

**NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for
Individual Predoctoral Fellows (Parent F31)**

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**Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Predoctoral Fellowships
to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research (Parent F31 - Diversity)**

General Information:

Link to Parent F31 Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA): <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-11-111.html>.

Link to Parent F31- Diversity Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA):
<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-11-112.html>.

Participating Institutes and Centers (ICs) for PA-11-111 (F31): National Cancer Institute ([NCI](#)); National Institute on Aging ([NIA](#)); National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism ([NIAAA](#)); National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders ([NIDCD](#)); National Institute on Dental and Craniofacial Research ([NIDCR](#)); National Institute on Drug Abuse ([NIDA](#)); National Institute of Mental Health ([NIMH](#)); National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke ([NINDS](#)); National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine ([NCCAM](#)) (See Notice [NOT-AT-11-004](#) will no longer participate after May 7, 2012).

Participating Institutes and Centers (ICs) for PA-11-112 (F31- Diversity): National Cancer Institute ([NCI](#)); National Eye Institute ([NEI](#)); National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute ([NHLBI](#)); National Human Genome Research Institute ([NHGRI](#)); National Institute on Aging ([NIA](#)); National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism ([NIAAA](#)); National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases ([NIAID](#)); National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases ([NIAMS](#)); National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering ([NIBIB](#)); *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development ([NICHD](#)); National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders ([NIDCD](#)); National Institute on Dental and Craniofacial Research ([NIDCR](#)); National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases ([NIDDK](#)); National Institute on Drug Abuse ([NIDA](#)); National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences ([NIEHS](#)); National Institute of General Medical Sciences ([NIGMS](#)); National Institute of Mental Health ([NIMH](#)); National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke ([NINDS](#)); National Institute of Nursing Research ([NINR](#)); National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine ([NCCAM](#))

IC Specific Information, including contact information: Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the appropriate individuals at the IC to which they are applying to discuss their application. More information can be found here: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/contacts/parent_F31.html, or here (F31- Diversity): http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/contacts/parent_F31_diversity.html.

Purpose F31: To provide support for promising doctoral candidates who will be performing dissertation research and training in scientific health-related fields relevant to the missions of the participating NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) during the tenure of the award.

Purpose F31- Diversity: The purpose of this individual predoctoral research training fellowship is to improve the diversity of the health-related research workforce by supporting the training of predoctoral students from groups that have been shown to be underrepresented. Such candidates include individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, individuals with disabilities, and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Application Due Dates: *Cycle I:* April 8; *Cycle II:* August 8; *Cycle III:* December 8.

Note: AIDS and AIDS-related Applications have their own due dates: *Cycle 1:* May 7; *Cycle 2:* September 7; *Cycle 3:* January 7

Award Period: Individuals may receive up to 5 years of aggregate Kirschstein-NRSA support at the predoctoral level (up to 6 years for dual degree training, e.g., MD/PhD), *including any combination of support from institutional training grants (e.g. T32) and an individual fellowship award. Fellowship awards are often limited to 2-3 years.*

Budget Information: FY 2011 information on Stipends, Tuition/Fees and Other Budgetary Levels can be found here: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-11-067.html>. No indirect (F&A) Costs.

Individual Eligibility Information: Individuals must be *citizens or non-citizen nationals* (in possession of a valid Permanent Resident Card USCIS Form I-551 or legal verification of status).

For Parent F31: Individuals must be *at the dissertation research state of their training*, and show evidence of high academic performance in the sciences and substantial interest in a research area of high priority to the participation ICs. Applicants must have baccalaureate degree and be currently *enrolled in PhD or equivalent research degree program* or combined professional/clinic and research doctorate.

For F31-Diversity Awards, individuals must fit one of the following criteria:

A. Individuals from racial and ethnic groups that have been shown by the National Science Foundation to be underrepresented in health-related sciences on a national basis (see data at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/showpub.cfm?TopID=2&SubID=27> and the report Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering, 2007, p. 262). The following racial and ethnic groups have been shown to be underrepresented in biomedical research: African Americans, Hispanic Americans, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders. In addition, it is recognized that underrepresentation can vary from setting to setting and individuals from racial or ethnic groups that can be convincingly demonstrated to be underrepresented by the grantee institution are eligible for support under this program.

B. Individuals with disabilities, who are defined as those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

C. In exceptional cases at the predoctoral level, individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds (see PA-11-112 for more information).

Application Components:

Project Title: *81 characters, including spaces and punctuation.*

Cover Letter: *Required for Fellowship Applications. Must contain the list of referees (including name, department affiliation, and institution). It should also contain any of the following information that applies to the application: Application title; Funding Opportunity (PA or RFA) title; Request of an assignment (referral) to a particular awarding component (e.g. NIH IC) or Scientific Review Group (SRG; List of individuals (e.g., competitors) who should not review your application/why; Disciplines involved, if multidisciplinary; For late applications, specific information about the timing and nature of the cause of the delay. Template Cover Letter available in SF424 (R&R) Individual Fellowship Application Guide for NIH and AHRQ.*

Project Narrative: *No more than two or three sentences.* Describe the relevance of this research to public health.

Project Summary/ Abstract: *No longer than 30 lines of text.* A self-contained description of the project. Should contain a statement of objectives and methods to be employed. Should be informative to other persons working in the same or related fields and understandable to a scientifically or technically literate lay reader.

Specific Aims: *1 page.* State concisely the goals of the proposed research, summarize expected outcome(s), including impact on research field(s). List succinctly the specific objectives of the proposed research.

Project Narrative: *No more than two or three sentences.* Describe the *relevance of this research to public health.* Be succinct and use plain language that can be understood by a general, lay audience.

