal funding, to address any department-specific pay requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career Level</th>
<th>Years of Experience</th>
<th>Stipend for FY 2015</th>
<th>Monthly Stipend</th>
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<tr>
<td>Postdoctoral</td>
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<td>7 or More</td>
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Q: If I am awarded, may I defer my award to a later date?
A: Awards are expected to begin beginning January 2018. You may defer your appointment until as late as March 31, 2018. For any later date, you will need to apply during the next call for proposals.

Q: How will applications be reviewed?

A: Reviews of applications will consider all items described in the application instructions: candidate background, career goals, research, training and mentoring plan, support of mentor(s) as demonstrated in support letters and mentor biosketch, and candidate’s background as demonstrated in candidate biosketch. Candidates’ plans for enhancing their research experience will be very important in the review. Please discuss how your proposed research fits into your overall career goals.

Q: What information should be included in the “Mentor's Support Letter”?

A: Your mentor’s letter should include a description of his/her plans to support your career development, as well as information regarding specific resources, such as laboratory space, available to you. Letter should discuss proposed frequency of meetings.

Q: What if I have multiple mentors, with different mentoring plans?

A: You may include more than one mentor’s support letter in the “Mentor’s Support Letters” section. Please be sure to include your primary mentor’s letter first in this section.

Q: I have other questions.

A: Please consult the funding announcement, or email ctri-education@ucsd.edu