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AJNR

Financial Support of Research

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Financial Support of Research

The first issue of *AJNR* contained an editorial on the development of neuroradiology in the United States [1]. In it, the important contributions to clinical neuroradiology training made by the National Institute of Neurological and Sensory Disorders and Stroke (NINCDS) were acknowledged. Support solely for clinical training through fellowships has been discontinued as the need for financial assistance was recognized, and the responsibility for it was accepted, by various training institutions around the United States.

However, support for research training continues to be offered at various levels to individuals who qualify and wish to pursue research training. Awards may be available for a junior individual who wishes to take a year off from clinical training to pursue a research project under a sponsor; but other support is available at a more senior level. Because many training program directors may not be aware of their availability, it was thought appropriate to reprint the following abbreviated description of the awards offered by NINCDS [2].

The National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke (NINCDS) provides four types of training awards for individuals, as follows: 1) National Research Service Awards for Individual Postdoctoral Fellows; 2) Research Career Development Awards; 3) Teacher Investigator Development Awards; and 4) National Research Service Awards for Senior Fellows.

The dates for receiving applications for any of the above training programs are October 1, February 1, and June 1. It frequently requires 8 months for applications to complete the review process.

A short description of the awards follows. Additional information may be obtained from the Assistant Director for Manpower Programs, NINCDS-NIH, Bethesda, Maryland 20205.

NATIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE AWARDS FOR INDIVIDUAL POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS. These awards are made to applicants seeking research training in the basic and clinical neurological sciences. The proposed study must include biomedical research training and an opportunity to conduct research. Applicants must arrange for appointments to appropriate institutions and acceptance by sponsors who

will supervise their training and research experience. The application must document the availability of staff and facilities to provide a suitable environment for obtaining high-quality training. The major emphasis of the application should be the research training experience and a broadening of scientific competence.

Fellows receive an annual stipend, determined by the number of years of relevant postdoctoral experience. In addition, the trainee institution receives an annual institutional allowance to help defray such expenses for the trainee as tuition and fees, research supplies and equipment, and travel to scientific meetings.

RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS. These awards provide salary support to enhance the research capability in the formative stages of their careers of individuals who have demonstrated outstanding potential for contributing as independent investigators to health-related research. Candidates must have had at least 3 years of relevant postdoctoral experience prior to the requested beginning date of the award, but cannot be established independent investigators.

The award reimburses the grantee institution for the employee's total efforts, which are to be devoted essentially to full-time research and research-related activities, but only up to a maximum base salary of \$30,000 for each budget period. In addition, a proportionate share of the fringe benefits and 8% of indirect costs are provided.

TEACHER INVESTIGATOR DEVELOPMENT AWARDS. These awards are for the recruitment and preparation of future teacher investigators for careers in research and teaching in clinical areas of the neurological and communicative disorders. They provide candidates with an opportunity for 5 years of special study and supervised experience tailored to their individual needs. Applicants must be individuals with high potential for academic and/or research careers in clinical areas. The award bridges the gap between the initial period of postdoctoral study and a secure academic appointment. This award differs from the National Research Service Award for Individual Postdoctoral Fellows in that the former provides a continuing 5-year period of support. It also differs from The Research Career Development Award in that it seeks to identify potential, as differentiated from achievement, and it gives emphasis to the development of expertise in both research and teaching in clinical areas. The most competitive candidates are those who have either just completed or are in their final year of residency training.

These awards will provide the grantee institution with

support for the candidate's total efforts, which are devoted essentially to full-time research and academic training, but only up to a maximum base salary of \$30,000 for each budget period. In addition, a proportionate share of the fringe benefits, a \$4,000 research allowance, and 8% of indirect costs are provided.

NATIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE AWARDS FOR SENIOR FELLOWS. These awards are designed to provide opportunities for experienced scientists to make major changes in the direction of their research careers, to broaden their scientific background, to acquire new research capabilities, or to enlarge their command of an allied research field. In addition, these awards enable individuals beyond the new investigator stage to take time from regular professional responsibilities for the purpose of increasing their capabilities to engage in health-related research. The applicant must arrange for acceptance at an appropriate institution by a responsible sponsor. The institutional setting may be domestic or foreign and either non-profit, private, or public. Support

for research training at a foreign institution is limited to the circumstance in which comparable opportunity is not available at a domestic institution. Senior fellowships will normally be awarded for a period of 12 months. Applicants must have 7 subsequent years of relevant research or professional experience. The amount of the stipend paid is commensurate with the salary or remuneration which the recipient would have received from the institution with which the individual has a permanent affiliation on the date of the fellowship award, but does not exceed \$30,000. Supplementation of the stipend from non-Federal funds is permitted.

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REFERENCES

1. Taveras JM. The development of neuroradiology in the United States. *AJNR* 1980;1:1-2
2. NINCDS training awards. *J Neurosurg* 1980;52:441-442