

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

2019 – 2021 AFTD Clinical Research Postdoctoral Fellowship

Letter of Intent due: November 30, 2018
Full applications due: January 25, 2019
Funding period: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2021

AFTD Postdoctoral Fellowships provide \$55,000 (US)/year for two years to support basic, translational, clinical, and epidemiological research on frontotemporal degeneration (FTD) by outstanding scientists during the postdoctoral phase of their careers. Fellowship projects can address disorders across the full spectrum of FTD disorders: behavioral variant FTD, primary progressive aphasia, progressive supranuclear palsy, corticobasal degeneration, and FTD-ALS.

The AFTD *Clinical Research Postdoctoral Fellowship* will support projects utilizing human subjects or datasets derived from human subjects and seeking to answer questions relevant to FTD clinical practice. **Approaches that employ novel technologies or methodologies for data analysis are especially encouraged.**

Examples of research topics suitable for the Clinical Research Postdoctoral Fellowship include, but are *not limited to*:

- Early-stage development of medications, noninvasive therapies, or symptomatic treatments with the potential for a positive impact on daily activities and quality of life
- Genetics, genomics, or epigenetics of FTD
- Algorithms and machine learning approaches to brain image analysis
- Neural network approaches to understanding the neurological basis of FTD-related deficits in social cognition, emotional regulation, language, or movement
- Application of data mining tools to query clinical, genetic, or imaging datasets
- Cognitive or behavioral neuroscience of FTD symptoms
- Identification of genetic or environmental risk factors for FTD disorders

Projects that involve the use of animal models, tissue samples, fluid biospecimens or cultured cells (including iPSC-derived neurons) to answer questions about the biology or pathophysiology of FTD are typically better suited to the AFTD Basic Science Postdoctoral Fellowship. If you are unsure which fellowship category is the best fit for your project, please contact the AFTD Scientific Director or Research Manager to discuss.

Who Can Apply

- Applicants must have a PhD, MD, or MD-PhD degree and be engaged in postdoctoral research at an academic institution, teaching hospital, or nonprofit research institute.
- An applicant's postdoctoral appointment must extend through the full 2-year funding period. Typically, applicants will be entering the first, second, or third year of their postdoctoral appointment at the start of the fellowship term.
- Both US and international postdoctoral researchers are eligible.
- Researchers holding temporary or permanent staff scientist positions are not eligible.

Fellowship Specifics

- One Clinical Research Postdoctoral Fellowship will be awarded for 2019–2021.
- 2-year duration; funding period July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2021
- \$55,000 (US)/year
- Funds cover postdoctoral stipend and benefits
- Remaining funds may be applied to:
 - Travel to relevant scientific meetings
 - Research expenses
 - Publication costs
- Direct costs only

AFTD-Target ALS Collaboration to Access Core Resources

Through a cooperative arrangement with AFTD, Target ALS, a nonprofit organization committed to advancing research on the related neurodegenerative disorder amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, is extending access to its core facilities for post-mortem brain tissue, human stem cells, and viral vectors to AFTD postdoctoral fellows and will cover most of the associated costs. Core resources utilized by an AFTD postdoctoral fellow who transitions to an independent investigator position will transfer with that fellow. Additional information on accessing Target ALS core resources to support relevant research projects will be provided in the AFTD Postdoctoral Fellowship application packet.

Application procedure

- Contact Debra Niehoff, AFTD Research Manager, at dniehoff@theaftd.org to request a 2019 –2021 Clinical Research Postdoctoral Fellowship application packet. Please complete and submit all forms included in the packet electronically by the specified deadlines.
- Applicants must submit a Letter of Intent, using the form included in the application packet, to grants+postdoc@theaftd.org by **Friday, November 30, 2018, 5:00 pm EST**.
- Following confirmation of eligibility, relevance of the proposed project to FTD, and appropriate faculty supervision, applicants will be invited to submit a full application by **Friday, January 25, 2019, 5:00 pm EST**.
- The application must include a curriculum vitae and letter of sponsorship from the applicant's faculty mentor that describes the training plan developed for the funding period and its relevance to the applicant's future career plans.
- The application must also include two letters of support from independent referees familiar with the applicant's background and scientific accomplishments.
- Applications will be reviewed confidentially by AFTD and an external Scientific Review Panel that includes members of the AFTD Medical Advisory Council.

Contact Information

For more information contact:

Specific questions about the scientific or financial aspects of proposals:

Nadine Tatton, PhD, Scientific Director
Phone: 267-758-8644
Email: ntatton@theaftd.org

Questions about the Postdoctoral Fellowship program, application materials, or review process:

Debra Niehoff, PhD, Research Manager
Phone: 267-758-8654
Email: dniehoff@theaftd.org