

JOSEPH A. PATRICK RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN TRANSPLANTATION
THOMAS E. STARZL TRANSPLANTATION INSTITUTE

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS
(2023)

Submission Deadline: December 9, 2022

The Joseph A. Patrick Research Fellowship in Transplantation has been established as a mentored award to provide funding for junior faculty (instructors and assistant professors) performing research in transplantation and related disciplines, including diabetes. Senior postdoctoral fellows who are assured a junior faculty position at the University of Pittsburgh that will begin by the start date of the award are eligible to apply.

The purpose of this fellowship is (1) to foster transplant-related research that is of high merit, (2) to develop preliminary data for the submission of highly competitive grant applications to national funding agencies, and (3) to promote the career development of the Joseph A. Patrick Research Fellowship in Transplantation awardee.

A. RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP ELIGIBILITY:

Junior faculty (instructors and assistant professors) and senior postdoctoral fellows who are assured a junior faculty position at the University of Pittsburgh that will begin by the start date of the award are eligible to apply. A letter from the Chair of the Department that has promised a faculty position will be required with the application.

1. Field of Interest

The candidate's career goals should include a clear commitment to transplant-related research, including diabetes.

2. Doctoral Degree

MD, PhD, or equivalent (e.g. PharmD)

For international applicants who received their degree, training and appointments outside of the United States, it is the responsibility of the applicant and mentor to specify the equivalency of the degrees, training, and appointments in terms of U.S. terminology. Copies of the international applicant's diplomas should be included with the application.

3. Other Support

Individuals who currently are the principal investigators of R21, R01 or equivalent grants are ineligible to apply. Recipients of other awards are eligible to apply if 50% or less of the applicant's effort is supported by the other awards and if no overlap in salary support with the proposed project exists. The institution, however, may supplement the support provided by the Joseph A. Patrick Research Fellowship in Transplantation. A successful applicant of this Joseph A. Patrick Research Fellowship in Transplantation will be ineligible to apply in future cycles.

4. Citizenship

The Joseph A. Patrick Research Fellowship in Transplantation at the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute, University of Pittsburgh is designed to train outstanding citizens from any country who exhibit potential to develop into highly successful independent investigators and likely to remain in transplantation research. Therefore, U.S. citizenship or permanent residency is not required.

5. Number of Applications and Fellowship Awards

The Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute will fund no more than one fellowship per funding cycle (i.e. one fellowship per two years).

6. Percent of Effort

A junior faculty awardee will commit at least 50% effort to research during the year of fellowship support.

B. APPLICATION PROCESS:

Please access application forms at <http://stiresearch.health.pitt.edu/>

The applicant, prior to preparing the application, should identify for the fellowship training an area of research and a faculty mentor at the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute (<http://stiresearch.health.pitt.edu/>). Once a faculty mentor has been identified, the applicant should prepare the application with the assistance of the mentor.

1. Mentor's Letter of Support

The process of applying for training support is a part of the career development experience. Therefore, the mentor should

- (a) specifically comment on the role of the candidate in preparing the proposal for the fellowship application;
- (b) describe the plans for the fellow during and after fellowship years;

- (c) specify how the proposed research program will provide the applicant with the necessary skills and training to pursue an independent investigative career in transplantation upon completion of the training period;
- (d) carefully detail previous training of the applicant in order to allow assessment of applicant eligibility; and
- (e) provide guarantee of funds to support the applicants work (supplies, animals, etc.).

2. Biographical Sketch of Applicant

A biographical sketch of the applicant (**maximum 4 pages each**) should be attached, including a list of relevant publications. (NIH biosketch would be considered appropriate). **No reprints are permitted.**

3. Applicant's Research Support

Prior, concurrent, and pending research support of the applicant should be specified and budgetary and/or scientific overlap in the applicant's other support explained. As noted above, Individuals who currently are the principal investigators of R21, R01 or equivalent grants are ineligible to apply. Recipients of other awards are eligible to apply if 50% or less of the applicant's effort is supported by the other awards and if no overlap in salary support with the proposed project exists.

4. Scientific and Lay Summaries of Proposed Fellowship Project

Scientific Summary: A brief (150 words) description of the research that the awardee proposes to undertake should be provided. The scientific summary should include a brief discussion of the proposed research and an indication of the potential benefits to patients undergoing transplantation. This summary should be typed and single-spaced.

Lay Summary: In addition, a brief (150 words) lay summary of the research project should also be included that is typed and double-spaced.

