

UC Davis Postdoctoral Fellowship Program
in
Oncogenic Signals and Chromosome Biology
Fellowship Guidelines

I. Goals

The fellowship program in Oncogenic Signals and Chromosome Biology (OSCB) has developed from a general interest in cellular responses and signal pathways integrating both responses to the cellular environment mediated by cell surface receptors and to signals initiated inside of the cell nucleus such as damage to DNA. While diverse in nature, these signals are often inseparable and interconnected by kinases and cascades of phosphorylation. The majority of the research projects among Mentors in the OSCB Fellowship Program involve detailed mechanistic studies *in vitro* which complement *in vivo* studies using animal models. Mentors are drawn both from the UC Davis cancer research community and from scientists at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; a formal collaborative agreement brings the two institutions together for cancer-related research.

II. Eligibility

The OSCB program is offers postdoctoral fellowships to individuals holding PhD, MD, or MD/PhD degrees. Applicants will have had zero, one, two, three, or four years of prior fellowship experience. MD only applicants should demonstrate research experience and associated publications. Applicants must be US citizens, US non-citizen nationals (pertains only to residents of American Samoa or Swains Islands), or permanent residents. Individuals with temporary or student visas are not eligible to apply.

III. Fellowship Availability, Salary, and Duration

The NCI/NSRA grant for OSCB provides for **four** fellowships annually with a budget for one fellow with no prior fellowship experience (zero years experience), two fellows with one year of prior fellowship experience, and one fellow with two years of prior fellowship experience. Salary is stipulated annually by the National Service Research Administration (NSRA) based on years of fellowship experience. Those with additional post-doctoral experience will receive supplemental salary from their Mentor. Fellows are appointed for one year with a possibility of one extension for a second year if effort to seek other external funding is shown and progress is satisfactory.

IV. Application Timetable

Applications are accepted at any time, but are reviewed only when a vacancy arises or is anticipated. Unsuccessful applicants may reapply with appropriate revisions to their applications based on reviewer comments and are, on occasion, selected.

V. Application Address

All application materials should be sent via email to Sharon Boylan <saBoylan@ucdavis.edu>.

VI. Applicant Review Criteria

The principal review criteria include (1) scientific qualifications of the applicant, (2) commitment to and viability of a long-term career in cancer biology, and (3) suitability of the training environment provided by the Mentor. Preference will be given to applicants not currently appointed at UC Davis although applications from UC Davis appointees are welcome. However, proposals to continue postdoctoral research in the same laboratory after receiving a Ph.D. are strongly discouraged.

VII. Application Review Process

Upon receipt, the application will be reviewed for completeness (including references and Mentor statement, see Application Instructions) and eligibility as explained above. Complete and eligible applications will be processed for review. Incomplete or ineligible applications will be returned to the applicant. It is the **applicant's responsibility** to assure that the submission has all of the required components.

The applications will be assigned to two reviewers, drawn primarily from the pool of Mentors, (excluding any Mentor sponsoring a fellowship application in that particular round). If necessary, advice from outside reviewers may be sought. The PI and Co-PIs of this training grant generally will not review the applications, but will chair the panel meeting and ensure fairness and balance of all reviews.

The review consists of a general summary statement with a priority score of each application as follows: **1=Outstanding, 2=Excellent, 3=Good, 4=Acceptable, 5=Not Recommended**. The review criteria are listed above. Applicants receiving the lowest scores, averaged among those voting, will be awarded fellowships.

Applicants will be notified within eight weeks of receipt the decision regarding their applications. The initial notification will be by e-mail followed up by a written letter of appointment. Applicants and the mentors must then accept the appointment and its terms and conditions in writing before the applicant can be appointed a postdoctoral fellow. The fellowship start date will be negotiated with the fellow and Mentor.

VIII. Application Administration

Once a fellowship has been awarded and accepted, the Administration of the fellowship will be conducted by the staff of the Department of Microbiology, College of Biological Sciences.

IX. Questions about the OSCB Fellowship Program

Question should be directed to Sharon Boylan, Room 357, Briggs Hall, Department of Microbiology, University of California, Davis, One Shields Ave., Davis, California 95616; e-mail saBoylan@ucdavis.edu; telephone 530-752-2626.