

NIH PREDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP AWARDS FOR MINORITY STUDENTS (F31)

Release Date: February 24, 2000

PA NUMBER: PA-00-069

National Institutes of Health
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Application Receipt Dates: May 1 and November 15

PURPOSE

The National Research Service Award Predoctoral Fellowship for Minority Students will provide up to five years of support for research training leading to the Ph.D. or equivalent research degree; the combined M.D./Ph.D. degree; or other combined professional degree and research doctoral degree in the biomedical, behavioral sciences, or health services research. These fellowships are designed to enhance the racial and ethnic diversity of the biomedical, behavioral, and health services research labor force in the United States. Accordingly, academic institutions are encouraged to identify and recruit students from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups who can apply for this fellowship. Support is NOT available for individuals enrolled in medical or other professional schools UNLESS they are also enrolled in a combined professional doctorate/Ph.D. degree program in biomedical, behavioral, or health services research.

HEALTHY PEOPLE 2000

The Public Health Service (PHS) is committed to achieving the health promotion and disease prevention objectives of "Healthy People 2000," a PHS led national activity for setting priority areas. This Program Announcement (PA), Title of PA, is related to one or more of the priority areas. Potential applicants may obtain a copy of "Healthy People 2000" at <http://odphp.osophs.dhhs.gov/pubs/hp2000>.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Citizenship. By the time of award, individuals must be citizens or noncitizen nationals of the United States, or have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence (i.e., possess a currently valid Alien Registration Receipt Card I-551, or other legal verification of such

status). Noncitizen nationals are generally persons born in outlying possessions of the United States (e.g., American Samoa and Swains Island). Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible.

Underrepresentation. The applicant must be from ethnic/racial groups that have been determined by the applicant's graduate institution to be underrepresented in biomedical or behavioral research. The NIH particularly encourages institutions to identify individuals from racial and ethnic groups that have been shown to be underrepresented in health-related research nationally. These groups include African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, and Pacific Islanders.

Degree Requirements. An applicant must currently be enrolled in a Ph.D. or equivalent research degree program, a combined M.D./Ph.D. program, or other combined professional doctorate/research Ph.D. graduate program in the biomedical or behavioral sciences, or have been accepted by and agreed to enroll in such a graduate program in the academic year for which funds are sought.

Sponsor. The applicant must identify an individual who will serve as a sponsor or mentor and will supervise the training and research experience. The applicant's sponsor/mentor should be an active investigator in the area of the proposed research who will directly supervise the candidate's research. The sponsor/mentor must also document the availability of staff, research support, and facilities for high-quality research training. The applicant must work with his/her sponsor/mentor in preparing the application.

Foreign Sponsorship. Applicants requesting foreign training must show in the application that the foreign institution and sponsor offer unique opportunities that are not currently available in the United States. Only if there is a clear scientific advantage will foreign training be supported.

Institution. The sponsoring institution may be private (profit or non-profit) or public.

MECHANISM OF SUPPORT

This program announcement for the individual Predoctoral Fellowship Award For Minority Students (F31) is issued under the auspices of the NRSA Act (see AUTHORITY AND REGULATIONS). The period of fellowship support requested in response to this PA may not exceed five years. Continuation of the fellowship award for each subsequent year beyond the first award period is based upon evidence of satisfactory progress in a graduate program. (Note: the

total period of predoctoral training support is limited to 5 years by statute, 42 USC 288, except in unusual circumstances.) The recipient of predoctoral fellowship support must submit a written request to waive this limit on the duration of support from the funding NIH institute or center.

Fellowship awards are administered as described in the NIH Grants Policy Statement found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/policy.htm> and the NRSA Guidelines for Individual Awards and Institutional Grants, available on the NIH Website at http://grants.nih.gov/training/nrsaguidelines/nrsa_toc.htm.

The proposed NRSA training must be within the scope of biomedical, behavioral, or clinical research and must offer an opportunity for individuals to broaden their scientific background or to extend their potential for research in health-related areas. Individuals are required to pursue their research training on a full-time basis, devoting at least 40 hours per week to the training program.

ALLOWABLE COSTS

The fellowship award provides an annual stipend to help meet the fellow's living expenses, an allowance for tuition and fees and health insurance in accordance with NIH policy, and an annual institutional allowance.