Research Strategy: *6 pages.*

Significance: Explain: the importance of the problem/barrier to progress that the proposed project addresses; how the project will improve scientific knowledge/technical capability/clinic practice in the field; how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, preventative interventions that drive the field will be changed if the aims are achieved.

Innovation: Fellowship applications should NOT include an “Innovation” section.

Approach: Describe the overall strategy, methodology and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how data will be collected, analyzed and interpreted and any resource sharing plans (unless you are including a Resource Sharing Plan as a separate attachment); discuss potential problems/alternative strategies/ benchmarks for success; if the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility and address the management of any high risk aspects of the proposed work. Point out any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and precautions to be exercised. Include any courses that you plan to take to support the research training experiences. If you have multiple Specific Aims, you may address Significance, Innovation and Approach for all the Specific Aims collectively. If applicable, include information on preliminary studies for new applications.

Bibliography & References Cited: *no specific page limit.* Each reference must include the names of all authors (in the same sequence in which they appear in the publication), the article and journal title, book title, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. Include only bibliographic citations. Applicants should be especially careful to follow scholarly practices in providing citations for source materials relied upon when preparing any section of the application. Citations that are not covered by the Public Access Policy, but are publicly available in a free, online format may include URLs or PMCID numbers.

Facilities & Other Resources: *no specific page limit.* Describe the facilities to be used (Laboratory, Animal, Computer, Office, Clinical and Other). Template/sample available from the Research Resources Office.

List of Referees: *no specific page limit.* Include the names, degrees, and affiliations of the individuals from whom you have asked to submit reference letters. At least three references are required. The applicant’s sponsor/co-sponsors cannot be counted as a reference (the sponsor’s/co-sponsor’s recommendation is included as part of the application).

Reference Letters: Reference letters are submitted directly by referees through the eRA Commons [Referee Information link](#). Note that the sponsor and any co-sponsors may not submit a letter of reference.

Sponsor and Co-Sponsor Information: *6 pages.* Provide information on Research Support Available (tabular form); Sponsor's/Co-Sponsor's Previous Fellows/Trainees; Training Plan, Environment, Research Facilities; Number of Fellows/Trainees to be Supervised During the Fellowship; and Applicant's Qualifications and Potential for a Research Career.

Biographical Sketch: *4 pages.* Applicants must use this form: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/applicant-fellowbiosketch.doc>. Sample biosketch available here: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/applicant-fellowbiosketchsample.doc>.

Protection of Human Subjects: *no specific page limit.* Describe the proposed involvement of human subjects in the work outlined in the Research Strategy section, including: adequacy of protection against risks, Potential Benefits of the Proposed Research to Human Subjects and Others, and Importance of Knowledge to be gained.

Inclusion of women and minorities: *no specific page limit:* Include: The targeted/planned distribution of subjects by sex/gender and racial/ethnic groups using the format in the Targeted/Planned Enrollment Table; a description and rationale for subject selection; compelling rationale for the exclusion of any sex/gender or racial/ethnic group; description of proposed outreach programs for recruiting sex/gender and racial/ethnic group members as subjects. The NIH Policy on the Inclusion of Women and Minorities in Clinical Research can be found here: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/women_min/women_min.htm.

Inclusion of children; *no specific page limit.* Describe the plans to include children or justify the exclusion of children. The NIH Policy on Inclusion of Children can be found here: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/children/children.htm>.

Respective Contributions: *1 page.* Describe the collaborative process between you and your sponsor/ co-sponsor in the development, review, and editing of this research training plan. Discuss the respective roles in accomplishing the proposed research.

Selection of Sponsor and Institution: *1 page.* Describe the rationale/ justification for the selection of the sponsor and institution. Explain why the sponsor, co-sponsor and institution were selected to accomplish the research training goals. If the proposed research training is to take place at a site other than the sponsoring organization, provide an explanation.

Responsible Conduct of Research: *1 page.* Every fellow must receive instruction in the responsible conduct of research (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-10-019.html>. Document prior participation/ instruction in responsible conduct of research during the applicant's current career stage (including the date instruction was last completed). Propose a plan to receive instruction in responsible conduct of research or participate as a course lecturer, etc., depending on career stage. Describe the institution's plans to provide, and applicant's plans for obtaining, instruction in the responsible conduct of research. Describe the role of the sponsor in the instruction in responsible conduct of research. Information on Mailman School Resources for Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research is available from the Research Resources Office.

Current or Prior Kirschstein-NRSA Support? *1 page.* If "Yes", identify the current and/or prior Kirschstein-NRSA support using a drop down menu. Includes participation on training grants.

Applications for Concurrent Support? *1 page.* If so, include the type, dates, source(s) and amount. The fellowship applicant must promptly report to the NIH any support resulting from other applications.

Goals for Fellowship Training and Career: *1 page.* Describe by year the activities (research, coursework, etc.) the applicant will be involved in under the proposed award and the percentage of time to be devoted to each activity. The percentage should total 100 for each year. Briefly explain activities other than research and relate them to the proposed research training.

Doctoral Dissertation and Research Experience: *2 pages.* Summarize research experience in chronological order. Advanced graduate students, who have (or will have) completed their comprehensive examinations by the time of award must include a narrative of their doctoral dissertation (may be preliminary). If you have no research experience, list other scientific experience. Do not list academic courses.

Certification Letter for Predoctoral Fellowships (F31) to Promote Diversity: *Required for F31- Diversity Applications.* Include a letter from the institution certifying eligibility of Fellowship applicant for the program. The Certification Letter must be on institutional letterhead and scanned so that an institutional official signature is visible.

Detailed instructions can be found in the SF424 (R&R) Individual Fellowship Application Guide for NIH and AHRQ, which can be found here:

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/SF424_RR_Guide_Fellowship_VerB.pdf.