

Genzyme/ACMGF Clinical Genetics Fellowships in Biochemical Genetics REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Summary

The purpose of the Genzyme/ACMG Foundation "Genzyme Clinical Genetics Fellowship in Biochemical/Metabolic Genetics" Award Program is to:

1. Advance education, research and standards of practice in medical genetics.
2. Develop and expand clinical and laboratory expertise in medical genetics in the United States.
3. Initiate and develop a broad-based infrastructure for industry funding of high quality projects in the fields of medical genetics.

Background

Newborn screening programs are rapidly expanding in the United States. However, there is a deficit of physicians specifically trained in the diagnosis, management and treatment of individuals with the metabolic diseases identified in the programs. It is expected that these programs will continue to expand as more conditions such as the lysosomal storage diseases are added into newborn screening. Clinical Geneticists, of whom there is a subset who focus on biochemical genetic disorders, are often the physicians involved in the coordination of care of these patients. The ability of medical genetics to adapt to the evolution of therapeutic approaches to genetic diseases will be critical to its sustained success.

Genzyme/ACMG Foundation seek to support a robust national fellowship program to promote and encourage the recruitment and training of clinicians for this purpose. Although the fellowship will be focused on clinical biochemical genetics broadly, in light of the facts that (1) there are approximately 40 genetic disorders resulting from the inadequate intralysosomal degradation of cellular substrates, and (2) the proliferation of therapies for lysosomal storage diseases (LSDs) and other metabolic diseases has resulted in the need for clinical geneticists with the interest and training to care for patients with these disorders, it is expected that institutions and trainees applying for support of their third year of training will ensure a significant exposure to LSDs.

Objective

To provide an in-depth clinical experience at a premier medical center with expertise and significant clinical volume in the area of biochemical genetics, including lysosomal storage diseases, as well as in therapeutics and clinical trials involving patients with these and other metabolic diseases and, thereby, to increase the number of medical geneticists with interest, knowledge, and expertise in this field.

Program

The Award Program is designed to support the sustainable development of clinically interested and qualified Clinical Geneticists with expertise in biochemical genetics. Each trainee-applicant and his/her sponsoring institution will submit a joint application to the ACMG Foundation committee for the sponsorship of the trainee through the Award Program to focus the trainee-applicant's first year of fellowship following his/her residency in a genetics fellowship on biochemical genetic diseases.



Criteria and Qualifications

Institutional Criteria—The Clinical Genetics program at the applicant Institution must be currently and fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education ("ACGME") and must be able to provide the Awardee with appropriate clinical supervision and mentorship. The applicant-institution must have a multidisciplinary team that is established and trained to manage the multiple aspects of care required by individuals with biochemical genetic diseases. The applicant-institution is expected to provide the Awardees significant exposure to patients with LSDs. The applicant-institution should serve a large patient population and have the diagnostic and research capabilities to properly diagnose patients and provide comprehensive management.

Trainee-applicant Criteria—Each MD trainee-applicant must be enrolled in an ACGME-approved Clinical Genetics Residency Program ("Genetics Program") in the United States and must have completed their first year of residency to the satisfaction of his/her Genetics Program director(s).

Activities

Fellowship activities of the Awardees will focus on significant clinical care of patients with biochemical genetic disorders. The Awardees will design a research project to be conducted over the course of the Fellowship Year, which will be clinical in nature, and may relate to any area of current or future therapy for metabolic diseases. This Research Project may include work with registries, clinical trials, investigator initiated work, or other areas of clinical investigation. The ACMGF will provide the Awardees a platform for the presentation of the Awardees' work at the appropriate time during the Fellowship Year. Each Awardee must provide to the ACMGF a progress report regarding the Research Project at six months following the commencement of the Fellowship Year and a final report regarding the Research Project at twelve months from the commencement of the Fellowship Year.

Performance Period

The Fellowship Year will commence on **July 1, 2012** and end on **June 30, 2013**.

Award Process

Trainee-applicants and institution-applicants will submit their joint applications at the beginning of the trainee-applicant's second year of residency, with selection occurring in August thru September, notification of the Awardees in early September, and announcement of the Awardee at the ACMG Annual meeting which will be held in March. The Fellowship Year will commence on July 1st.

Award Support

Genzyme/ACMGF will fund the Award in the amount of \$75,000 per year, which shall be designated to pay for all direct costs (stipend, fringe benefits, other training costs) and indirect costs (capped at 8% as with NIH training grants) associated with the Awardees' Fellowship Year. ACMGF shall pay such funds directly to the institution sponsoring the Awardees in four quarterly installments, which institution shall agree in writing, prior to the disbursement of any such funds, to use such funds in accordance with the terms of the Agreement.

Submitting an Application

An application form template is available at <http://www.acmgfoundation.org>

- The application will include an outline of the trainee-applicant's Research Project proposal and affirmation of the criteria and qualifications.
- The application will include an agreement by the trainee-applicant, if selected as an Awardee, to comply with the terms of the Award Program.
- The Institution that sponsors the trainee-applicant also will be required to complete part of the application, including acceptance of the terms and conditions under which the Award Program will be made.
- Officers, directors, or employees of the ACMGF, Genzyme, or members of the Award Committee, and their family members (including spouses, children and their spouses, and siblings and their spouses), will not be eligible to apply to participate in the Award Program.
- Application limited to five pages plus references.

Review Process

The ACMGF has established a committee of individuals to serve as reviewers of applications. Each individual reviewer will be asked to submit comments on each application, to provide a recommendation as to whether or not each application merits funding, and to rank the applications.

Where to Direct Inquiries

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Receipt and Review Schedule

Applications for this program will be considered in one round, based on the following schedule:

- Application Submission Deadline: **AUGUST 15, 2011***
- Award Notification by: **SEPTEMBER 2011**
- Award Announcement at the 2012 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting in March.

*In order to be considered, applications must be accompanied by an Award Agreement executed by both the applicant and the applicant's institution.

**Awardees shall be reimbursed for travel and lodging expenses to attend the award announcement during the 2012 ACMG Annual Meeting.