

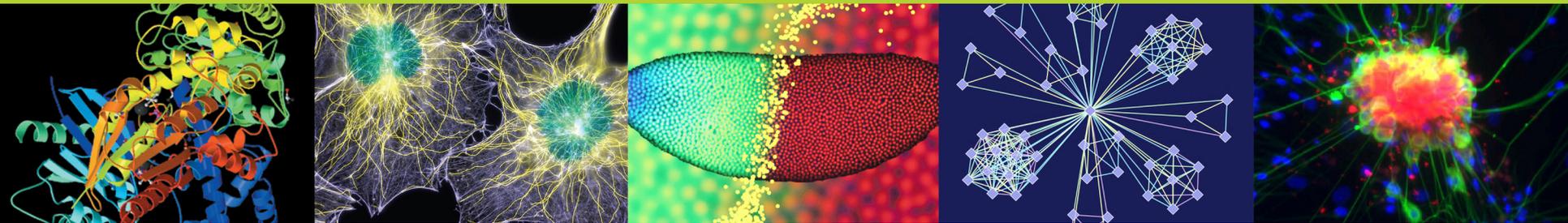


National Institute of
General Medical Sciences



NIGMS Postdoctoral Research Associate Training (PRAT) Program Applicant Webinar

Program Overview and Application
Webinar – July 14, 2020



Today's Webinar - Participants

PRAT Program Leadership

- Kenneth Gibbs, Ph.D., PRAT Director
- Desirée Salazar, Ph.D., Program Officer



PRAT Fellows

- Sara Young-Baird, Ph.D., NICHD
- Chase Francis, Ph.D., NIDA
- Adenrele Gleason, Ph.D., NHGRI
- Elizabeth Martin, Ph.D., NIEHS

Tweet us!

Follow us [@NIGMSTraining](https://twitter.com/NIGMSTraining)



The image shows a screenshot of the Twitter profile for NIGMS Training & Capacity Building. The profile header includes the text "NIGMS Training & Capacity Building" and a map of the United States with several states highlighted in blue. Below the header is a circular profile picture featuring the NIH logo and the text "National Institute of General Medical Sciences Training and Capacity Building". To the right of the profile picture is a blue "Edit profile" button. The bio section reads: "NIGMS Training & Capacity Building" with a verified account icon, "@NIGMSTraining", and a description: "@NIGMS account for research training, careers & research capacity building news. Privacy policy bit.ly/2jnhVvZ & disclaimers bit.ly/2kGSdGM." Below the bio, it shows the location "Bethesda, MD", a website link "nigms.nih.gov/training/Pages...", and the date "Joined October 2017".

Use #NIGMSPRAT

Today's Webinar - Format

- PRAT program
- PRAT application process & review
- Hearing from PRAT fellows!
- Your questions

PRAT Program

NIGMS PRAT Program

- Competitive **three-year** postdoctoral fellowship program that provides high quality research training in the basic biomedical sciences in NIH [intramural research laboratories](#), and prepares fellows for leadership positions in biomedical careers
- Provides stipend, health insurance, and travel/training allowance
- Access to extensive NIH resources – facilities, expertise, collaborations, and [office of intramural training and education](#)
- Structured postdoctoral program with defined training components

PRAT Curriculum Principles

Leadership

Communication

Networking

Mentorship

Biomedical
Ecosystem
Knowledge

Diversity

Service

Sample of PRAT Training Activities

- Monthly seminar series
 - NIH/OD, FDA, Howard Hughes Janelia Research Campus, University of Puerto Rico, University of Pennsylvania, Johns Hopkins University, University of Maryland
- Professional skills development & communications training
 - Practice Chalk Talks
 - Three Minute Talks
 - “Managing Up,” “Emotional Intelligence”
- NIH Funding – 101 (Research Grants, K awards)

