

NOTICE OF GRANT AVAILABILITY

NAME OF GRANT PROGRAM:

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON SPINAL CORD RESEARCH

Postdoctoral & Graduate Student Fellowship Grant

GRANT PROGRAM NO. 12-SCR3

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

NJCSCR Fund Chapter 201 P.L. 1999 NJSA 52:9E-1

TYPE OF AWARDS TO BE ISSUED:

Letter of Agreement

PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS WILL BE USED:

The NJCSCR will fund Postdoctoral and Graduate Student Fellowship grants to attract and retain in New Jersey's qualifying academic research institutions talented young scientists who wish to pursue a career in spinal cord regeneration and repair research. All awards will be made to the research institution in the name of the fellow. All proposals are reviewed by a panel of independent scientific experts who are appointed by the NJCSCR. The panel will evaluate candidates on academic qualifications, the scientific merit of the proposed research project and its relevance to the research priorities of the NJCSCR, the qualifications of the candidate's mentor, the adequacy of facilities, and institutional support.

AMOUNT OF MONEY IN THE GRANT PROGRAM:

Postdoctoral Fellowships are three-year awards of \$50,000 per annum. They provide an annual stipend of \$36,000, a research allowance of \$13,000, and a travel budget of \$1,000. No part of the award may be used for institutional overhead or indirect costs. Institutions may supplement stipends, but not with other full-time fellowship awards, or other NJCSCR monies. A candidate may not apply for a NJCSCR Postdoctoral Fellowship and a NJCSCR Individual Research grant in the same grant cycle. If a first-year fellow applies for and is awarded a NJCSCR Individual Research grant, funding will be contingent upon cancellation of the of the fellowship. Non-research activities, such as teaching, may not occupy more than 10% of the fellow's time. All Postdoctoral Fellows must submit a yearly Progress Report accompanied by a letter of support from the fellow's mentor. Second or third year fellowship funding is contingent upon the successful review of the progress report and a recommendation from the mentor.

Graduate Student Fellowships are two-year awards of \$30,000 per annum. They provide an annual stipend of \$25,000, a research allowance of \$4,000, and a travel budget of \$1,000. No part of this award may be used for institutional overhead, or for tuition. Institutions may supplement stipends, but not with other full-time fellowship awards or other NJCSCR monies. Applicants may serve as teaching assistants while holding a NJCSCR Graduate Student Fellowship without special permission. Second year fellowship funding is contingent upon the successful review of the Progress Report and a recommendation from the mentor.

Successful applicants are offered the opportunity to participate in an approved spinal cord injury techniques course. The NJCSCR will make available up to \$4,000 for a grantee to attend one of the following spinal cord injury techniques courses at: Reeve Irvine Research Center, University of California, Irvine; The Ohio State University; and The W.M. Keck Center for Collaborative Neuroscience, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Grantees are responsible for making all necessary travel and course participation arrangements and payments. Reimbursements will be made to those who provide proof of course completion and expense receipts. Awards will begin on or about June 15, 2012. The NJCSCR reserves the right to distribute funds among the grants in this program 12-SCR3 as well as among the NJCSCR's other grant programs 12-SCR1, 12-SCR6. The NJCSCR reserves the right not to fund any grants in this program 12-SCR3 to the maximum amount, or not to fund any grant in these programs at all. Up to \$5,000,000 will be made available for all grant programs (12-SCR1, 12-SCR3, 12-SCR6). Funding estimates may vary, and are subject to annual appropriations. Each yearly funding award will be contingent upon the availability of funds. All Postdoctoral and Graduate Student Fellows must submit a yearly Progress Report accompanied by a letter of support from the fellow's mentor. Any change in relationship between the fellow and the mentor, or between the fellow and the host institution will require the submission of a new, competing application by the fellow as opposed to a Progress Report. An Evaluation Form must be submitted to the NJCSCR office for the second and fifth year following termination of the Fellowship grant.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS MUST COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

1. Terms and Conditions for the Administration of Grants
2. General and specific Grant Compliance requirements issued by the Granting Agency.
3. Applicable Federal Cost Principles relating to the Applicant

GROUP OR ENTITIES WHICH MAY APPLY FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM:

All qualifying institutions in the State of New Jersey may apply for Fellowship grants under this program. A qualifying institution is defined as any academic institution, research organization, public or private institution or other entity, located in the State of New Jersey, with demonstrated capability to conduct grant funded research, and specifically approved by the vote of the Commission, but in no case can an individual be a qualifying research institution.

QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED BY APPLICANT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A GRANT:

Postdoctoral Fellowship Specifications - Candidates of outstanding quality must hold a Ph.D., and/or M.D., or equivalent graduate degree. Appropriate degrees must be awarded prior to activation of award. Candidates must be accepted for postdoctoral training under the supervision of an appropriate mentor at a qualifying academic research institution in New Jersey. The NJCSCR reserves the right to limit the number of fellowships awarded under the supervision of an individual mentor.

Graduate Student Fellowship Specifications - Candidates must be full-time graduate students in residence in a proposed course of study directly related to regeneration and repair of the damaged spinal cord. Students must begin study in the semester following activation unless special permission is received prior to activation date. The NJCSCR prefers to support graduate student candidates who have completed the first year of graduate study and are concentrating on research projects at least 80% of their time.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

Applications and NJCSCR Research Guidelines governing grants are available for review and submission on-the website at www.sage.nj.gov

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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DEADLINE BY WHICH APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED:

Applications - December 8, 2011

DATE BY WHICH APPLICANT SHALL BE NOTIFIED WHETHER THEY WILL RECEIVE FUNDS:

Notification - June 1, 2012

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