



*Request for Applications*

**ELI LILLY-STARK NEUROSCIENCES  
PRE-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN  
NEURODEGENERATION**

*a joint initiative between*

**ELI LILLY AND COMPANY**

**&**

**STARK NEUROSCIENCES RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

*managed by the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute*

**FULL SUBMISSION DEADLINE-- MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020**

*Please note that you will be submitting through the Indiana CTSI's grants management software WebCAMP. Please allow enough time to be familiar with this system.*

*The WebCAMP user's guide is also available under the funding announcement here:*  
<https://indianactsi.org/researchers/services-tools/translational-research-development/open-funding-opportunities/>

For questions please contact Julie Driscoll at the Indiana CTSI ([judrisco@iu.edu](mailto:judrisco@iu.edu) / 317-278-2822)

# INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The Stark Neurosciences Research Institute and the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI) are seeking applicants for special pre-doctoral training fellowships in translational neurodegenerative disease research. We seek applicants whose research is focused on age-related neurodegeneration, including Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, chronic traumatic encephalopathy, among others. Translational research refers to what is popularly termed as "bench to bedside"; the process by which research in the lab translates into patient treatment. Translational research fosters the multidirectional integration of basic research, patient-oriented research, and population-based research, with the long-term aim of improving the health of the public. Translation can involve everything from basic science discoveries in the lab that directly focus on human disease states, through animal studies and drug development to the development of clinical trials and studies in humans.

Fellowship details:

- Annual stipend (plus a separate amount for applicable health insurance), aligned with current NIH pre-doctoral fellowship rate, on a 12 month basis. *If this falls below the current IU rate, the department will be responsible for supplementing the amount to bring the monthly stipend in line with the IU rate.*
- Tuition allowance of \$5,000
- Initial funding **duration is for one year**, and is **renewable for one additional year** pending review and demonstration of satisfactory progress and funding availability
- Up to \$7,500 annually, to be used for travel to scientific conferences, computers, and general research supplies directly applicable to the project. Expenses will follow the guidelines as with any other sponsored research project.
- Awardees will be expected to give a yearly seminar within the Stark Neurosciences Research Institute
- Typically, one pre-doctoral fellowship award is awarded per cycle

## WHO MAY APPLY

- All full-time pre-doctoral research fellows having an appointment within any of the Indiana CTSI-affiliated universities: IU (including IUB), IUPUI, Purdue, Notre Dame.
- Applicants may be on a J1 or H1B visa but must be so prior to the start of the award (01/01/2021)
- Note that awardees may only hold one fellowship at a time and any concurrent fellowships will need to be resigned.

## CONSIDERATIONS/RESTRICTIONS

1. Co-mentorship by faculty investigators from at least two different disciplines is highly recommended, as research that is translational in nature takes advantage of the synergism that comes from working at this basic/clinical interface or clinical/community interface.
2. Applications should be written for a project that spans a two year period but should include a deliverable by Year 1. The second year of funding will be awarded on a case by case basis and is a competitive process **but you will not need to apply for the second year**. A progress report for consideration of Year 2 funding will be requested by the Indiana CTS in September.
3. Applications from women and underrepresented minorities are encouraged.
4. Candidates must have completed the 1<sup>st</sup> year of their pre-doctoral training, but cannot have completed their 4<sup>th</sup> year by the time of the award.

5. Applications must be written by the applicant.

## APPLICATION SEQUENCE & SUBMISSION

- The program goal is to foster **\*translational\*** neurodegenerative disease research, including, but not limited to Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, etc.
- Full application forms and the link for uploading the application are available on the Indiana CTSI [CTSI Lilly PRE DOC Link](#)
- Electronic submissions should be uploaded to that site using the **Start a Submission** link here [CTSI Lilly PRE DOC Link](#) no later than **September 21, 2020**.
- The application should have at least 0.5 inch margins and a font size of at least 11 point. Font type must be clear and readily legible.

### Page 1. Face page

- The face page should specify the title of the proposal, pre-doctoral research fellow and contact information, primary mentor/principal investigator(s) and contact information, location where work will be performed and project summary.
- Department / School support must be indicated by completion of all signatures on the face page(s). As submission will be electronic, facsimile or electronic signatures are allowed.

### Page 2. Project Abstract

- Provide a brief 3-4 sentence general description of the research and its relevance to biomedical research. Include key methodologies/approaches to be utilized in the proposal in this abstract. Proprietary information should not be included in the abstract.