5. Research Proposal

A precise description of the proposed research to be undertaken during the tenure of the fellowship should include statements about the SPECIFIC AIMS, BACKGROUND and SIGNIFICANCE of the project, PRELIMINARY STUDIES of the applicant or mentor's laboratory, and RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS to be used. The research proposal should not exceed three single-spaced pages in standard typewriter size letter (11 point proportional font is the smallest print permitted), with margins greater than or equal to 0.5 inches.

Appendices, addenda, and attachments of any kind (including embedded files) are not permitted. Applications not adhering to these specifications will be

administratively disqualified and not considered further. The application should be written by the fellowship applicant with the assistance of the mentor.

6. Professional/Personal References

In addition to the letter of support from the mentor attached to the application, two additional references (preferably from previous mentors) must be named. Their support letters must be submitted directly to the Director for Administration and Academic Affairs, Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute. Please use the form that is included with the application to provide this information.

7. Personal Statement of Applicant

The applicant must include a brief statement, not over 250 words, of his or her career plans after completing fellowship training. The applicant should describe any research training that he or she will have had, if any, prior to commencing the Joseph A. Patrick Research Fellowship in Transplantation at the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute, University of Pittsburgh. This description is to include dates detailing the length of training. The candidate must carefully and unequivocally detail previous training in order to allow assessment of eligibility.

8. Training Record of Mentor

The training record of the mentor should be supplied. The information provided should include pre- and postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty trained in the last five (5) years. List the names of the trainees, positions at the time of training, current positions, organizations and funding, if any.

C. REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS:

All applications will be evaluated by a peer-review body of the University of Pittsburgh and the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute. Applications will not be considered unless they contain all of the relevant information requested in item B. Careful adherence to limitations of length in all sections is necessary to insure fair review of the application. The most effective application is one in which the mentor and applicant have collaborated to organize the specific aims, background and research plans within the three page limitation. The criteria for review include an evaluation of the applicant, the mentor, the training program/environment, and the project proposed and its relationship to the research missions of the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute. Applicants will be notified of funding decisions in **March 2023**. The Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute is unable to provide written critiques of applications.

D. TERM AND AMOUNT OF AWARDS:

1. Salary stipend for the junior faculty whose award begins in the 2023-2024 academic year will be up to \$56,880 plus fringe benefits. The award will commence on July 1,

2023. Additional funds in the amount of \$2,000 per year will be allocated for travel to a scientific meeting.

2. The award will NOT be renewed for a third year of support.
3. The Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute will fund a maximum of two consecutive years (24 months) of fellowship training. However, the second year of funding will be dependent upon the review of the first-year progress report by the Fellowship Review Committee. Failure to comply with the requirements of the fellowship at any time may lead to discontinuation of support.
4. A progress report must be provided by the applicants at the end of each year of fellowship funding.

E. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

By accepting the Joseph A. Patrick Research Fellowship in Transplantation at the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute, University of Pittsburgh, the fellow and the mentor agree to the following reporting requirements:

1. Fellows agree to provide the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute with a Progress Report at the end of each fellowship year.
2. Fellows agree to provide a reprint of every publication (including abstracts) resulting from research in which the Joseph A. Patrick Research Fellow participated during his/her fellowship year, even if published after completion of the fellowship.
3. All publications, abstracts and presentations will bear the statement:

“(Fellow’s Name) was supported by the Joseph A. Patrick Research Fellowship in Transplantation at the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute, University of Pittsburgh.”

4. Fellows and mentors may be contacted after the completion of this award for periodic updates on various aspects of the Fellow’s employment history, publications, support from research grants or contracts, honors and awards, professional activities and other information that is necessary for the continued evaluation of the impact of the Joseph A. Patrick Research Fellowship in Transplantation at the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute, University of Pittsburgh.

F. APPLICATION DUE DATE:

Applications must be received at the Office of the Director for Administration and Academic Affairs, Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute no later than **Friday, December 9, 2022.**

G. HOW TO SUBMIT APPLICATION:

Candidates should save their application forms as PDF files, where possible. Otherwise, save as a MS Word document; all files will be converted to PDF upon receipt. Submit all applications electronically to stiresearch@upmc.edu.

If signatures are not included in the electronic file, one signed hard-copy of page 2 of the application must be sent to:

Director for Research Administration and
Academic Affairs
Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute
E1545 Thomas E. Starzl Biomedical Science Tower
200 Lothrop Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15261

All inquiries should be made to stiresearch@upmc.edu.