

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS CLINICAL CARE PHYSICIAN FELLOWSHIP

(See Introduction for general policies, procedures and obligations related to applying for and receiving research awards.)

INTRODUCTION AND GOALS OF THIS AWARD

Consistent with its mission to move toward a world free of multiple sclerosis, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society supports the professional development and training of physicians in the comprehensive care of people with MS. The MS Clinical Care Physician Fellowship program offers a one-year, post-residency program designed to train board eligible/certified neurologists or physiatrists in specialized MS clinical care. The program provides fellows with the opportunity to perform new patient consultations and follow-up evaluations under the supervision of an MS specialist physician. The fellows will also participate in multidisciplinary team activities, lectures, and professional meetings, leading to the acquisition of skills and knowledge necessary to provide the highest quality of care for individuals with MS.

The applicant and mentor are expected to propose a program that largely involves direct, supervised MS patient care, along with other activities that will expose the applicant to a multidisciplinary healthcare team and didactic activities. Please keep in mind that the focus of this fellowship is **clinical care**. It is not a research-focused fellowship.

Although the MS Clinical Care Physician Fellowship program is intended to provide a single year of clinical training, current clinical fellows may apply for an additional year of clinical fellowship training, but must provide a clear plan that describes the need, purpose and expected outcomes for the additional year of fellowship training.

After completing the fellowship program, the fellows will have acquired the skills and experience necessary to develop into physicians who:

- Provide high quality, state-of-the-art, comprehensive clinical care to patients with MS
- Become an active participant and future leader in the MS clinical community

Within two years of the fellowship experience, the fellows are expected to:

- Establish or join an active MS clinical practice in the United States
- Volunteer with the Society at a local chapter or the home office (e.g., as a member of the Clinical Advisory Committee, Chapter Programs Committee, or Board of Trustees, as a speaker at a patient or professional education program, etc.)
- Actively participate in related professional associations

ELIGIBILITY

Previous Training: Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Hold a MD or DO degree (or equivalent)
- Be licensed to practice medicine in the United States

Residents who have or will have received training in neurology or physiatry in the United States, and who are in the PGY3 or PGY4 stage or beyond, are eligible to apply.

Citizenship: There is no citizenship requirement.

Training Components, Activities and Time: The applicant and mentor will propose a program of study that includes the following activities in the following proportions:

- 65% - Direct, supervised MS patient care. While the fellow may be involved in the conduct of a clinical research project, it is not expected or required that this be a training component.
- 20% - Exposure to the multidisciplinary healthcare team and activities, including physical medicine and rehabilitation, nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, social services, clinical and cognitive psychology, neuro-urology, vocational rehabilitation, orthotics, neuroradiologic interpretation and electrodiagnostics.
- 15% - Didactic activities, such as producing a clinical paper, review, poster, etc., attending lectures, grand rounds, seminars, and professional meetings.

Mentor and Institution: It is the responsibility of the applicant to make arrangements for the proposed training with an appropriate mentor and institution prior to application. It is the expectation that the mentor will provide adequate supervision and training to achieve the objectives of the program.

APPLICATIONS AND REVIEW

Applications: Application instructions for each funding opportunity are made available on the MSGrants grants management system.

Interview: All clinical fellowship applicants must agree to participate in a phone interview with a member of the Society's Clinical Care Fellowship Review Committee.

Evaluation Criteria:

Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- 1) the applicant's background, training, potential to develop into a productive MS clinician, and the phone interview
- 2) the environment in which the training program will be conducted, specifically the qualifications and expertise of the mentor and the institutional commitment to the program, including adequacy of existing resources and plans for use of institutional funds to augment training resources (for such costs as tuition, etc.)
- 3) description of the formal and informal training programs, including direct supervised MS patient care, exposure to MS multidisciplinary healthcare team, and didactic activities

Applications that include training related to underserved MS patient populations (rural, those with progressive disease, minorities, etc.) will be looked upon favorably.

Review Group: All applications are reviewed by the National MS Society's Clinical Care Fellowship Review Committee.

CONDITIONS OF AWARD

Duration/Timing of Fellowship: This fellowship is for a period of 12 months, starting July 1. Successful applicants who applied in PGY3 or PGY4 are expected to begin their fellowships following completion of their residencies.

Stipend: The stipend offered is \$75,000, payable to the institution, to cover the fellow's salary and fringe benefits, and institutional costs. (Note: Indirect/institutional costs may be added to the budget, not to exceed 10% of the award).

Notification of Award: Applicants will be notified by e-mail of their status, generally in January. Successful applicants will receive notification that their award notice is ready to be signed by the awardee and institution, and uploaded to the Society's apply online system.

Transfer of a Fellowship Award: The transfer of an award from one institution to another along with transfer of the fellow cannot be made without prior approval in writing by the Society and will require re-submission of select application materials for review and approval by the Society. Contact the Society's Contact listed below for further information.

Supplemental Funds: Supplementation or additional support to offset the cost of living may be provided by the awardee's institution, but must not require any significant obligation from the trainee. The extent of anticipated supplementation should be stated in the application, and the Society must be notified of subsequent additional support.

Change of Mentor: If the fellow's mentor becomes unable to continue the supervision of the fellow's training, a replacement may be named by the sponsoring institution pending approval by the Society. However, in the event that the fellow is unable to continue with the training, the fellowship award is non-transferable.

Personnel Policies: Fellows are not considered employees of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, but rather of the institution where the training is provided. The fellowship is to be administered in accordance with the prevailing policies of the sponsoring institution, including vacation days, sick leave, holidays, etc.

Termination of Fellowship: Whenever a fellow or a mentor elects to terminate a fellowship on a date prior to that indicated in the letter of award, the Society must be notified immediately in writing of the action taken. Grounds for revocation of the fellowship will be deemed to exist:

1. if a mentor requests in writing that the fellowship be terminated because of unsatisfactory performance by the fellow
2. if a fellow requests in writing that the fellowship be terminated for any reason
3. if the fellow's mentor becomes unable to continue the supervision of the fellow's training and a replacement acceptable to the Society is not named
4. if the fellow changes any aspect of the award from that which was originally approved by the Society, including the mentor, the department, and/or the institution without prior notification and approval by the Society
5. when reports of progress are not received from both the mentor and the fellow within one month of the date due
6. for a cause established by due process of law; or as a consequence of an institutional review committee's determination of fraud or malfeasance.

EVALUATIONS

The mentor will evaluate the fellow at the end of the 12-month term via a written evaluation submitted to the Society and the fellow. Upon completion of the program, the fellow will also evaluate the mentor and the training program via a written evaluation submitted to the Society. In addition, the Society will conduct follow-up surveys with the fellow to determine long-term outcomes of the program.