

Richard Olney, MD, Clinician-Scientist Development Three-Year Award

Co-sponsored by the American Academy of Neurology Foundation and the ALS Association.

Application Deadline: October 1, 2012

The American Academy of Neurology (AAN) Foundation and the ALS Association are pleased to announce a three-year Richard Olney, MD, Clinician-Scientist Development Award to support a clinician-scientist's research related to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. The award aims to recognize the importance of good clinical research and encourage young investigators in clinical studies.

The three-year award will consist of an annual salary of \$75,000, plus \$5,000 in educational expenses, per year. Only direct costs will be funded by this award.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Must be a neurologist interested in an academic career in clinical research.* Applicants must hold an MD, DO, or equivalent clinical degree from an accredited institution. Must be an AAN member of the AAN. Disease related studies not directly involving humans or human tissue also are encouraged if the primary goal is the development of therapies, diagnostic tests, or other tools to prevent or mitigate neurological diseases.
2. Applicants must have completed residency training but be less than five years from completion of residency when funding begins.

MATERIALS FOR APPLICATION

Submit one complete set of the following application materials via the AAN Foundation website:

1. Letter of nomination from the chair of the Department of Neurology, including assurance that clinical service responsibilities will be restricted to no more than 20 percent of the awardee's time.
2. Three-page research plan, including brief statement of aims, background, and the contemplated approaches to methodology and data. The research plan should be written by the applicant and should represent his/her original work. However, the applicant is expected and encouraged to develop this plan based on discussion with the proposed mentor. It is appropriate for the proposed work to be specifically related to the mentor's ongoing research, but not required.
3. Current curriculum vitae.
4. Two letters of reference supporting the applicant's potential for a clinical academic research career and qualifications for the fellowship. Letters of reference are in addition to the three-page research plan.
5. Listing of the applicant's and mentor's current and pending support, other than this fellowship, using NIH format.
6. Letter from proposed mentor detailing his/her support of and commitment to the applicant and the proposed research and training plan. The letter should specifically indicate the mentor's role in the development and preparation of the applicant's research plan.

Letter should describe:

- How the proposed research fits into the mentor's research program.
- Expertise and experience in the area of research proposed and the nature of the mentor's proposed time commitment to the supervision and training of the applicant.
- Mentor's prior experience in the supervision, training, and successful mentoring of clinician-scientists.
- Potential for applicant's future research career and comparison of applicant amongst other residents.
- More than one mentor is permitted. One mentor should be designated as primary and be responsible for administrative issues.

7. Proposed mentor's NIH Biosketch.

8. Document describing arrangements for formal course work to include: quantitative clinical epidemiology, biostatistics, study design, data analysis, and ethics.

Please submit only one application. The review committee will consider your application for all of the applicable fellowships.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Applications are evaluated by members of the Clinical Research Subcommittee, Translational Neuroscience Subcommittee, and various ad-hoc reviewers based on the following criteria:

- Applicant's ability and promise as a clinician-scientist based on previous training and career plan, letters of reference, and curriculum vitae (30 percent)
- Quality and nature of the training to be provided and the institutional, departmental, and mentor-specific training environment (30 percent)
- Quality and originality of the research plan (40 percent)

Evaluations will be forwarded to the AAN Foundation Research Council for final determination of the award. Funding begins within 30 days after executing a signed agreement with the American Academy of Neurology Foundation and the recipient's institution.

ANNUAL AND FINAL PROGRESS REPORTS

An annual progress report is due in May of the first year. Renewal of the award in year two and three is contingent upon review and approval of the progress report. Additionally, a final research report and a final expenditure report are due within 60 days following the close of the grant term. The institution must prepare the final expenditure report.

DEADLINE AND ADDRESS

All applications and supporting materials must be received by October 1, 2012.
Notification of recipients: January 2013.

All materials must be submitted online. Apply now at www.aan.com/view/CRTF.

** Clinical research is defined as "patient-oriented research conducted with human subjects, or translational research specifically designed to develop treatments or enhance diagnosis of neurological disease. These areas of research include epidemiologic or behavioral studies, clinical trials, studies of disease mechanisms, the development of new technologies, and health services and outcomes research."*