Sample of PRAT Training Activities

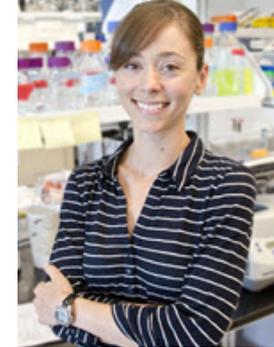
- Established & Early Career Scientific Leaders



Hannah Valentine
NIH, COSWD



Sharon Milgram
NIH, OITE



Olivia Rissland
University of Colorado

- Annual Scientific Symposium



Melissa Moore
Moderna Therapeutics

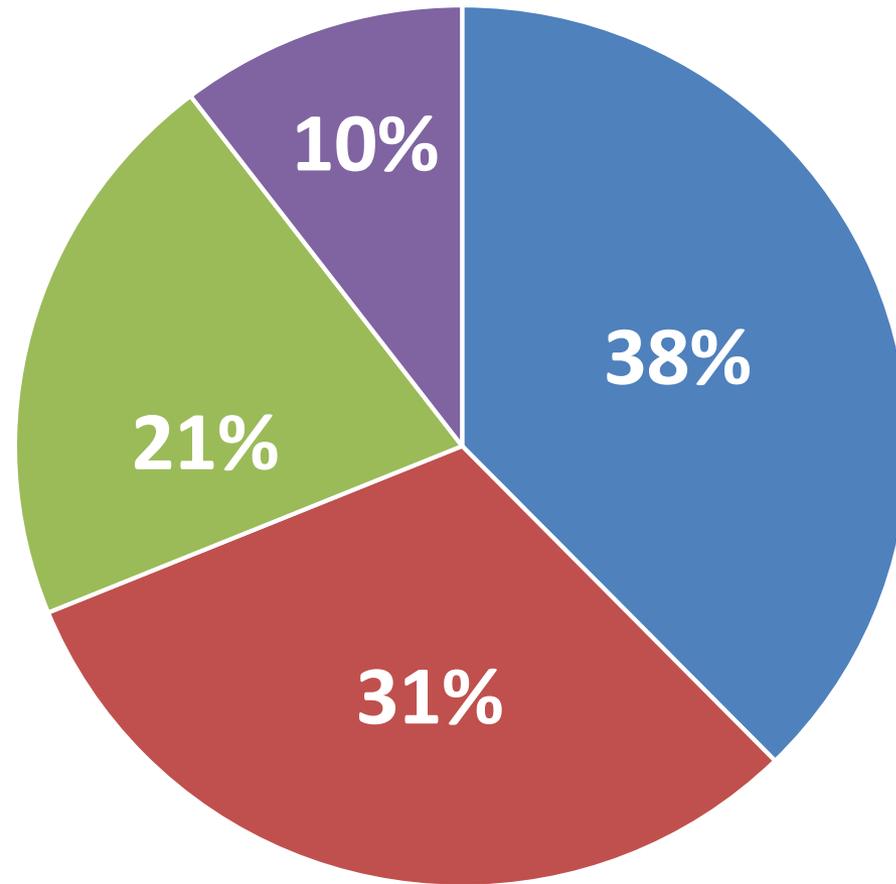


Phil Sharp
MIT

**Monday, September 14
1- 5 PM ET**

**See PRAT website in early
September for more
information**

Recent PRAT Alumni – Career Outcomes



■ Academia (n=29)

■ Government (n=24)

■ Industry (n=16)

■ Other (n=8)

Sample of Post-PRAT Institutions

Yale



W

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON



Genentech



Cooley

N=77 PRAT alumni (2005 – Present)

