

Winship Cancer Institute
T32 Training Program in Cancer Biology
in Support of Postdoctoral Trainees
Request for Applications

Winship T32 Training Program in Cancer Biology
In Support of Postdoctoral Trainees
Program Announcement and Request for Applications
Applications Due: Friday, July 28, 2023

OVERVIEW

Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University is pleased to announce a request for applications to the Winship T32 Training Program in Cancer Biology in support of postdoctoral trainees (PhD basic scientists and/or MD clinical residents/fellows). Advances in our understanding of the biology of cancer have the potential to lead to significant breakthroughs in cancer diagnosis and treatment; however, the translation of basic science discoveries to clinical advancement has been impaired by the dichotomous training of basic scientists and clinicians. Thus, there is a compelling need for an enhanced mentored research training program that will bridge the gap between training in rigorous scientific investigation following the scientific method and compassionate clinical care for the patient. This program will take advantage of the outstanding resources, high caliber of investigators, and close collaboration between cancer biologists and clinicians at the Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University to provide a unique, individualized, and multi-faceted training experience to support the development of postdoctoral trainees in acquiring the knowledge and skills to address the most important biological questions and clinically significant problems so that they can make transformative discoveries to improve quality of care for patients with cancer.

The objective of the Winship Training Program in Cancer Biology is to provide postdoctoral trainees (PhD and/or MD) with the infrastructure, resources, training, experience, and mentorship to acquire the depth of knowledge and critical skills in cancer biology research combined with the practical exposure and understanding of clinical concepts to initiate an impactful independent research program that will translate novel insights in cancer biology into improvements in clinical care. Aims of the training program include: 1) Organized research training, 2) Comprehensive formal and informal didactics, 3) Clinical exposure through tumor boards and clinics, 4) Career development activities, and 5) Plan for transition to independence. This program intends to train the next generation of cancer scientific leaders.

Selected scholars must be able to commit to full-time laboratory-based research training (40 h/wk as defined by the NIH) for 12-24 months. We expect that Scholars will receive salary support and benefits up to \$57,300 per year, \$4500 in tuition and fees, \$1000 for travel, \$2500 for childcare costs, and \$12,200 in trainee related expenses to support Training Program initiatives and specific needs for research, which can include supplies, reagents, poster preparation, etc.

The program will combine key didactic, research, and career development components to train independent and productive independent researchers. Scholars will participate in four training components: (1) core competencies, (2) advanced coursework, (3) career development, and (4) mentored research. The mentored research training plan will be supervised by independently funded faculty who will guide the scholar in the development and conduct of his/her research project. All trainees will be required to form a Mentoring Committee with at least one clinical mentor from the Executive Committee or Research Mentors who can provide scientific insight from a clinical perspective.

While specific training goals for each T32 postdoctoral trainee will be based on their prior training, research interests, and career goals, which will be defined in an Individual Development Plan (IDP) developed with their Primary Research Mentor and Mentoring Committee, general training goals aligned with core competencies expected for postdoctoral trainees in the T32 training program include:

- 1) Acquiring a foundation of knowledge in cancer biology
- 2) Expanding their technical background with new methodologies to complement prior research training
- 3) Learning to collaborate effectively
- 4) Gaining exposure to the clinical enterprise and an understanding of clinical concepts
- 5) Acquiring career development skills, including grant writing, mentoring, and communication skills
- 6) Demonstrating a track record of scholarly activities
- 7) Generating a sufficient body of work that they have ownership on to launch their own independent research program (we acknowledge that this will likely take longer than the planned duration of the T32 training award but this is an important goal that we expect all trainees to be working towards)

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Potential T32 trainees should submit the following:

- NIH Biosketch (5-page limit, including a personal statement of up to 500 words describing their research interests and commitment to an academic career in cancer biology research)
- Description of Proposed Research (up to 500 words)
- Mentor(s) Biosketch, including current funding support (5-page limit)
- Mentor Letter of Support (2-page limit)

Applications should be emailed as a single pdf document to Doreen Theune dtheune@emory.edu **no later than 11:59 pm on Friday 7/28/2023**. Questions about the program should be directed to Program Director David Yu, MD, PhD dsyu@emory.edu or other members of the T32 Executive Committee Anita Corbett, PhD, Larry Boise, PhD, Shishir Maithel, MD, Martha Arellano, MD, Brent Weinberg, MD, PhD, and Jolinta Lin, MD.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- 1) PhD and/or MD
- 2) US citizen or permanent resident and otherwise meet all other NIH eligibility criteria
- 3) Not be participating in another postdoctoral training program
- 4) Express a strong interest in training in cancer biology research and a commitment to an academic research career as an independent investigator
- 5) Commit to full-time research training (40 h/wk as defined by the NIH) for 12-24 months. For MD clinical residents/fellows, candidates with prior research training, including a PhD or MS, will be given preferential consideration.
- 6) To support excellence and diversity among applicants and awardees, proposals are encouraged from groups identified as nationally underrepresented in the sciences including women, members of underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, individuals with disabilities, and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- 1) Merit of the proposed research,
- 2) Potential of the candidate to develop into a successful independent investigator based on prior research experience, publications, academic record, and letter of recommendation
- 3) Demonstration of commitment to a career in Cancer Biology research
- 4) Relevance of the proposed research to training in Cancer Biology
- 5) Commitment of the Research Mentor to the success of the trainee, including but not limited to indicated effort towards the trainee, plan for continued support of the trainee following the T32 training program, commitment to providing the trainee with a project they will have ownership on and can take with them after leaving the lab, and provision of lab technician support for the trainee,
- 6) Likelihood of meeting T32 training program objectives such as first author publications and obtaining K awards
- 7) Consideration for diversity with a focus on outstanding trainees who are URM, women, or persons with disabilities
- 8) For MD applicants in residency/fellowship training programs, given their relatively shorter duration of protected research time, the Research Mentor's commitment to providing lab technician support for the

trainee and the Research Mentor's commitment to support the continued research training of the trainee following the T32 training period if needed will be viewed favorably

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Once selected, T32 trainees must be able to spend 40 h/wk conducting research during the period of the award
- T32 trainees may not receive concomitant salary support from any other federal grant during the first year of T32 funding;
- T32 trainees agree to attend and participate in all program components for the entirety of the award period and to engage in all program required communication, reporting, and evaluation for the remainder of their professional career;
- T32 trainees agree to remain affiliated with Emory University or Winship Cancer Institute for the duration of the T32 training program.

T32 PROGRAM COMPONENTS AND CURRICULUM

Structure of the Winship T32 Training Program in Cancer Biology includes:

- 1) Formation of a Mentoring Committee that will meet twice annually
- 2) Creation and utilization of an Individual Development Plan (IDP)
- 3) Organized research training under the trainee's Research Mentor(s)
- 4) Formal didactic coursework, including required Responsible Conduct of Research and Enhancing Scientific Rigor and Reproducibility courses
- 5) Informal didactics
- 6) Clinical exposure
- 7) Annual T32 Training Program retreat
- 8) Career development activities
- 9) Plan for transition to independence

KEY DATES

Full Application Due Date:

Friday, July 28, 2023