

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS  
INTRAMURAL AIDS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS for  
GRADUATE STUDENTS and POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS  
2020**

A major mission of the NIH Intramural Research Program (IRP) and the Office of AIDS Research (OAR), in the Office of the Director (OD), is to train the next generation of researchers to continue the battle to halt the AIDS pandemic. To expand our efforts to build this workforce, the Office of AIDS Research, the Office of Intramural Research (OIR), and the Office of Intramural Training & Education (OITE) will provide competitive fellowships to encourage the recruitment of new researchers from other scientific disciplines to the broad field of AIDS research.

Please visit the NIH Strategic Plan for HIV and HIV-Related Research, accessible at <https://www.oar.nih.gov/hiv-policy-and-research/strategic-plan> to learn more about the breadth and scope of NIH AIDS research, a unique and comprehensive multi-institute, multi-disciplinary, global research program. Perhaps no other disease so thoroughly transcends every area of clinical medicine and basic scientific investigation, crossing the boundaries of all the NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs).

The NIH comprehensive portfolio of basic and clinical AIDS research includes (but not limited to): epidemiology; etiology and pathogenesis; therapeutics research; vaccines; microbicides; health disparities; implementation sciences, and behavioral and social science research to address HIV infection and its associated coinfections, opportunistic infections, malignancies, and other complications. This research focuses on the critical elements of the epidemic in the U.S., as well as on the global pandemic. Fellowship proposals addressing one or more of these scientific areas will be considered for support under this initiative.

Intramural AIDS Research Fellowship (IARF) awards will include full stipend support and health insurance. Initial funding of IARF awards will be for one year. Awards may be renewed for a second year pending availability of funds and evaluation of scientific and career development progress.

**Who is eligible?**

Postdoctoral trainees (only IRTAs, CRTAs, and Visiting Fellows may apply) and graduate students in the NIH Intramural Research Program whose work is directly applicable to HIV/AIDS research, will be eligible for support. Applications will be accepted from current or new graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. There are no citizenship restrictions. Individuals from underrepresented populations are particularly encouraged to apply.

Note: Research and Clinical Fellows and others appointed as FTEs are not eligible.

**Application Materials**

Successful candidates will demonstrate outstanding scientific potential through both a well thought out career development plan and an imaginative and thoughtful research plan. In evaluating the former, the mentoring history of the proposed mentor and the mentor's description of the ways in which he/she will contribute to the career and professional development of the applicant will be considered as will the applicant's discussion of proposed career development activities. During application review, *equal* emphasis is placed on all the following five criteria: the candidate (based on CV), the career development plan, the research proposal, the mentor, and the relationship to the NIH Strategic Plan for HIV and HIV-Related Research.

The research and career development plans must be prepared by the graduate student or postdoctoral fellow, but it is expected that the mentor will provide guidance and input. Applicants should submit a single electronic package containing the following documents to Dr. Natasha Lugo Escobar at [IARF@mail.nih.gov](mailto:IARF@mail.nih.gov).

1. A cover page that provides the following information:
  - Project title
  - Applicant's name and title
  - Mentor's name and title
  - Sponsoring IC
  - Proposed start date
  - The signatures of the proposed mentor and the IC Scientific Director (or designee), indicating their approval of the submission and that the proposal was indeed written by the applicant
2. The applicant's *curriculum vitae* (CV) (three-page limit)
3. A research plan describing the research to be conducted during the applicant's year of IARF support (no longer than four pages, single-spaced, including references)
4. Relationship to the [NIH Research Priorities](#) for HIV and HIV-Related Research: Research plan must include a discussion that clearly states its relationship. Refer to <https://www.oar.nih.gov/hiv-policy-and-research/strategic-plan>.
5. A career development plan (two-page, double-spaced) specifying the activities the applicant proposes to complete, including interactions with other research groups and scientists, attendance at meetings and presentations of ongoing research, and participation in career/professional development programs offered by the IC, the OITE, or other groups. The relationship of these activities to the long-range career plans of the applicant and the skills that the trainee will learn, both at and away from the bench, must be described.
6. A letter from the proposed mentor describing prior outstanding mentorship of postdocs and/or graduate students, the research environment and facilities available to the trainee, and the mentor's commitment to helping the applicant meet his/her career goals and encouraging the applicant to participate in appropriate IC- and OITE-sponsored training activities.

### **How will applications be evaluated?**

When reviewing applications, reviewers place equal emphasis on all materials submitted. Applications who are successful are those where applicants have a well-thought, innovative, and feasible research plan that shows outstanding scientific potential. The applicant must show through the materials submitted their commitment to science and have thought carefully about the steps needed to advance their career. Equal emphasis is placed on mentor's history of mentorship and how he/she will contribute to the career and professional development of the applicant.

### **Application Deadline**

The application deadline to submit application materials for the 2020 Intramural AIDS Research Fellowships is **Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 5:00 pm (EDT)**. Award will be announced early June 2020.

### **Renewal Applications**

Renewal applications from 2019 fellows will be considered. A complete application, as outlined above, is required for renewal applications. Research plans for renewal applications should

clearly summarize accomplishments made during 2019 and describe the research that will be conducted during the second year of IARF support.

**Please address inquiries to Dr. Natasha Lugo Escobar at [IARF@mail.nih.gov](mailto:IARF@mail.nih.gov).**