Stipend. The stipend amount is updated from time-to-time and applicants are advised to search the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts for the most current rate or for the posting of the current stipend on the NIH website at <http://grants.nih.gov/training/nrsa.htm>. In FY 2000, the NRSA predoctoral stipend is \$15,060. The awarding NIH institute or center will adjust awards as the stipend is changed.

Tuition, Fees, and Health Insurance. The NIH will offset the combined cost of tuition, fees and health insurance (either self-only or family as appropriate) at the following rate: 100 percent of all costs up to \$3,000 and 60 percent of costs above \$3,000. Costs associated with tuition and fees are allowable only if they are required for specific courses in support of the research training experience supported by the fellowship. A full description of the tuition policy is contained within the NRSA Policy Guidelines on the NIH website at http://grants.nih.gov/training/nrsaguidelines/nrsa_toc.htm.

Institutional Allowance. An institutional allowance of \$2,500 per 12-month period will be awarded to non-Federal, non-profit sponsoring institutions to help defray such awardee expenses as research supplies, equipment, travel to scientific meetings, and related items. This allowance is intended to cover training-related expenses for the individual awardee and is not available until

the fellow officially activates the award. If the fellow is not enrolled or engaged in training for more than 6 months of the award year, only one-half of that year's allowance may be charged to the grant. The Notice of Research Fellowship Award will be revised, and the balance must be refunded to the NIH.

Other Training Costs. Additional funds may be requested by the institution if the training of a fellow involves extraordinary costs for: (1) travel to field sites remote from the sponsoring institution; or (2) accommodations for fellows with disabilities, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The funds requested for these additional costs must be reasonable in relationship to the total dollars awarded under the F31. Such additional funds shall be provided only in exceptional circumstances that are fully justified and explained by the institution.

Funds are not available to cover the cost of travel between the fellow's place of residence and a training institution. However, in cases of extreme need or hardship, a one-way travel allowance may be authorized by the awarding component. Such travel must be paid from the institutional allowance.

Awards for training at a foreign site may include a single economy or coach round-trip travel fare. No allowance is provided for dependents. U.S. flag carriers must be used to the maximum extent possible when commercial air transportation is available for travel between the United States and a foreign country or between foreign countries.

Facilities and Administrative Costs. F&A (indirect) costs are not allowed on individual fellowship awards.

STIPEND SUPPLEMENTATION, COMPENSATION, AND OTHER INCOME

An institution is permitted to provide funds to a fellow in addition to the stipend paid by the NIH. Such additional amounts may be in the form of augmented stipends (supplementation) or compensation for services.

Supplementation. Supplementation or additional support to offset the cost of living may be provided by the sponsoring institution, but must not require any additional effort from the fellow. Federal funds may not be used for supplementation unless specifically authorized under the terms of both the program from which such supplemental funds are to be received and the program whose funds are to be supplemented. Under no circumstances may PHS grant funds be used for supplementation.

Compensation. An institution may provide additional funds to a fellow in the form of compensation (as salary and/or tuition remission) for services, such as teaching or research. Compensation for services is not considered stipend supplementation. A fellow may receive compensation for services as a research assistant or in some other capacity on a Federal research grant, including a PHS research grant. However, compensated services must occur on a limited, part-time basis apart from the normal training activities, which require a minimum of 40 hours per week. In addition, compensation may not be paid from a research grant supporting research that is part of the F31 research training experience.

Under no circumstances may the conditions of stipend supplementation or the services provided for compensation interfere with, detract from, or prolong the fellow's approved NRSA training program. Additionally, compensation must be in accordance with institutional policies applied consistently to both federally and non-federally supported activities and supported by acceptable accounting records determined by the employer-employee relationship agreement.

Educational Loans or G.I. Bill. An individual may make use of Federal educational loan funds and assistance under the Veterans Readjustment Benefits Act (G.I. Bill). Such funds are not considered supplementation or compensation.

Concurrent Awards. An F31 may not be held concurrently with another Federally sponsored fellowship or similar Federal award that provides a stipend or otherwise duplicates provisions of the NRSA.

