



## ANNOUNCING THE 2004 CANAVAN DISEASE CLINICAL RESEARCH TRAINING FELLOWSHIP REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

The Canavan Foundation and the American Academy of Neurology Foundation are pleased to announce a two-year Clinical Research Training Fellowship to support research into the cause, treatment, or cure of Canavan disease, a rare and fatal form of familial leukodystrophy. The fellowship is designed to support the development and training of new independent investigators in the field of Canavan disease and related leukodystrophies.

The award will consist of a commitment of \$50,000 per year for two years to support salary and/or research costs, plus a stipend of up to \$7,000 per year in reimbursements for formal academic training, as needed, in research methodology.

### ELIGIBILITY

The fellowship is open to investigators interested in academic careers in research who can demonstrate their intent to conduct novel clinical research in Canavan disease while working in a mentored environment. Preference will be given to neurologists/clinicians (MD, DO, MD/PhDs) who have completed residency training within 5 years of the award start date and can demonstrate the support of a seasoned mentor and research institution. PhD candidates conducting clinically oriented research and who have completed post-doctoral training within the last 5 years will also be considered. While clinical research\* questions are preferred, all proposals of extraordinary significance to the field of Canavan research are sought and will be considered. Supplementation of this grant with other awards or by the sponsor institution is permissible, however investigators currently holding K or R series grants from the NIH are not eligible to apply.

Applicants need not be US citizens to apply.

### MATERIALS FOR APPLICATION

Please submit one copy of all of the following materials required for application for the Canavan Disease Clinical Research Training Fellowship:

1. A letter of intent from the applicant to pursue a two-year program indicating the specific research focus, the proposed mentor and sponsor institution, and the applicant's future goals.
2. A five-page research proposal, including a brief statement of specific aims (1 page), background and significance (1 page), and research design and methodology (3 pages). 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 extensive discussion and the support of the proposed mentor. It is entirely appropriate for the proposed work to be highly related to the mentor's ongoing research.
3. Copy of current curriculum vitae. The applicant must have completed residency and/or postdoctoral training within five years of the award start date.
4. A letter of nomination from the Chair of the sponsoring Department that includes assurance that the fellow will have up to 75% of professional time protected for the research and career development.
5. Three letters of reference supporting the applicant's potential for a clinical, academic research career and qualifications for the fellowship.
6. The proposed mentor must provide a letter detailing his/her support of and commitment to the applicant and to the proposed research and training program. The program should be tailored to the unique qualifications of the applicant. It should specifically indicate the role to be played by the mentor in the development and preparation of the research plan and how this plan fits into his/her own research program. The mentor should describe his/her expertise and experience in the area of research proposed and the nature of his/her proposed commitment of time to the supervision and training of the applicant. The mentor should outline his/her prior experience in the supervision, training, and successful mentoring of clinician scientists.

7. The mentor or applicant must document arrangements for any formal coursework needed to support the applicant's development as a clinical researcher and should reflect the patient-oriented or laboratory-oriented clinical research career goals of the applicant. This documentation must describe the hours and content of the proposed formal instruction, the availability of tutorial assistance for the research project, and approaches to statistical analysis at the sponsor institution. The applicant should be able to demonstrate academic training in the areas of biostatistics, study design, data analysis, GCP/GLP, HIPAA compliance, and ethics upon the conclusion of this fellowship.
8. A listing of the applicant's and mentor's current and pending support, using NIH biographical sketch (PHS 398 revised 5/01) format.

### EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Applications are evaluated by the Canavan Disease Task Force composed of medical/scientific advisors from the Canavan Foundation and the AAN Clinical Research Subcommittee. Evaluations will be based upon the following criteria:

- the originality and quality of the research plan;
- the applicant's ability and promise as a clinician scientist as revealed by his/her previous training and career plan, letters of reference, and curriculum vitae;
- the quality and nature of the training to be provided, and the institutional, departmental, and mentor-specific environment in which these will occur.

Evaluations will be forwarded to the AAN Foundation Research Council for final determination of the award.

### ANNUAL AND FINAL PROGRESS REPORTS

The annual progress report is due in May of the first year of the award. Additionally, the final research report and the final expenditure report from the sponsor institution are due within 60 days following the close of the grant term.

### DEADLINE AND ADDRESS

All applications and supporting materials must be received by October 1, 2003. Results of the evaluation and selection process will be shared with applicants in December 2003.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO:

**Canavan Disease Fellowship**  
**American Academy of Neurology Foundation**

Attn: Cynthia Joyce  
1080 Montreal Avenue • St. Paul, MN 55116  
Phone: 651-695-2759 • Fax: 651-695-2791

### NOTICE REGARDING THE NIH LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

The NIH Extramural Loan Repayment Program (LRP) has been broadened to include investigators conducting "qualifying research supported by a nonprofit foundation...." Applicants to the Canavan Disease Clinical Research Training Fellowship may be eligible for this program and are encouraged to apply. For more information, visit the LRP website at [www.lrp.nih.gov](http://www.lrp.nih.gov).

\* Clinical research is defined as "patient-oriented clinical research conducted with human subjects, or research on the causes and consequences of disease in human populations involving material of human origin for which an investigator or colleague directly interacts with human subjects in an outpatient or inpatient setting to clarify a problem in human physiology, pathophysiology, or disease. This area of research includes epidemiologic or behavioral studies, clinical trials, studies of the mechanisms of human disease, the development of new technologies, and health services and outcomes research."