

iv. U.S.-U.K. Young Investigator Exchange Fellowship

(Jointly sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association and Alzheimer's Research Trust)

Competition objectives: The U.S.-U.K. Young Investigator Exchange Fellowship provides a three-year grant to fund quality scientific research into the causes, diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease. The fellowship aims to address important research questions as well as to help and encourage promising scientists as they establish their careers within Alzheimer's research internationally. It is also hoped that by supporting meaningful scientific collaboration between scientists in the United Kingdom and the United States, there will be mutual benefit to the research output of both countries. In addition to an exchange of ideas, an important aim is to promote the learning of new experimental techniques and methodologies.

The purpose of this fellowship is to provide new investigators with funding that will allow them to develop preliminary or pilot data, to test procedures and to develop hypotheses on an international level. The intent is to support international early-career development that will lay the groundwork for future research grant applications to other international funding agencies and groups. Applications submitted to the U.S.-U.K. Young Investigator Exchange Fellowship must target defined areas of focus in the Alzheimer's Association 2010 program announcement to be considered responsive to the program announcement. The research aims and priorities of the Alzheimer's Research Trust (ART) are available on the ART website.

The U.S.-U.K. Young Investigator Exchange Fellowship requires the proposed project to be aligned with a main supervisor and institution that will commit to allow the applicant to fulfil the exchange component of the fellowship if awarded. Central to the proposed arrangement is a co-supervisor from the second country who is able to guarantee provision for the agreed duration of the visit, which can be from one to twelve months. The co-supervisor's institution must agree to confer visiting fellow status to the awardee to ensure the fellow is allowed access to resources and services at the visiting institution.

Supervisor statement required: The Fellowship requires supervisors experienced in conducting Alzheimer's and related dementia research. The application must include two statements from the selected institutions, one from each country, with information on the supervisor's research qualifications and a commitment to accept the fellow in their institution for the proposed duration of the fellowship exchange. The statement must also include information describing how the supervisor's research is relevant to the applicant's research plan and the nature and extent of supervision that he/she will provide during the period of the award. The supervisors must agree to provide end-of-term evaluations of the applicant's progress for the duration of the award, as required for the yearly progress report.

The supervisor's statement is limited to one page from each country supervisor.

Application procedures: APPLICANTS BASED IN THE U.S. MUST APPLY TO THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION, AND THOSE BASED IN THE U.K. MUST APPLY TO THE ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH TRUST. THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURES ARE BROADLY SIMILAR BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS BUT ARE KEPT SEPARATE FOR EASE OF ADMINISTRATION AND TO KEEP IN LINE WITH CURRENT PRACTICES.

For Alzheimer's Research Trust application procedures please go to:
<http://www.alzheimers-research.org.uk/research/howtoapply/>

U.S. APPLICANTS TO THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION:

Submitting a letter of intent (LOI) on-line via proposalCENTRAL

The first step in applying is to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) through the proposalCENTRAL on-line application system at <http://proposalcentral.altum.com>. First-time users **must** register and fill out a professional profile in proposalCENTRAL to begin the application process.

The LOI and completed application must be submitted by the Young Exchange Fellow (PI). In the LOI, the PI must name and describe the relationship with the faculty members who will perform the supervisory duties. The purpose of the LOI is to ensure that all applicants are eligible for the competition to which they are applying and to assist in planning for peer reviews. **LOIs will not be accepted after the deadline date. No exceptions will be made.**

The LOI must include:

- Name of the principle investigator and description of relationship to supervisors
- Contact information for the principal investigator (**complete** mailing address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address)
- Institution/organization(s) involved in the research proposal in both countries
- Title of the fellowship project proposed
- Area of focus of the submission, such as diverse populations, social and behavioral, or biological, as outlined in Section II
- Brief rationale for the proposed fellowship

On-line application via proposalCENTRAL

Once the on-line LOI is approved, an e-mail notification will be sent granting access to the on-line application at proposalCENTRAL. **The online system must be used to submit the application** – hardcopies of the application will not be accepted.

The PI who submits the LOI must be the same PI who submits the application. LOIs submitted on behalf of other applicants will result in a rejected application. Once the applicant enters the application system, on-screen instructions will be provided to complete the application process. The application does not need to be completed in one session; a partially completed application can be saved and completed at any time before the deadline.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure and verify that:

- (1) The application is received by the receipt date/time deadline
- (2) The application is complete and correct before submission. Only a single copy of an application will be accepted. **Signatures are not required at the time of submission.**
- (3) Revisions, additional materials, letters of collaboration and/or reference, manuscripts, appendices, etc., are not allowed and if attached, will be removed from your application.

Funding and award period: The Alzheimer's Association and ART anticipate funding up to four awards (two originating from each country) under this competition.