PRAT Application Process & Review

NIGMS PRAT Program - Eligibility

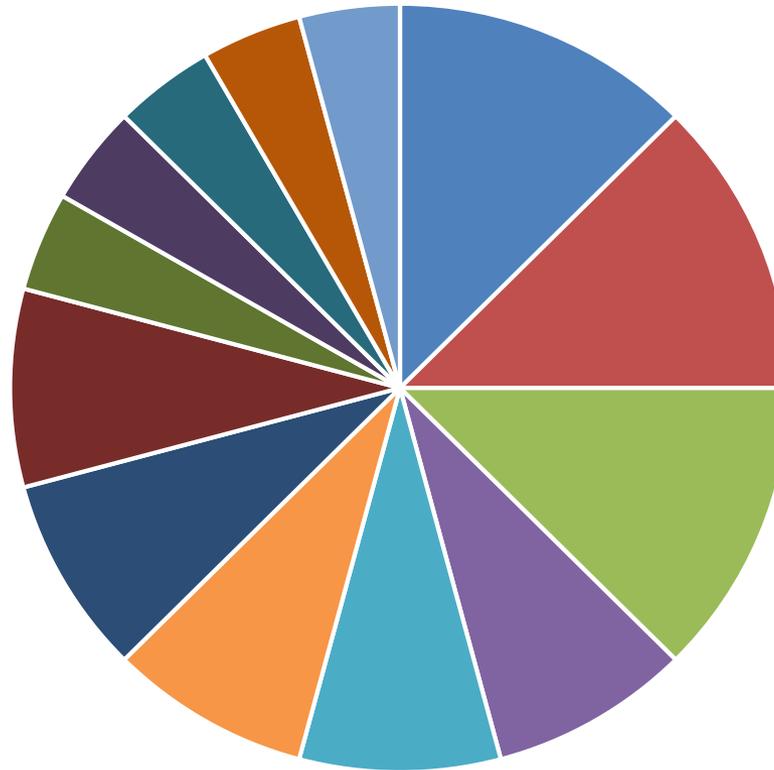
- **Citizenship** - US citizens and permanent residents
- **Scientific focus** – All research areas supported by NIGMS
- **Career stage**
 - Current NIH postdocs must have started ***no earlier than June 1, 2019***
 - Graduate students who intend to begin postdoc experience at NIH by fall 2021

We are especially interested in ensuring the applicant pool reflects the diversity of the biomedical Ph.D. talent pool.

NIGMS Research Areas

- Biological chemistry
- Biophysics
- Bioinformatics
- Cell & molecular biology
- Computational biosciences
- Developmental biology
- Genetics
- Immunology
- Neuroscience
- Pharmacology
- Physiology
- Technology development

Current PRAT Fellows at 13 ICs



■ NCI (n=3) ■ NIAMS (n=3) ■ NIDA (n=3) ■ NHGRI (n=2) ■ NIAID (n=2) ■ NICHD (n=2) ■ NIDDK (n=2)
■ NINDS (n=2) ■ NIA (n=1) ■ NIEHS (n=1) ■ NIMH (n=1) ■ CC (n=1) ■ NCCIH (n=1)

Identifying a Mentor

- The NIH Intramural Program has approximately 1200 investigators who can be [identified](#) by scientific focus area or by name
- OITE [webpage of postdoc positions](#) (career services tab)
- [Intramural Training Directors](#) can also be extremely helpful in understanding training opportunities and mentors in their institutes

PRAT Application Process

- Competitive application process - Fi2 (i= intramural) mechanism with applications submitted via grants.gov
 - <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-19-286.html>
- **Read everything *thoroughly***
 - Specific guidance for each part of the application (e.g. length, content, due date)
- Begin or continue record of independent funding



Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools
(RePORT)

NIH Application Guide

Application Form Instructions

Need help selecting the right instructions?

Application Instructions	Description	SF424 (R&R) - Version E	SF424 (R&R) - Version F
G General Instructions	Comprehensive guidance for research, training, fellowship, career development, multi-project, and small business applications	HTML / PDF	HTML / PDF
Filtered Application Instructions			
R Research Instructions	Guidance for research only	PDF	PDF
K Career Development Instructions	Guidance for career development only	PDF	PDF
T Training Instructions	Guidance for training only	PDF	PDF
F Fellowship Instructions	Guidance for fellowship only	PDF	PDF