Tax Liability. The Internal Revenue Code, Section 117, applies to the tax treatment of all scholarships and fellowships. Degree candidates may exclude from gross income reported for tax purposes any amount used for tuition and related expenses, such as fees, books, supplies, and equipment, required for courses of instruction at a qualified educational organization.

The taxability of stipends, however, in no way alters the relationship between NRSA fellows and institutions. NRSA stipends are not considered salaries. NRSA fellows are not considered to be in an employee-employer relationship with the NIH or with the institution at which they are pursuing their degree.

The interpretation and implementation of the tax laws are the domain of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the courts. The NIH takes no position on the status of a particular taxpayer, and it does not have the authority to dispense tax advice. Individuals should consult their local

IRS office about the applicability of the law to their situation and for information on the proper steps to be taken regarding their tax obligations.

The business office of the sponsoring institution is responsible for the annual preparation and issuance of IRS Form 1099 (Statement of Miscellaneous Income) for fellows paid through the institution. NIH will issue the form for all fellows training at Federal or foreign laboratories and receiving a stipend check from the U.S. Treasury.

PAYBACK

There are no payback requirements for predoctoral NRSA support.

LEAVE

Predocctoral fellows may continue to receive stipends during periods of vacation and holidays available to individuals in comparable training positions at the sponsoring institution. Also, predoctoral fellows may continue to receive stipends for up to 15 calendar days of sick leave per year. Sick leave may be used for the medical conditions related to pregnancy and childbirth. Fellows may continue to receive stipends for up to 30 calendar days of parental leave per year for the adoption or the birth of a child when those in comparable training positions at the grantee or sponsoring institution have access to paid leave for this purpose and the use of parental leave is approved by the sponsor. A period of terminal leave is not permitted and payment may not be made from grant funds for leave not taken. Individuals requiring extended periods of time away from their research training experience must seek approval from the NIH awarding component for an unpaid leave of absence.

INCLUSION OF WOMEN AND MINORITIES IN RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS

It is the policy of the NIH that women and members of minority groups and their subpopulations must be included in all NIH supported biomedical and behavioral research projects involving human subjects, unless a clear and compelling rationale and justification is provided that inclusion is inappropriate with respect to the health of the subjects or the purpose of the research. This policy results from the NIH Revitalization Act of 1993 (Section 492B of Public Law 103-43).

All investigators proposing research involving human subjects should read the "NIH Guidelines For Inclusion of Women and Minorities as Subjects in Clinical Research," which have been published in the Federal Register of March 28, 1994 (FR 59 14508-14513) and in the NIH Guide

for Grants and Contracts, Vol. 23, No. 11, March 18, 1994 available on the web at the following URL address: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/not94-100.html>

INCLUSION OF CHILDREN AS PARTICIPANTS IN RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS

It is the policy of NIH that children (i.e., individuals under the age of 21) must be included in all human subjects research, conducted or supported by the NIH, unless there are scientific and ethical reasons not to include them. This policy applies to all initial (Type 1) applications submitted for receipt dates after October 1, 1998.

All investigators proposing research involving human subjects should read the "NIH Policy and Guidelines on the Inclusion of Children as Participants in Research Involving Human Subjects" that was published in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts, March 6, 1998, and is available at the following URL address: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/not98-024.html>

Investigators also may obtain copies of these policies from the program staff listed under INQUIRIES. Program staff may also provide additional relevant information concerning the policy.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Individuals must submit the application form, PHS Individual National Research Service Award (PHS 416-1, rev. 12/98), and include at least three letters of reference. If the applicant has been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence, the appropriate item should be checked on the Face Page of the application. Applicants who have applied for and have not yet been granted admission as a permanent resident should check the Permanent Resident block on the Face Page of the PHS 416-1 application, and also write in the word "pending". A notarized statement documenting legal admission for permanent residence must be submitted prior to the issuance of an award.

Potential applicants are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to consult with one of the NIH staff listed under INQUIRIES prior to submitting an application. Applicants should consult with their identified faculty mentor/sponsor to help determine the most appropriate NIH institute, and staff member to contact.

The applicant must follow all general instructions in the application kit AND the specific instructions included in the APPENDIX to this program announcement.

All fellowship applications submitted in response to this Program Announcement must identify the number PA-00-XXX in Item 3.

