

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

2026 AFTD Holloway Postdoctoral Fellowships

Made possible through the generous support of the Holloway Family Fund

RFP opens:	June 30, 2025
Letter of intent deadline:	September 5, 2025
Invitations for full proposals:	September 26, 2025
Full proposal deadline:	December 5, 2025
Funding period:	July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028

AFTD Holloway Postdoctoral Fellowships, established in 2021 with support from the Holloway Family Fund, will provide \$60,000 (US)/year for two years to support innovative research on frontotemporal degeneration (FTD) by outstanding postdoctoral scientists worldwide.

AFTD Holloway Postdoctoral Fellowships will support projects across the full spectrum of FTD disorders (behavioral variant FTD, primary progressive aphasia, progressive supranuclear palsy, corticobasal degeneration, and FTD-ALS). Specific areas of need include the following; however, projects may address any area of basic, translational, or clinical FTD research as well as projects focused on FTD-related outcomes research and public health.

- Cellular and molecular mechanisms implicated in FTD pathogenesis;
- Novel models that recapitulate the pathology and/or clinical phenotype of FTD, with consideration of ethological validity;
- Emergent technologies to (1) improve diagnosis, (2) monitor disease progression, (3) treat symptoms and/or underlying disease, (4) support caregivers;
- Bioinformatic or other computational biology approaches;
- Fluid, imaging, or digital biomarker discovery/development; and
- Understanding and addressing health disparities and the needs of populations underrepresented in FTD research.

Note: Any proposals focused entirely on other neurodegenerative diseases will not be considered for funding.

Who Can Apply

- Applicants with a PhD and/or MD (or similar doctorate degree) engaged in postdoctoral research at an academic institution, teaching hospital, or nonprofit research institute.
- **Both U.S. and international postdoctoral investigators are eligible.**
- Current PhD candidates who will begin a postdoctoral appointment at a not-for profit institution no later than July 1, 2026.
- An applicant's postdoctoral appointment must extend through the full 2-year funding period. Applicants may be entering the first, second, or third year of their postdoctoral appointment at the start of the fellowship term, provided the remaining appointment period meets this criterion.
- Researchers holding temporary or permanent staff scientist positions are not eligible.

Fellowship Specifics

- Up to 2 Holloway Postdoctoral Fellowships will be awarded in 2026; for a 2-year duration; funding period July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028
- \$60,000 (US)/year; \$120,000 total
- **Funds should be used to cover a recipient's stipend/salary and benefits.** Alternative allocation of funds (e.g., project-related travel or research expenses) may be considered but must be itemized and justified in the proposed budget. Should institutional salary requirements exceed the \$60,000 provided annually by the fellowship, supplemental funds may be used to bridge this gap. However, Holloway Fellowship recipients cannot hold two fellowships or grants concurrently and must spend the majority of their time on the research funded through the fellowship.
- 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 can be found in the application instructions on the [AFTD website](#).

Application Procedure

- Detailed instructions for completing the fellowship application can be found on the [AFTD website](#). These instructions include AFTD's policies on data and resource sharing as well as the publication of funded research.
- AFTD utilizes an [online submission portal](#), which can also be accessed on the AFTD website. If you are using the portal for the first time, follow the instructions on the portal homepage to create an account and begin the Letter of Intent process.

Letter of Intent components:

*All components should be uploaded as a single PDF on the [online submission portal](#). For more details, please see the full instructions for the application [on the AFTD website](#).

- Description of proposed research (Specific Aims) (1 page for aims, 1 page for references)
- Applicant CV or biosketch (5 pages maximum)
- Statement of Interest in FTD Research (1 page maximum)

Letter of Intent Review Process

- Submissions will be reviewed confidentially by AFTD staff and scored based on the following categories. The top proposals will be invited to submit a full application.
 - Novelty/Significance - How likely is the project to advance the field of FTD research in a meaningful way? Is the idea new? Is the investigator/lab/location providing a fresh perspective?
 - Feasibility – Is the proposal achievable within a two-year timeframe? Are the resources/models appropriate to test the hypothesis?

- Investigator – Does the investigator have the necessary expertise and/or collaborations to complete the proposed experiments? Do they have an appropriate background and achievements for their career stage?
- Interest in FTD – Does it seem likely that the investigator is committed to FTD research? Will the proposal yield new information about FTD specifically?

If the applicant is selected to submit a full proposal:

Full Application components

For more details and page limits, please see the full instructions for the application [on the AFTD website](#).

- Applicant CV or Biosketch (5 pages maximum, either is acceptable)
- Sponsoring Institutional Certification and Endorsement
- Description of Proposed Research: lay abstract (250 words), Research Plan (4 pages)
- Budget (template provided)
- Signed letter of sponsorship from mentor and training plan description (sponsoring PI)
- Sponsoring PI CV or Biosketch (5 pages maximum, either is acceptable)
- Sponsoring PI current funding description
- Letters of support (2)

Full application review process

Applications will be reviewed by an external Scientific Review Panel. Scoring will be based on three categories:

- **Candidate Score**
 - The candidate has demonstrated significant achievement and/or capacity for independent research appropriate for their career stage
***Note:** Candidates who are at an earlier stage in their training will not be at an inherent disadvantage. Scoring will be based on the ability of the candidate to contribute to the field based on their background and career stage, rather than a strong emphasis on the number of publications or years of experience.*
 - The candidate brings a unique perspective to the FTD field (innovative question, unique expertise, underrepresented background/location, etc.)
- **Mentor & Training Score**
 - The candidate has the supportive environment and resources necessary to succeed, including access to training in any new fields or techniques
 - The candidate is well-positioned for an independent career path
 - The candidate is likely to continue research in the FTD field post award
- **Research Plan**
 - The experiments described are technically feasible and address the research question
 - The research question is highly relevant to the FTD field
 - The Research Plan scope is appropriate, is planned with sufficient rigor, and achievable within the timeline

The Research Committee of the AFTD Board of Directors, upon recommendation from the Review Panel, reserves the right to make final award determinations.

For questions on the application materials or the submission portal, contact:

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Research Coordinator

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For questions on scientific scope or the review process contact:

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