**NOTE:** Projects should be written to span a two year period but should include a deliverable by the end of Year 1.

### Page 3. Specific Aims – limited to 1 page. Include:

- **Goals & Objectives of the current proposal:** State the overall objective or goal of the proposed research and the expected outcomes/impact on the research field.
- **Specific Aims:** Describe the specific aims of the proposal, the methods of procedure and the rationale behind the chosen approach to the problem. Indicate the reason for the selection of a particular model system, if not using human or conventional animal model (or explain why this is not applicable).

**Page 4-7\*. Research Plan - not to exceed 4 single-spaced pages** (unless an additional page is needed to describe how previous review comments have been addressed), in the following sequence:

- **Significance:** What is the potential importance of the proposed research? What is its potential impact on human health and/or how may it be translated to impact human health concerns in the future? Specifically describe its relevance and translational potential. Discuss any novel ideas or contributions that the research offers. How will the project improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, etc.? How will concepts, methods, treatments or other aspects of this field of research change if the aims are achieved?
- **Innovation:** How does the application challenge or seek to shift the direction of current research in the field? Describe novel approaches, methodologies, instrumentation, etc. and any advantages of the proposed novelty over existing methods. What, if any, novel IP will result?
- **Approach:** Discuss the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses. How will data be collected, analyzed and interpreted? Discuss potential problems and pitfalls. What alternative strategies will be instituted should these issues arise? Address management of any high risk aspects of the research. Discuss preliminary studies in the field, preliminary work completed by the student,

existing data and knowledge, and describe the student's experience in the field.

- **Resubmission:** if this is a resubmission include an additional page noting how the research plan has been amended.

#### **Page 8-9. References.**

- Although indicated here as 2 pages in length, there is no page limit on this section. Include what is appropriate to support the research narrative.

#### **Page 10. Timeline** for studies with milestones for first and second year.

- Indicate a timeline for completing the first and second year milestones and a paragraph addressing the feasibility of achieving the milestones for the first year of the project.

#### **Page 11-15+. Biographical Sketches.**

The biosketch should be provided in the NIH format. Include active and pending support. Include the biographical sketch (5 page maximum each) for:

- The pre-doctoral fellow
- The primary mentor/principal investigator
- Any co-mentors

#### **Page 16+. Personal Statement** – limited to one page

- Briefly describing why your experience and qualifications make you particularly well-suited for your role as a Fellowship applicant.
- Address how this training will enhance your career and education

#### **Page 17+. Letter of support/recommendation**

- Include letters of support from the pre-doctoral fellow's primary mentor/principal investigator. Letters should state that the primary mentor / principal investigator has read the application, approves the content, and confirms that all potential collaborators have been contacted and agreed to assist.

**Appendices.** This section is limited to additional support letters and regulatory information , and reviewers' comments from previous submissions.

\*Pagination may vary if this is a resubmission and requires the additional page of explanation

## **PEER REVIEW AND AWARD SELECTION**

Applications will be reviewed by a joint peer review committee. Awards will be announced in late 2020. **Projects should have a start date no earlier than January 1, 2021.** Awarded funds will be released following approval verification of all required regulatory compliance documentation. Available funding typically allows for one award to be made per cycle.

Applications will be critiqued on the following items:

- The strength of the research
- The strength of the mentorship.
- The potential translational nature of the project
- How well the application addressed the expectations outlined in the RFA

## **POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS**

1. All awards will be monitored for progress by the Indiana CTSI and you will be contacted by them

to complete an online report when it is due. Progress monitoring generally includes the following:

- A report at nine months the first year, demonstrating status of milestone progress and documenting external grant submissions/awards, IP, publications, and/or presentations arising from the supported research. This will assist in determining the renewal of the second year.
- Two six month report submissions the following year.
- Annual follow-up reports upon request for up to 2 years after the project ends, including but not limited to the following data:
  - i. External grant submissions and awards arising from the supported research
  - ii. Intellectual property arising from the supported research including disclosures or patents filed
  - iii. Publications arising from the supported research
  - iv. Additional impacts of the award on your research and the collaboration

2. Award recipients are reminded to acknowledge receipt of Stark Neurosciences Research Institute, Indiana CTSI, and Eli Lilly and Company support in any presentation or publication of work funded by this award as follows:

3. *This [(publication was made possible) (project was supported)] by the Stark Neurosciences Research Institute, the Indiana Alzheimer Disease Center, Eli Lilly and Company, and by the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute, funded in part by grant # UL1TR002529 from the National Institutes of Health, National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health."*

3. Notify the Indiana CTSI / Stark Neurosciences Research Institute via [trnslddev@iu.edu](mailto:trnslddev@iu.edu) if you leave your institution before the project is complete