

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Pre-Doctoral Student Support

T32 NRSA Award

Radiological Sciences Training Program

Funds currently exist to support a pre-doctoral student involved in cancer imaging and/or therapy research. Program faculty members are invited to submit requests for trainee support following careful consideration of each of the following requirements:

- 1) As stated in the T32 grant application, “*This training grant prepares pre-doctoral graduate students and post-doctoral researchers for careers in the application of physics and engineering to the medical diagnosis and treatment of cancer.*” A direct link between the pre-doctoral candidate’s research project and the goal of the training grant is, of course, the first requirement for consideration of funding.
- 2) As this funding is being provided via a T32 National Research Service Award (NRSA), there are additional stipulations that must be met before a pre-doctoral fellow can be considered for award of funding. These requirements include:
 - a) Residency Status: The trainee “must be citizen or non-citizen national of the United States or have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence at the time of appointment.” There are no exceptions to this requirement.
 - b) The trainee cannot receive more than 5 years of aggregate NRSA support at the pre-doctoral level, including any combination of support from prior NRSA institutional training grants and/or individual NRSA fellowship awards.
- 3) As this is a research training grant, it is imperative that each trainee supported by the grant be highly productive in terms of research and publication. Therefore, it is a requirement that each pre-doctoral student appointed to the training grant submit at least one manuscript as first author based on research supported in whole or in part by the training grant. A mentor requesting funding from this training grant mechanism should be very clear about this expectation, and must also agree to provide annual updates to the training grant Program Director, as well as any additional information required for annual training grant progress reports.
- 4) The training grant award of funding must adhere to NRSA guidelines. The current pre-doctoral training grant-funded stipend level is \$23,844 per year (FY2017 data). For pre-doctoral trainees, the mentor must secure any additional funding required to maintain the current UW Medical Physics Graduate Program stipend level of \$27,500 (post-dissertator status). These funds must come from non-federal grant sources. Additional funding is provided to each trainee supported by the training grant to assist with benefits, *etc.* However, the mentor must be aware that there may be limited additional costs that are not fully supported by the training grant award.
- 5) The training grant has specific requirements for training in the Responsible Conduct of Research. A trainee awarded funding under the training grant must meet all requirements in this area, which may require attendance of specific training courses that address this area. The course Medical Physics 701, “Ethics and Responsible Conduct of Research in Medical Physics” or equivalent must be completed. In addition to Radiobiology (MP 410), a course in cancer biology must be taken. Similarly, it is required that pre-doctoral trainees supported by the training grant participate in two workshops, one on manuscript writing and one on grant writing, each offered annually by the UW Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR).

6) Each training grant appointee will receive two surveys following completion of the training grant appointment. The first survey will be distributed immediately following completion of the appointment. A second survey will be distributed two years following completion. If appointed to the training grant, the applicant agrees to complete both surveys as the information obtained is critical to maintaining the training grant and, very importantly, constantly improving the effectiveness of the training.

Given these guidelines, I invite faculty members to apply for training grant support for a pre-doctoral fellow. Those wishing to apply for this support should:

- 1) confirm their agreement with requirements 1-6, listed above,
- 2) provide the name of the proposed pre-doctoral student,
- 3) provide a 3-5 page summary of the proposed research, specifically highlighting how the research is strongly aligned with the primary goal of the training grant (listed above), and
- 4) provide a proposed (realistic) timeline for any training that will be accomplished using training grant funding.

The department staff will obtain all additional information (academic performance information, application information, *etc.*) used by the Training Grant Oversight Committee to make appointment recommendations to the Program Director and Department Chair.

Sincerely,
Timothy J. Hall, PhD
PI: T32 *UW Radiological Sciences Training Grant*