The following MUST be included with the application at the time of submission. Failure to include any of these items may delay review of the application:

- o THREE reference letters in sealed envelopes must be affixed to the original face page of the application. The sponsor cannot be used as a reference.

APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED WITHOUT THREE REFERENCE LETTERS WILL BE RETURNED WITHOUT REVIEW.

- o a copy of the results of either the Graduate Record Examination or the Medical College Admission Test (for M.D./Ph.D. applicants) must be included at the end of the application;

- o a clear and legible copy of the applicant's transcript(s) from all undergraduate and graduate institutions in which the applicant is/has been enrolled must be included at the end of the application;

- o a description of the graduate or combined degree program in which the applicant is either enrolled or has been admitted and agreed to enroll must be included as Item 34 of the application.

- o a description of plans to receive instruction in the responsible conduct of research must be included in Item 34. No award will be made if an application lacks this component.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

To obtain application kits with instructions and forms, please contact your institutional office of sponsored research. Application kits also may be downloaded from the NIH website at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms.htm#training> or they may be requested from the:

Division of Extramural Outreach and Information Resources

National Institutes of Health

6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 6207

MSC 7910

Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7910

Telephone: (301) 435-0714

FAX: (301) 480-0525

For faster service, send E-mail requests to grantsinfo@nih.gov . Please allow 2-4 weeks for U.S. mail requests.

Concurrent Applications. An individual may not have more than one individual NRSA fellowship or comparable application pending review or award at the NIH or other DHHS agencies at the same time.

Application Receipt Dates and Review Schedule. F31 applications undergo a review process that takes between 5 and 8 months. The receipt dates and the two annual review cycles are as follows:

Application Receipt Dates:	May 1	Nov 15
Initial Review Dates:	Jun/Jul	Jan/Feb
Secondary Review Dates:	Aug/Sep	Apr/May
Earliest Possible Start Date:	Sep 1	May 1

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE REVIEWED.

SUBMISSION

Submit a signed, typewritten original of the application (including the Checklist, Personal Data form, at least three sealed reference letters, and all other required materials) and two (2) exact, clear, single-sided photocopies of the signed application, in one package to:

CENTER FOR SCIENTIFIC REVIEW
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
6701 ROCKLEDGE DRIVE, ROOM 1040
BETHESDA, MD 20892
BETHESDA, MD 20817 (express mail)
(a mailing label is included in the PHS 416-1 application kit)

REVIEW CONSIDERATIONS

Complete applications will be assigned to the appropriate participating Institute and a suitable Scientific Review Group (SRG) in the Center for Scientific Review (CSR). Applicants will be notified of their application's Institute and SRG assignment.

Applications receive two sequential levels of review. The first level is an assessment of the merit of the research training by an SRG, composed primarily of non-government scientists selected for their competence in research and research training in a particular scientific area. After the SRG meeting, the Scientific Review Administrator (SRA), a designated Federal official who coordinates the review of applications for the SRG, prepares a written summary of the review of each application and forwards it to the appropriate NIH Institute. A second level of review is provided by staff within the assigned funding Institute or Center.

Review Criteria. The review criteria include:

- o the quality of the academic record and the prior research experience of the applicant as well as the potential for independent contributions to scientific knowledge;
- o the quality of the graduate program in which the applicant is enrolled or has been accepted for enrollment;
- o the qualifications and the research/research training experience of the applicant's sponsor or research advisor;
- o the match between the research interests of the student and the research advisor/sponsor and the quality of the career development plan;
- o the quality of the research training plan including the plan to receive training in the responsible conduct of research; and
- o for advanced graduate students, scientific significance, originality, and feasibility of the proposed research; for beginning students, quality and clarity of stated research interests.

Notification. Shortly after the SRG meeting, each applicant will be notified of the SRG recommendation and the name and phone number of the Institute program official responsible for the application. When the program official representing the Institute receives the written

summary of the review, prepared by the SRA after the review meeting, a copy will be forwarded automatically to the applicant.

Following the second-level review, the program official will notify each applicant of the final disposition of his/her application. Any questions on SRG recommendations and funding possibilities should be directed to the appropriate Institute program official, not the Scientific Review Administrator of the SRG.

