REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Minneapolis Medical Research Foundation

Post-doctoral Appointment Program

Letter of Intent: Interested individuals should submit a letter of intent by 03/01/2018. This letter is non-binding, should include a very brief (<1 paragraph) description of the Principal Investigator's research focus, and does not influence review of a subsequent application.

Application deadline: Applications for the 2018 cycle should be submitted electronically by 5:00 pm CST on 03/19/2018 to researchinquiry@mmrf.org. Questions should be directed to Carey Nadeau, MMRF Sr. Grant and Contract Administrator at cnadeau@mmrf.org.

Overview: The MMRF supports the development of research in a variety of ways, including supporting post-doctoral positions for existing programs.   Post-doctoral support is available for request from any existing research programs with external sponsored awards. The specific purpose of these awards is to support and build existing MMRF programs by providing salary support that encourages and facilitates the development of independent researchers within MMRF. This mechanism is targeted to post-doctoral candidates that will be mentored by existing investigators who have already been successful in attracting extramural grants. Investigators must indicate the need for post-doctoral involvement and how this will help grow their programs. The overall goal is for MMRF post-doc awards to provide a bridge for the post-doctoral investigator to develop their own independent careers at MMRF, and recipients are expected to submit extramural grant proposals by the end of their first year**.**

Amount of Award: The level of support corresponds to 0.50 FTE at the currently published National Research Service Award stipend levels, plus applicable fringe benefits and rent costs that may be allocable to the salaries being supported. The applying investigator is expected to support the remaining 0.50 FTE (and associated fringe/rent) for the post-doc with their existing sponsored funds**.** We anticipate making awards in the range of $30,000 per year, per post-doc.

Duration of Support: Awards will be one year, with an option for one year of renewal or two total years of support. Renewal funding will be contingent upon acceptable progress and availability of funds. For evaluation of continuation into a second year of support, a progress report will be required for review by the MMRF Operations Committee (and external reviewers as needed). Measures to be evaluated include progress in the initial year related to applications for external funding, publications, and an assessment by mentor of scientific growth.

Eligibility: Applicants must be MMRF Investigators and post-doctoral candidates must be available for full time employment at the MMRF during the period of support. Internal and external (to the MMRF) post-doctoral candidates are eligible.

Application guidelines: To apply, please submit the following to the Chief Operating Officer (Mary Bergaas), via researchinquiry@mmrf.org.

1) Written proposal of up to three pages (Arial 11pt font, single spaced, 1-inch margins) addressing the following:
   a) Program: Provide information on the status of the mentor's current projects and funding
   b) Experience: Provide a brief overview of the post-doc candidate's training and experience (to be supplemented by biosketch below)
   c) Rationale and purpose: Explain what role the post-doc will fill within the program, how the post-doc's training/experience will serve the mentor's program, and why the support is needed to grow and/or expand the research program

d) <u>Career development goals/aims</u>: What research program does the post-doctoral candidate envision conducting over next 5-10 years? Collaborator to multiple MMRF/external programs or a PI leading his/her own projects? Include specific short-term objectives to accomplish during the award, including plans for obtaining extramural funding. IF the post-doc candidate is not currently employed by the PI, the career development goals can be more general but the PI should propose (for the newly added post-doc): a) short-term career milestones for the post-doc, as well as b) potential focus areas that post-doc might develop within the program.

e) <u>Mentorship Plan</u>: including mentor's experience in mentorship, and their mentorship plan for mentee (i.e., what is your vision for the career development and work plans of your mentee?)

2) Submit an accompanying biosketch (NIH format) for the Principal Investigator as well as for the post-doctoral candidate. Include a table of trainees for the principal investigator/mentor in addition to, or within, the mentor's biosketch

Sample table:

Past and Current Trainees	Trainee Position	Period (Dates)	Academic Degree(s)	Research Funding or Support	Current or Last Known Position

<u>**Review Process & Criteria:**</u> Applications will be reviewed by the MMRF Operations Committee plus additional ad-hoc peer review by investigators based on research topic/focus. Applications will receive an overall priority score from 1.0 to 5.0 (1 being highest score), based on reviewers' assessment of the following criteria:

a) Environment: Has the mentor and corresponding research program established the necessary support and track record, to assure the candidate's success?

b) Candidate: Is the candidate well suited for the research program? What is their likelihood of success in the establishment of independent and/or strong collaborative funding? If the PI is proposing to hire a post-doc candidate (i.e., not a current MMRF candidate), then success will be judged on the proposed career development goals along with mentorship plan.

c) Significance & Impact: Is the post-doc candidate likely to help <u>advance, grow and/or expand the research program</u>? Is there potential for the post-doc candidate's research <u>to open up new avenues and/or support other programmatic research at the MMRF</u>?

Applications will be reviewed April/May 2017.

Award date: Awards will be announced by (or before) June 1, 2018 and funding will begin as early as 7/1/2018.