NIH DIRECTOR’S EARLY INDEPENDENCE AWARDS


The University of Pittsburgh may submit two nominations for the NIH Director’s Early Independence Awards (DP5). This highly competitive program “supports exceptional investigators who wish to pursue independent research directly after completion of their terminal doctoral/research degree or clinical residency, thereby forgoing the traditional post-doctoral training period …”


The individual either 1) within the preceding twelve months must have received a terminal doctoral degree or completed medical residency or 2) within the following twelve months must complete all the requirements for a doctoral degree or complete a medical residency... In addition, at the time of application, the PD/PI must not have served as a post-doctoral fellow following a previous doctoral degree for more than one year. The individual must also not be the PD/PI of an NIH R01 or equivalent grant at the time of award.

Prospective candidates should contact appropriate Institutional leaders to seek an appointment in an independent research position. Alternatively, Institutions may actively recruit eligible junior scientists to apply for support through this program. In either event, the Institution will be expected to provide substantial support for the junior scientist as detailed [in the full announcement].

To foster independence, it may behoove candidates to be hosted by institutions other than the ones at which they trained. To facilitate the “matching” of institutions and candidates, the NIH Common Fund is hosting a website (http://commonfund.nih.gov/ei/matchingportal/index.aspx) in which institutions interested in hosting candidates may choose to provide pertinent information such as particular areas of research being targeted, supporting documents to be submitted, and institution contact information.

If you would like to be considered as a nominee for this program, or if you would like to nominate someone for this program, please send the following information to Dr. Michelle Broido, Associate Vice Chancellor for Biomedical Research, by noon on Monday, November 16: (1) the candidate’s full CV (not NIH biosketch); (2) a one page description of the proposed research; (3) a letter of nomination from the applicant’s dissertation advisor, research mentor, or department chair (division chief, institute director). These items should be sent to Dr. Broido c/o Ms. Selena Crawford, sac32@pitt.edu.

Internal deadline: Noon, Monday, November 16, 2015

Letter of Intent submission deadline (to NIH): Tuesday, December 29, 2015

Application submission deadline: 5:00 pm, Friday, January 29, 2016