



POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IN MACULAR DEGENERATION RESEARCH
A PROGRAM OF BRIGHTFOCUS FOUNDATION

Scope

The goal of the BrightFocus Foundation research grants program is to advance innovative research promoting advances in the etiology, prevention, and treatments of Alzheimer's disease, macular degeneration, and glaucoma. Our vision is to help people live free from diseases of mind and sight. The Foundation is interested in supporting high risk studies that illuminate areas for which there currently is little understanding, helping to bring to light crucial knowledge about these three devastating diseases.

The BrightFocus funding mechanisms are designed to provide initial funding for highly innovative experimental ideas, including interdisciplinary investigations that may apply to two or three of the above-mentioned diseases. Most of the awardees use the BrightFocus donor award money to demonstrate key findings that lead to later interest and additional funding from industrial or governmental funding agencies. BrightFocus prefers not to fund projects for which substantial resources already exist, or that may already be competitive for governmental or industrial support.

Overview

This Macular Degeneration Research Fellowship is intended to support young postdoctoral researchers during their final stages of mentored training. The award provides salary support for a young scientist to conduct postdoctoral studies in an established laboratory focused on research contributing to understanding the biological causes and/or new clinical treatment of macular degeneration. The specific research proposed in the application should be focused on some aspect of research that will have an impact on understanding or treating macular degeneration and should also serve as the basis for the applicant's own independent research career.

Award Amount: \$100,000 per year (total value \$200,000)

Duration: 2 years

Description

This fellowship is intended to support postdoctoral training of basic or clinician-scientists who are within no more than 4 years of their terminal degree, or within two years after completion of their final clinical training, at the time of application. The application for this fellowship must be written by the intended fellow in conjunction with the mentor/laboratory head where the fellowship will be conducted. The application should be submitted through the business office of the institution where the fellowship will

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take place. Should the fellowship support be funded, the awardee, mentor and institution should agree that this award is for support of the fellow and not for the mentor directing the research.

This award is intended to support the fellow's salary, health insurance and travel to attend a scientific meeting each year to present BrightFocus-funded research. Any remaining funds not expended for the purposes stated in the previous sentence must be used to fund supplies, technician salary support, or other items essential for the research described in the application.

The application must be accompanied by a letter from the head of the laboratory where the fellow will train, stating that laboratory space and additional research funds are available to support the project if the award is funded by BrightFocus.

Eligibility

Specific eligibility criteria include:

- Candidates must hold an MD, PhD, DVM, DO, OD or equivalent degree received no more than four years before the time of application. For clinician scientists, this application should be submitted within two years after completion of their final clinical training. Exceptions to the above four-year and two-year eligibility period will be considered under unusual circumstances. Candidates must submit a written exception request to BrightFocus and obtain approval before applying
- Applicant may apply for this fellowship before completing their terminal degree, if they have a firm commitment from the laboratory head in which training will take place, and the applicant is the main author of the application
- Fellowship may be performed in a non-profit, governmental, academic research institution, or at a for-profit including start-up and biotech institution
- Previous recipients of this award are not eligible

General Guidelines

- Submit your Letter of Intent using the template provided in the application portal
- Use Times New Roman font at a size no less than 11 points
- Use margins no less than 3/4" on all sides
- The color of the narrative text should be black
- Applications must be legible and written in English
- Do not use jargons or unusual abbreviations
- Maximum character and/or page counts for individual sections will be enforced.
- File size cannot exceed greater than 10 MB of information