AWARD CRITERIA

The staff of the NIH Institutes use the following criteria in making awards: (1) eligibility of the applicant; (2) the SRG recommendation of the overall merit of the application; (3) the relevance of the application to the Institute's research priorities and program balance; and (4) the availability of funds.

Activation. No funds may be disbursed until the fellow has started training under the award and an Activation Notice (PHS 416-5) has been submitted to the NIH.

An awardee has up to 6 months from the issue date on the Notice of Research Fellowship Award to activate the award. Under unusual circumstances, an Institute may grant an extension of the activation period upon receipt of a specific request from the fellow.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SUPPORT

Fellowships must be administered in accordance with the current NRSA Guidelines for Individual Awards and Institutional Grants (found on the NIH website at http://grants.nih.gov/training/nrsaguidelines/nrsa_toc.htm), the current PHS Grants Policy Statement (see the NIH website at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/policy.htm>), and any terms and conditions specified on the Notice of Research Fellowship Award.

Certification and Reporting Procedures. No application will be accepted without the applicant signing the certification block on the face page. Individuals admitted to the United States as permanent residents must submit notarized evidence of legal admission prior to the award. When support ends, the fellow must submit a Termination Notice (PHS 416-7) to the NIH. Forms will be provided to the awardee by the NIH awarding component. Forms may also be found on the NIH Website at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms.htm#training>.

Inventions and Publications. Fellowships made primarily for educational purposes are exempted from the PHS invention requirements. F31 awards will not contain any provision giving PHS rights to inventions made by the awardee.

Data Sharing. PHS Policy is to make available to the public the results and accomplishments of the activities that it funds. Therefore, it is incumbent upon fellows to make results and accomplishments of their F31 activities available to the public. There should be no restrictions on the publication of results in a timely manner.

Copyright. Except as otherwise provided in the terms and conditions of the award, the recipient is free to arrange for copyright without approval when publications, data, or other copyrightable works are developed in the course of work under a PHS grant-supported project or activity. Any such copyrighted or copyrightable works shall be subject to a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable license to the Government to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use them, and to authorize others to do so for Federal Government purposes.

AUTHORITY AND REGULATIONS

NRSAs are made under the authority of Section 487 of the Public Health Service Act as amended (42 USC 288), and Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 66. The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance numbers are applicable to these awards: 93.121, 93.172, 93.173, 93.233, 93.272, 93.278, 93.282, 93.306, 93.361, 93.398, 93.821, 93.837-93.839, 93.846-93.849, 93.853-93.856, 93.859, 93.862-93.867, 93.880, 93.894, and 93.929.

This program is not subject to the intergovernmental review requirements of Executive Order 12372 or Health Systems Agency review.

INQUIRIES

For additional information contact the appropriate individual listed below. All individuals listed below can be reached via the Federal Information Relay System, 1 (800) 877-8339.

National Institute on Aging (NIA)

Dr. Robin Barr

Telephone: (301) 496-9322

Email: rb42h@nih.gov

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)

Dr. Ernestine Vanderveen

Telephone: (301) 443-1273

Email: tv9f@nih.gov

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

Dr. Milton Hernandez

Telephone: (301) 496-3775 or (800) 380-3876

Email: mh35c@nih.gov

National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS)

Dr. Richard Lymn

Telephone: (301) 594-5128

Email: rl28b@nih.gov

National Cancer Institute (NCI)

Dr. Lester Gorelic

Telephone: (301) 496-8580

E-mail: lg2h@nih.gov

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)

Dr. Steven Klein

Telephone: (301) 496-5541

Email: sk5d@nih.gov

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)

Dr. Daniel Sklare

Telephone: (301) 496-1804

Email: ds104i@nih.gov

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)

Dr. James Lipton

Telephone: (301) 594-2618

Email: jl46d@nih.gov

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)

Division of Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Metabolic Diseases

