

Release date: March 3, 2022

Call for applications: Molecular Mechanisms of Disease Predoctoral Training Program

Scope and Purpose

- NIH-funded fellowship support (Stipend and fringe benefits for one year)
- Travel funds for one conference
- Support interdisciplinary and collaborative research
- Professional skill development in leadership, proposal-writing, communication and entrepreneurship, and teaching

The goal of this NIH-funded program is to develop outstanding new scientists who work in collaborative multi-disciplinary teams to research disease mechanisms using quantitative approaches. Successful applicants will be highly qualified, motivated students with a strong interest in studying underlying molecular causes of human disease. The program will provide a framework for students to assemble a broad knowledge base, actively seek research collaborations, produce an outstanding record of original published research, and develop presentation, proposal writing, and leadership skills. Successful completion of the program will position trainees for future excellence as independent researchers focused on mechanisms of disease progression.

Eligibility

- Student currently enrolled in a PhD program at UNL within their 1st or 2nd year of study in 2022 within a participating laboratory (for a list of preceptors visit <https://mmod.unl.edu/>)
- Citizen, non-citizen national, or permanent resident (in accordance with NIH guidelines)

Criteria for selection

- Excellent academic record
- Research accomplishments and evidence of first year progress
- Collaborative (co-mentored) proposal in an area of molecular disease research
- Career development and mentoring plan
- Support of primary mentor and co-mentor

Application materials

Submit as a single pdf document in the following order to MMoDprogram@unl.edu by midnight, May 2, 2022.

- Statement of applicant's career objectives and training goals, and name at least one conference at which the applicant will likely present their research (one page limit).
- Proposal (11 pt Arial, 0.5 inch margins, three pages, single-spaced, and not including references). Must include the following sections: Significance, Relevance to Molecular Mechanisms of Disease, Hypothesis, Approach, and Impact.
- Applicant biographical sketch including undergraduate and graduate academic record, courses taken, abstracts and presentations, manuscripts published or accepted (NIH-style, 5 page limit, see example). Students must include their NIH eRA commons username in their biosketch. To set up an eRA commons username and profile, please contact Kacey Pedersen of the UNL Office of Sponsored Programs for assistance.
- Mentoring plan. A training plan, developed in consultation with the primary and co-advisors, needs to be provided which addresses progress toward degree, future courses, teaching, writing/submitting manuscripts and external grant applications, presentation opportunities,

research meetings with advisors (primary and co-advisor), and any other career development opportunities (one page limit). Students should also explain how MMoD fellowship support would strengthen their research and career development.

- Two supporting letters; One from the primary mentor and one from the co-mentor describing their role in the project and commitment to the student's career development and mentoring plan.
- Biographical sketch for each mentor (NIH-style, 5 page limit)