Use the Forms-F application guide

NIGMS PRAT Program – FOA

Department of Health and Human Services

Part 1. Overview Information

Participating Organization(s)	National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Components of Participating Organizations	National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)
Funding Opportunity Title	Postdoctoral Research Associate Training (PRAT) Program (Fi2)
Activity Code	Fi2 Intramural Postdoctoral Research Associate
Announcement Type	Reissue of PAR-16-130
Related Notices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• June 17, 2020 - Notice of Informational Webinar on the Intramural NIGMS Postdoctoral Research Associate Training (PRAT) Program and Fi2 Application Process. See Notice NOT-GM-20-037.• March 10, 2020 - Reminder: FORMS-F Grant Application Forms & Instructions Must be Used for Due Dates On or After May 25, 2020- New Grant Application Instructions Now Available. See Notice NOT-OD-20-077.• January 22, 2020 - Additional Guidance on the NIH Policy on the Use of a Single Institutional Review Board for Multi-Site Research. See Notice NOT-OD-20-058.• November 05, 2019 - Notice of Change to the Eligibility of Foreign Components in PAR-19-286. See Notice NOT-GM-20-003.• August 23, 2019 - Clarifying Competing Application Instructions and Notice of Publication of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Regarding Proposed Human Fetal Tissue Research. See Notice NOT-OD-19-137.• July 26, 2019 - Changes to NIH Requirements Regarding Proposed Human Fetal Tissue Research. See Notice NOT-OD-19-128.• July 25, 2019 - Notice of Clarification of Eligibility for PAR-19-286. See Notice NOT-GM-19-052.• July 22, 2019 - Requirement for ORCID iDs for Individuals Supported by Research Training, Fellowship, Research Education, and Career Development Awards Beginning in FY 2020. See Notice NOT-OD-19-109.• May 28, 2019 - Notice of Informational Webinar on the Intramural NIGMS Postdoctoral Research Associate Training (PRAT) Program and Fi2 Application Process. See Notice NOT-GM-19-042.

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-19-286.html>

Important Dates:

Due Date – October 2, 2020 (work with Institute Signing Official early)

Review timeframe- Feb/March 2021

Selection – May/June 2021

Starting Date – September 2021

Application Due Date(s)	October 2, 2019; October 2, 2020 ; October 4, 2021, by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization. All types of applications allowed for this funding opportunity announcement are due on these dates. Applicants are encouraged to apply early to allow adequate time to make any corrections to errors found in the application during the submission process by the due date.
AIDS Application Due Date(s)	Not Applicable
Scientific Merit Review	February - March 2020; February - March 2021 ; February - March 2022
Advisory Council Review	Not Applicable for Fellowships
Earliest Start Date	August 2020; August 2021 ; August 2022

Interacting with Institute AOR

- Application needs to be submitted by Institute where proposed work will be conducted. Each Institute has one or more designated AORs.
- Make sure you contact your AOR **early in the process**
 - Many can be found here: <https://www.nigms.nih.gov/training/PRAT/Pages/prat-faq.aspx#q7>
 - Contact kenneth.gibbs@nih.gov if you need help identifying who this is
- The AOR will submit the application on your behalf and has important information you need.
- The AOR needs to create an eRA Commons account for PI and Sponsor(s)
- You will need to schedule a time to upload your grant with your AOR. Respect the AOR's deadlines.

Application 101

- Terminology
 - The institute where you perform the work (e.g. NIMH) is the applicant
 - You, the postdoc, are the PI (no multi-PIs)
 - Your preceptor is the sponsor (you can have multiple)
- Ensure all requirements of the FOA are met – incomplete applications are returned without review
- Demonstrate integration of research and training components, and additional training potential
- **Contact AOR early in the process**

Leadership Statement (1 page)

- Past leadership and service activities in the scientific community, or to enhance public engagement or understanding of scientific research
- Commitment to diversity in the biomedical sciences, and your leadership, mentoring and outreach activities to enhance diversity – especially involving groups [underrepresented](#) in the biomedical research enterprise
- Planned activities during the fellowship to develop or enhance leadership skills
- **The leadership statement is a required component of the PRAT application. Applications without a leadership statement will not be reviewed.**

