



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS for NIAID-funded Tri-I Stimulating Access to Research in Residency program

Summary: This Request for Applications (RFA) invites applications from clinical housestaff in residency training interested in pursuing full time investigative careers in biomedical research for positions in an NIH-funded R38 StARR (Stimulating Access to Research in Residency) national physician-scientist training program. The broad goal of this program is to “recruit, retain and accelerate” the pipeline of physicians entering the physician-scientist workforce. This program will specifically provide residents with outstanding mentored training in fundamental biomedical research that includes up to two years of fully funded salary support at 80% effort with the concrete goal of facilitating a transition to individual career development research awards.

Program Description: Despite unprecedented opportunities to advance human health through science, the career path for physicians interested in pursuing full time investigative careers has become paradoxically less and less accessible.

This program seeks to remedy this deficiency by offering residents a longitudinally structured pathway to pursue full time careers in investigative medicine as a formal vocation. The program explicitly integrates scientific training with career development within and across clinical career stages through the following four components:

- a pragmatic curriculum that teaches scientific method using the NIH grant application and applies it to the design of hypothesis-based projects that address human disease across the lifespan
- individualized, multidisciplinary, and multilayered mentorship in the design and completion of a research project and acquisition of project-specific knowledge and skills
- horizontal and vertical networking among physician-scientists *within and across* career stages and institutions
- short, intermediate, and long term Individual Development Plans (IDPs) with pre-defined milestones and hand-off mechanisms that integrate scientific and clinical training *across* career stages through faculty independence.

In addition to fully funded salary support at 80% effort for up to two years, resident trainees will be eligible for:

- Research supplies and technical support (including after returning to clinical training)
- Registration and material for short-term scientific and career development courses or workshops
- Travel to scientific conferences and NIH-sponsored workshops

Resident trainees supported by this program will leave residency with:

- Clearly defined career goals and research path
- A network of diverse research-focused peers and preceptors
- A track record of scholarly activity that will help resident trainees reach their desired position and career goals
- Eligibility for medical board certification and competitive application for a subspecialty fellowship
- Eligibility for up to two years of continued training support through an individual K38 StARR award, after which trainees retain eligibility for K08, K23 and/or K99 awards



Reflecting the mission statement of the NIAID, this program places specific emphasis on infectious, immunologic and inflammatory disorders, including those across the lifespan.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Applicant must be a current resident or will be entering as a resident in one of the following departments:
 - Internal Medicine
 - Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
 - Pediatrics
- By the time of the appointment to the program, the individual must be a citizen or a non-citizen national of the United States or have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence (i.e. possess a currently valid Permanent Resident Card USCIS Form I-551, or other legal verification of such status).

Applications to the Tri-I StARR program should include the following 5 components:

- Candidate and mentor's NIH biosketch
- 3-page research proposal, to include relationship of research to **infection, immunity, and inflammation across the lifespan** (1 page for specific aims, 2 pages for strategy)
- Statement of commitment to an extended period of research (limit 1/2 page)
- Brief statement of career goals and academic interests (limit 1 page)
- Letter of support from the proposed research mentor (for current residents)
- Letter of support from the residency program director (3-page maximum) that guarantee the candidate
 - 1 year of >80% protected research time
 - And if extended to a 2nd year, the same research effort commitment as the 1st year

Awards are generally for 1 year of support, but can be extended for a 2nd year upon request and contingent on adequate progress in the 1st year and approval by the research mentor. Requests for a 2nd year of support will be reviewed by the Expanded Executive Committee.

Application deadline

- Applications should be submitted as a single pdf file using the naming convention: LASTNAME_DEPARTMENT_StARR.pdf. Email the complete application file to the program manager, Jeanne Tejada (jed2029@med.cornell.edu).
- **Application deadline is December 5, 2025.**

Review and Selection Criteria. Criteria used to evaluate applications will include career goals and interest in a career as an investigator, project feasibility and potential for success, mentor-mentee dyad, and, for existing residents, clinical performance.

Questions and further information can be obtained through Program Manager, Jeanne Tejada (jed2029@med.cornell.edu).