Dr. Ronald Margolis

Telephone: (301) 594-8819

Email: rm76f@nih.gov

Division of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition

Dr. Judith Podskalny

Telephone: (301) 594-8876

Email: jp53s@nih.gov

Division of Kidney, Urologic and Hematologic Diseases

Dr. Charles Rodgers

Telephone: (301) 594-7726

Email: cr36d@nih.gov

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

Division of Basic Research

Dr. Charles Sharp

Telephone: (301) 443-1887

Email: cs107m@nih.gov

Division of Epidemiology and Prevention Research

Dr. Kathy Etz

Telephone: (301) 443-1514

Email: ke25p@nih.gov

Medications Development Division

Dr. Jamie Biswas

Telephone: (301) 443-5280

E-mail: jb168r@nih.gov

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)

Dr. Carol Shreffler

Telephone: (919) 541-1445

Email: cs63v@nih.gov

National Eye Institute (NEI)

Dr. Maria Giovanni

Telephone: (301) 496-0484

Email: mg37u@nih.gov

National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)

Dr. Anthony A. Rene

Telephone: (301) 594-3833

Email: ra50h@nih.gov

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

NOTE: In addition to this program, the NIMH supports minority graduate education through several other programs. For example, the NIMH also sponsors an institutional predoctoral fellowship program for underrepresented minorities, and in addition provides support for dissertation research grants for students from underrepresented minority groups whose research relates to the scientific interests of the NIMH. For information on these and other training programs, please consult the NIMH Research Training and Career Development Website at: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/grants/training.cfm> (see: Programs for Special Populations).

For additional information, contact:

Walter Goldschmidts, Ph.D.

Telephone: (301) 443-3563

Email: wgoldsch@mail.nih.gov

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)

Mrs. Ann Rothgeb

Telephone: (301) 435-0202

Email: ar31t@nih.gov

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)

Dr. Joseph S. Drage

Telephone: (301) 496-4188

Email: jd66x@nih.gov

National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)

The National Institute of Nursing Research has an ongoing Program Announcement for NINR National Research Service Award Individual Predoctoral Fellowships (F31) that is also an appropriate funding opportunity for minority nursing students. Information about this

announcement and other aspects of our research training program is found at <http://www.nih.gov/ninr/>. Inquiries about this program should be directed to:

Dr. Nell Armstrong Telephone: 301-594-5973

nell_armstrong@nih.gov

National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)

Dr. Bettie Graham

Telephone: (301) 496-7531

Email: bg30t@nih.gov

National Center for Research Resources (NCRR)

Dr. David Wilde

Telephone: (301) 435-0799

Email: dw171w@nih.gov

National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Dr. Neal West

Telephone: (301) 402-5867

Email: nw20a@nih.gov

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Further information on other research training initiatives in health services research and other areas of interest to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) can be found under Funding Opportunities at the Agency's Website at <http://www.ahrq.gov/>. The site also includes a Notice, announced in the NIH Guide of May 9, 1997, that the Agency is developing a policy and implementation plan on the inclusion of children in health services research.

For information call:

Dr. Karen Rudzinski

Telephone: (301) 594-3602

Email: training@AHRQ.GOV

Note: The Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) Program of NIGMS has a similar fellowship to support graduates of its various MARC Honors Undergraduate Research Training (HURT) or MARC Undergraduate Student Training in Academic Research (U*STAR) programs while they attend graduate school to earn the research doctorate in the biomedically-relevant sciences. Graduates of the MARC Program are encouraged to apply to the MARC Predoctoral Fellowship Program. For further information contact the MARC Program Office, National

Institute of General Medical Sciences, Natcher Building, Room 2AS37, Bethesda,
MD 20892, telephone (301) 594-3900.

If you are not sure whom to contact about this program, call:

Walter T. Schaffer, Ph.D.
Research Training Officer
National Institutes of Health
6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 6184
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7911
Phone: 301-435-2687
FAX: 301-480-0146
EMail: ws11q@nih.gov

APPENDIX

Instructions for Completing the Application

A. To be completed by the student-applicant

(Form Page 1)

Item 1. ("Title of Research Training Proposal"). Type: MINORITY PREDOCTORAL
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Item 2. ("Level of Fellowship"). Type: Predoctoral.

Item 3. ("Program Announcement Number"). Type: PA-00-XXX

Items 4 - 8. Self-explanatory.