PRAT Application – Tips for Successful Review

- **Fellowship Applicant**

- Tell your story
- Clearly articulate career goal

- **Sponsors, Collaborators and Consultants**

- Important to provide a detailed and tailored plan **for you** (e.g., mentorship, career advancement)
- Robust training plan, mentoring and training record (as applicable)
- If multiple mentors, explain how they'll work together for your training
- Use current NIH [biosketch](#)
- *Collaborators should provide letters of support (different from reference letter)*

PRAT Application – Tips for Successful Review

- **Research Training Plan**

- Rationale

- Significance – literature/preliminary data supporting feasibility
 - Central hypothesis (in addition to aim specific hypotheses)

- Approach

- Ambitious but not unrealistic
 - Aims should be related but not interdependent
 - Discuss expected outcomes, potential challenges, and alternative strategies
 - Statistical analysis (e.g., sample size, power analysis) and attention to relevant biological variables

- Avoid jargon, and don't "oversell" proposal

PRAT Application – Tips for Successful Review

- **Training Potential**

- Clarify **training** benefit (e.g., new system, techniques, or skills)
- Can include [OITE programs](#), [FAES Courses](#), conferences, etc.
- Should include PRAT program activities

- **Institutional Environment and Commitment to Training**

- Why this is the best environment to conduct the proposed research training

The entire application is reviewed — a rigorous research proposal is necessary but not sufficient

Criteria for Application Withdrawal

- For any application due date, multiple applications have the same primary sponsor.
- Missing biosketch for any key personnel (PI or sponsors) or leadership statement.
- Inappropriate or incomplete letters of reference.
 - Three letters of reference are ***required***
 - Key personnel on the application (e.g. your sponsor and collaborators) cannot provide reference letters.

Reference Letters

- [Electronic submission](#) of a letter of reference is a separate process from application submission.
- Reference letters are submitted directly through the eRA Commons and do not use Grants.gov
- This process requires that the referee be provided:
 - The PI's (candidate's) eRA Commons user name,
 - The PI's first and last name as they appear on the PI's eRA Commons account, and
 - The number assigned to this Funding Opportunity Announcement (**PAR-19-286**).
- **Letters can be submitted well in advance of application being submitted—ask early.**

Common Mistakes – Big Picture

- Not giving yourself enough time to:
 - Identify a mentor in the [NIH Intramural Research Program](#)
 - Work on the proposal
 - Work with the [AOR](#) on logistics of submission
- Incomplete application – letters of reference, biosketch, or leadership statement
- Forgetting to send an update if a paper is accepted between submission and review of the application

Hearing from PRAT Fellows



Sara Young-Baird (NICHD) “Molecular analysis of MEHMO syndrome mutations in translation factor eIF2 γ ”



Chase Francis (NIDA) “Investigating Nucleus Accumbens input-specific activity underlying salience and aversive conditioned response”



Adenrele Gleason (NHGRI) “Can exosome profiles reflect the disease states of patients with Gaucher disease and GBA1 carriers with or without Parkinson disease?”



Elizabeth Martin (NIEHS) “Pregnancy-induced epigenetic changes in breast duct epithelia as biological mechanism influencing breast cancer risk”

NIGMS PRAT Program – 2021 Recruitment

- Timeline
 - October 2, 2020 – Application deadline
 - February/March 2021 – Peer review
 - May/June 2021 – Notification
 - September 2021 – PRAT start
- [PRAT home page](#)
- [PRAT Funding Opportunity Announcement](#)
- For more information – kenneth.gibbs@nih.gov and follow us [@NIGMSTraining](#)

Extramural NIH Training Opportunities for Postdocs

[NIGMS Division of Training Workforce Development and Diversity](#)

- [F32](#)
- [IRACDA](#)
- [Research Supplements to Promote Diversity](#)

NIH [Extramural Research Training](#) Website

Questions?



**Thank you for listening & good
luck with your application!**

