

Collaborative Clinical Neuroscience Fellowship 2017-2018

The Picower Institute for Learning and Memory Neuroscience Fellowship Program

Available through the Picower Institute for Learning and Memory at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, this award will provide a fellowship stipend for one to two years, effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. One new award will be granted for this period.

Award

In keeping with the intentions of the donor to create opportunities for advanced study and research in Neuroscience, and to serve as a bridge between clinical training and the development of a research career, a full-time stipend will be awarded to an eligible applicant (the 2017 stipend is \$79,500). A full-time award is considered to represent at least 80% effort. To allow increased flexibility with respect to project time, the awarded fellow will be considered for a second year of funding, including both stipend and allowances, based on progress during the first year. A second year of funding would extend the award by one year continuing at the 80% effort, providing that the applicant and the Picower Institute mentor provide a clear rationale and information on the applicant's plan for completion over the additional year. The award will be paid directly through MIT, with an appointment as a Postdoctoral Fellow. Postdoctoral Fellows receive full access to the Institute's academic resources, but are not considered employees for purposes of taxation or benefits. In recognition of this fact, the award will provide an allowance of up to \$5,000 to cover an MIT affiliate health plan (information about MIT affiliate health can be accessed here: <http://medweb.mit.edu/healthplans/affiliate/index.html>), and will also cover \$35,500 in supply costs for a total of \$120,000, *without external financial support*.

The intention of this award is to provide sole support to the candidate; in no circumstance may the funds from this award be used to fund support staff.

Please note that if the cost of the affiliate health plan elected by the fellow does not require the full allowance, we will allow the unobligated funds to be reallocated toward supply costs directly related to the proposed research.

The proposed research must be conducted in the Picower Institute mentor's lab on the MIT campus.

It is expected that recipients will update the Research Committee by submitting a three-page summary of progress statement on their funded research projects at six months after beginning the fellowship (12/31/2017) and a final written report at eleven months (05/31/2018).

The principal criteria for second year stipends will be the degree to which the six-month progress report demonstrates effective and productive use of funds, a clear training plan, quality and extent of mentoring, and the candidate's potential to develop into a clinician-scientist.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must meet all of the following criteria to be considered for an award:

1. **Establish collaboration with a Picower Institute for Learning and Memory faculty member prior to submission of their application.** Please visit the Institute's website at <https://picower.mit.edu/people/faculty-leadership/> for a listing of Picower faculty members and information about their labs;
2. The research plan **must** clearly detail a project to which the applicant will devote **a minimum of 80% effort**, and which **must** be well-integrated with, and directly relevant to the core efforts of a PILM Faculty Member's lab;
3. MD or MD/PhD degree at a clinical level of 4 years or higher **at Harvard University, Tufts University, or Boston University (BU) or a Harvard, Tufts, or BU affiliated hospital** at the time of application for a full stipend;
4. Candidate must have a current clinical staff appointment in order to be considered for the program. This clinical staff appointment means the candidate is paid by his/her institute, covered by that institute's malpractice insurance, and allowed to see patients;
5. No more than three years have passed since the end of clinical training;
6. Cannot hold a faculty appointment of Assistant Professor or higher during fellowship period;
7. May not hold any career development awards equivalent in scope or purpose to a K08, K23, or K99 at the time this fellowship is awarded.

Application Process

One hard copy original and one electronic copy (emailed to erine@mit.edu) and sent to Erin Edwards, Picower Institute for Learning and Memory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, 46-1303, Cambridge, MA 02139 by March 31, 2017. The following five items must be present in the application to be considered for the fellowship award:

1. A **Cover Letter**, not to exceed two pages, from the applicant explaining how the Fellowship year will fit into his/her upcoming career plans and how his/her clinical training time at the Harvard, Tufts, or BU affiliated institution will be structured. The letter should also describe any past or current research experience and committed or pending external funding.
2. Current **Curriculum Vitae**.
3. A **Research Plan**. This should include (a) brief abstract not to exceed 150 words, (b) description of the specific aims of the project, (c) background and significance of the proposed research project, (d) description of the research design, (e) description of methods, (f) discussion of proposed analyses to be used in the project, and (g) timeline for completing the project during the fellowship year. The Research Plan has an absolute limit of 4 pages, single-spaced, using Arial or Times New Roman 11 font. One extra page will be allowed for a listing of referenced literature. Appendices **will not** be accepted.
4. A **Listing of Other Research Resources** available to support the project (e.g., supplies, technical assistance, diagnostic laboratory tests).
5. **Other Support** document showing all current and pending support for the candidate.
6. **Three Letters of Recommendations** including one from a Harvard, Tufts, or Boston University affiliated institution.