Item 4j ("Citizenship"). By the time of the award, individuals must be citizens or non-citizen nationals of the United States, or have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence (i.e., possess a currently valid Alien Registration Receipt Card I-551, or other legal verification of such status). Non-citizen nationals are generally persons born in outlying possessions of the United States (e.g., American Samoa and Swains Island). Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible.

If permanent resident status is still pending when the application is submitted, place an X in the box for permanent resident and type "pending".

(Items 9 - 14. Completed by sponsor).

Item 15. THE APPLICANT MUST SIGN THE APPLICATION.

(Form Page 2)

Items 16-18. Self-explanatory; if any do not apply to you, type N/A.

(Items 19, 20, and 21. Completed by sponsor)

Item 22. (Abstract of Proposed Research). If you have selected a thesis topic, briefly describe, in abstract form, the question you are studying, how you are approaching it, and the health relatedness of your project. If you have not yet selected a thesis project, type "No thesis selected," and instead give a brief description of the research area that interests you most, even if your research interests are still very broad, and why.

(Form Page 3)

Fill in the appropriate page numbers in the spaces provided.

(Form Page 4)

Item 23. (Scholastic Performance). List all undergraduate and graduate courses you have taken and the grades you received. In addition, you MUST submit a LEGIBLE copy of a transcript from all undergraduate and graduate institutions you have attended or are currently attending.

(Form Page 5)

Items 24-27. Self-explanatory

(Item 26. Complete only if the dissertation advisor is different from the sponsor)

(Form Page 6)

Item 28. Research Experience

- a. (Summary). Provide a thorough description of your relevant work and research experiences, including time, place, research director, and your role in the research.
- b. (Doctoral Dissertation). Leave blank.
- c. (Publications). Include a list of publications, abstracts, and poster presentations. Three (3) collated sets of copies of publications may be provided as part of Section 3 in the Appendix of the 416-1 application.

Item 29. (Revised Application). Complete ONLY if this application is a revision of an application submitted earlier. Limit this to 1 page.

Item 30. (Research Training Plan)

- a. (Activities Under Award). Explain your research training and long-range career goals, and how the proposed course of study to be supported by this fellowship will help you attain these goals. If appropriate, explain how prior work and research experiences affected your choice of career goals.
- b. and c. (Research Proposal and Respective Contributions). If you have selected a research thesis topic, complete this section according to the instructions. If you have not yet selected a thesis, give a description of the research area that interests you most and why.
- d. (Selection of a Sponsor and Institution). Explain why you chose to enroll in this university/institution and in this graduate program. If you have selected a research advisor, give the rationale for your choice. If you have not selected an advisor, identify up to five individuals with whom you would like to work, giving a rationale for your choices.

B. To be completed by the research advisor or sponsor

If the applicant HAS SELECTED A RESEARCH ADVISOR, the ADVISOR must complete the items in this section. If the applicant HAS NOT YET SELECTED A RESEARCH ADVISOR, the director of the graduate program should designate a sponsor to complete these items. The director may choose to serve as the sponsor.

For Items 9-14 on Form Page 1, items 19-21 on Form Page 2, and items 30-38 on Form Pages 6, 7, and 8 follow the instructions in the 416 kit.

In Item 34, in addition to the information requested in the application kit:

(1) provide a full description of the graduate or combined degree program in which the applicant is (or is to be) enrolled. This description should give both the normal course of study (both didactic and laboratory) for students enrolled in the program AND the specific training plan for the applicant. A description of opportunities to receive training in the responsible conduct of research must also be included;

(2) for students ALREADY ENROLLED in the graduate program, describe the applicant's course of study up to the time of submission of the application and plans for further study; and

(3) provide the applicable tuition and fees for each year of support requested. Such tuition and fees must be those charged to all similar individuals regardless of source of support.

C. To be supplied by the university or institution

1. A signed statement from the institution certifying:

(a) the applicant is enrolled as a predoctoral student OR has been accepted by and agreed to enroll in the graduate training program;

(b) the applicant is a citizen, non-citizen national or permanent resident of the U.S. (see ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, at the beginning of this Announcement);

(c) the applicant is from a racial/ethnic group underrepresented in biomedical or behavioral research. (This certification MAY include an identification of the applicant's ethnic/racial group).

2. By signing Item 38 (Form Page 8), the institution is also certifying the accuracy of the information provided.

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