Myasthenia Gravis Network (MGNet) Scholar Program Research Funding Announcement

Key Dates
Announcement: July 1, 2020
Application Due: November 20, 2020 5 p.m. EST
Award notifications: March 2021
Funding commences: July 1, 2021

There is a critical need for investigators prepared to conduct clinical and translational research in myasthenia gravis (MG). The MGNet Scholar Program provides individualized training and mentorship in one of two tracks, Clinical Research or Biomarker Development Research. We encourage applicants to contact the MGNet Scholar Program administrator with any questions (MGNet@gwu.edu).

Eligibility
Applicants must have a M.D. (or equivalent) or Ph.D. Clinical fellows, post-doctoral fellows, or junior faculty are eligible. Applicants must identify a primary mentor with appropriate content expertise and experience mentoring young investigators. Candidates should be U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents, or non U.S. citizens with a valid visa to work in the U.S. Applicants with training outside the field of neurology are particularly encouraged to apply.

Award Description
The MGNet Scholar Program provides mentored research training to prepare Scholars for an independent research career in the field of MG. Selected Scholars receive up to $78,000 to support salary, research costs and didactics. Ten percent indirect costs are provided. After year one, Scholars are encouraged to transition to NIH, departmental or private foundation support, or to compete for a second year of funding after submission of a second application that includes a description of accomplishments and pilot data.

Research must constitute at least 50% of each Scholar's professional effort. Each Scholar must form a 2-3 member advisory committee to include a primary mentor and an additional clinician-investigator or collaborator. After award a MGNet faculty mentor will be assigned. The advisory committee will meet with the Scholar at least quarterly to review progress and each Scholar will develop an individual academic career development plan and renew it with the committee at least every 6 months.

How To Apply
Applicants must submit a completed application as one pdf and should be uploaded to the MGNet Scholar portal at https://www.rarediseasesnetwork.org/mgnet no later than close of business November 20, 2020:
- Specific Aims (1 page)
- Research proposal developed in collaboration with the primary mentor (2 pages)
- Applicant research experience, career goals, and research training plan (1 page)
- Applicant NIH Biosketch (max 5 pages)
- Three letters of recommendation supporting the applicant’s research potential (primary mentor and 2 others). Primary mentor letter must detail the research training plan for the applicant, including any research skills, didactics, workshops or professional skills to be developed.
- Primary Mentor NIH biosketch
- Letter from department chair describing support for the candidate and at least 50% protected time to complete the program, effort can be supported by MGNet Program and/or in combination of cost share commitment.
- NIH PHS 398 Detailed Budget Page and budget justification with any proposed cost sharing commitment.

Evaluation and Selection
Applications will be reviewed by a MGNet Scholar Program Committee. Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
- Applicant’s commitment to MG career and promise as a scientist (30%)
- Training plan, environment and mentorship (30%)
- Scientific merits of the research plan (40%)

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