

MASSACHUSETTS ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH CENTER



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL



HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL

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MEMORY DISORDERS CLINICAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Alzheimer's disease (AD) and the related dementias are complex neurological disorders that are expected to shift the socio-demographic trends in the U.S. and beyond, with drastic public health consequences for the global community. There is an urgent need for training the next generation of clinician-scientists who are well-versed to work with patients with such diseases and to find effective treatments for them.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Massachusetts Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC) is pleased to announce an opening for a two-year Clinical Research Fellowship in AD/Memory Disorders at the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and related institutions beginning July 1, 2014.

The goal of the non-degree program is to introduce exceptionally-qualified individuals to the successes and demands of a research-oriented career in the neurodegenerative diseases, and to provide an unparalleled foundation for potential leadership roles in academic medicine or industry.

Recipients of the fellowship are expected to develop an expertise in translational and/or basic research, enhance their clinical proficiencies in managing complex neurologic cases typically seen in tertiary settings, and demonstrate effective competencies in teaching and communication skills to medical students and consumers alike.

The Fellowship will be awarded through a competitive-review process.

FELLOWSHIP CURRICULUM & TRAINING DETAILS

Clinical Training

The Fellow will deliver care to patients of the MGH's Memory Disorders Unit (MDU) on one (1) half-day per week under the mentorship of a senior MDU clinician. These mentored clinical encounters will be supplemented by similar exposures to patients of the MGH's Frontotemporal Disorders Unit; engagement in weekly case and consensus conferences at MGH and related clinics (e.g., Brigham and Women's Behavioral Neurology Clinic); participation in departmental Grand Rounds, and encounters of patients treated in the inpatient units.

Fellows will be expected to present cases for discussions at case and consensus conferences, further develop clinical skills (e.g., performing lumbar punctures) with patients, required to complete ongoing training in **medical ethics**, and articulate cultural competencies in working with patients from diverse/underserved population.

Research Training

The Fellowship is primarily research-based, with 90% of time and effort to be spent on clinical, translational and/or basic science research. Fellows will have the opportunity to develop and craft an independent research project in collaboration with an identified mentor who will meet with them on a regular basis. They may also undertake leadership roles in an ongoing research project, and collaborate across disciplines or sub-specialties, and will be expected to adhere to strict research ethics and present ongoing research findings at local, national or international conferences.

Current ongoing research projects at the Center include but are not limited to clinical trials of amyloid-modifying therapies; neuroimaging studies of memory processes and diagnostic markers of aging and early stages of memory loss (including PET amyloid/tau and MR imaging); animal models of early AD; molecular studies of resilience to Alzheimer's pathology; observational studies of biomarker and clinical changes in a longitudinal cohort, and the development of innovative neuropsychological test measures for early-stage memory changes.

Other

As part of their program, fellows will also receive training in inferential biostatistics, guidance and tutelage in grant-writing and identifying potential resources for independent funding. They will have opportunities to engage in educational outreach to diverse communities, network with key organizations such as the Alzheimer's Association, and thereby develop skills in study recruitment and community engagement.

ELIGIBILITY

The Fellowship is open to U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents or foreign nationals.

Candidates must possess at least an MD or a foreign-equivalent basic medical degree (e.g., MBBS) and be board-eligible/certified in the U.S. They must also have successfully completed a recognized residency training program in neurology, psychiatry, geriatrics, internal medicine or other related disciplines. Typically, many fellows who go on to pursue a career in academic medicine also have additional advanced degrees (e.g., PhD, ScD, MPH, DVM, JD, MBA) in addition to their basic medical degrees.

Applicants are expected to be fluent in English and well-positioned to conduct an innovative, independent research project that will lead to publications in peer-reviewed journals.

We especially encourage individuals who will add diversity to the medical sciences and with foreign language skills to apply for the position.

Please note that in order to apply for a limited license in the state of Massachusetts, applicants must have documentation of the USMLE step 1, step 2 CK and step 2 CS. International applicants may submit an ECFMG instead.

If an applicant is currently receiving funding from a U.S. federal training or career development grant, please contact the Fellowship Director for eligibility before applying to the Fellowship.

Fellows must be in full residence during the entire duration of the 2-year training program.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Cover Letter: The cover letter should clearly state the applicant's commitment to a clinical research career in AD and/or a related neurodegenerative disease, include his/her goals for the fellowship and plans after the program, identify faculty mentors or specific laboratories that they may be interested to work with, and include information on his/her visa status (if applicable).

Research Statement (optional; 2 page maximum): If an applicant has already identified a proposed independent research project to carry out during the fellowship, the following information should also be included: (i) the nature and scope of the research, (ii) how institutional and ADRC resources would be utilized, and (iii) how the research will help advance knowledge on AD and related disorders.

Curriculum Vitae (CV): The CV should also include a list of current or pending funding, if available.

Three Letters of Recommendation: These should be from past or current faculty members or mentors who are familiar with the applicant's potential and aptitude for pursuing an academic (or industry) career in clinical research.

Letters of Recommendation may be sent under separate cover to the Fellowship Director.

All enquiries and application materials should be forwarded to:

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Fellowship Application Deadline: March 15, 2014