For U.S. applications to the Alzheimer's Association: Each total award is limited to \$300,000 USD. A total of \$260,000 USD will be awarded for costs related to the proposed research for up to **three** years (direct and indirect costs). Requests in any given year may not exceed \$90,000 USD (direct and indirect). Indirect costs are capped at 10 percent (rent for laboratory/office space is expected to be covered by indirect costs paid to the institution). The PI must commit to a 75 percent effort toward the proposed project over the funding period.

The remaining funds, \$40,000 USD, will be awarded to the supervisors; \$20,000 USD will be awarded to each supervisor upon the successful completion of the duration of the fellowship in the respective country. These additional funds are to be applied to sustaining ongoing research in the Alzheimer's field and will be awarded through the supervisory host institutions.

For U.K. applications to the Alzheimer's Research Trust: Each total award is limited to £160,000. This will comprise a salary for the Fellow, separate research consumables for the U.K. supervisor's laboratory and the U.S. laboratory, as well as transatlantic travel costs. A full breakdown of these individual costs, with justifications, is required.

Eligibility: This grant competition is restricted to investigators based in the U.S. or U.K. who have less than 10 years of research experience after receipt of their terminal degree. Postdoctoral fellows are eligible to apply. The 10-year period applies to the date of submission of the grant application. Adjustments for career interruptions can be made. These would include, but are not limited to, family leave, military service and major illness or injury. It is the responsibility of the applicant to point out and document such interruptions.

Young investigators currently funded through other fellowship awards (i.e., federal or other) are ineligible to apply for this award.

Receipt of application deadlines
U.S. APPLICANTS TO THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Deadlines and award dates: LOIs must be received by **5:00 PM EASTERN STANDARD TIME, December 1, 2009**. LOIs will not be accepted after this date. No exceptions will be made.

Applications must be received by 5:00 PM EASTERN STANDARD TIME, January 7, 2010. Scientific and technical review will be conducted from February through May 2010. The second-level review by the Alzheimer's Association and Alzheimer's Research Trust will be conducted in June 2010. For both U.S. and U.K. applicants, candidate interviews will take place in June 2010. We anticipate funding up to four awards by July 2010.

Mechanism of Award, Reporting Requirements and Allowable Costs: The mechanism of the award is the individual research grant. The maximum allowable duration is three years. Annual progress and financial reports are required.
Continuation of the grant over the awarded duration is contingent upon the timely receipt of scientific and financial reports as well as supervisors' reports outlining progress.

Budget: A "budget summary" for the proposed research project is required and must be submitted with the application and within the allowable page limits. For U.S. applicants to the Alzheimer's Association, however, if the application is to be awarded, a more detailed budget will be required and must be approved before the disbursement of funds.

Allowable costs under this award include: Purchase and care of laboratory animals, small pieces of laboratory equipment and laboratory supplies, computer equipment if used strictly for data collection and salary for the PI, scientific (including post-doctoral fellows) and technical staff (including laboratory technicians and administrative support staff members whose work directly relates to the funded project). It is required that most (Alzheimer's Association)/ all (Alzheimer's Research Trust) of the funds awarded under this program be used for direct research support.

Travel and housing costs for the duration of the country exchange are allowed. Travel for scientific conferences (up to \$1,000 USD per year) is also allowed. Total travel costs allowed for the duration of the fellowship is \$5,000 USD. Additionally, a budget detailing these costs must be included with the application.

Costs not allowed under this award include:

- Tuition
- Computer hardware or software for investigators
- Rent for laboratory/office space
- Construction or renovation costs

Review procedures: All proposals are subject to a two-staged peer-review process carried out with an on-line system. In the first stage, applications are reviewed and rated by a minimum of three, maximum of four, peer scientists with expertise in the proposed area of research. The second stage includes further review and discussion of the scores and comments resulting from the initial review process. This second review is carried out by the Medical and Scientific Advisory Council of the Alzheimer's Association and the Scientific Advisory Board of the Alzheimer's Research Trust to ensure fairness and equity in the initial review procedures and to make final funding recommendations. This two-stage process is central to award decisions and is designed to ensure both scientific rigor and fairness to all applicants. In line with other ART-funded fellowships, an interview will be required for U.K. applicants shortlisted from the second review stage.

Animal and human subject assurances: Animal welfare and human subject certifications are not required at the time of application submission; investigators have up to 90 days after receipt of their award notification to submit these documents.

However, the Alzheimer's Association and the Alzheimer's Research Trust encourage investigators to initiate their certification applications on a schedule that recognizes the fact that approval of IRB/IACUC (U.S.) or Home Office or Ethics Committee approval at many institutions can take more than 90 days. The Association accepts only certifications that apply specifically to the funded project. An award letter will not be issued unless the appropriate certifications are in place within the 90-day window.

Contact information

This program announcement is posted in full-text and PDF formats on the following websites:

<http://www.alz.org/2010grantprogram/>
<http://www.alzheimers-research.org.uk/>

For additional information, you may contact
The Alzheimer's Association: grantsapp@alz.org or call (312) 335-5747 or
The Alzheimer's Research Trust: Research@alzheimers-research.org.uk or phone (+44)01223-843899.