

Call for Applications: Russell Berrie Foundation Fellows in Diabetes Research Program for Columbia Fellows

The Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center of Columbia University, and the Russell Berrie Foundation are pleased to announce a Columbia University-wide open competition for funding for Post-doctoral fellows engaged in diabetes research, as part of the Russell Berrie Foundation's Frontiers in Diabetes Program. This program, now in its 21st year, is designed to support research in diabetes mellitus and its allied disorders that can improve understanding of pathophysiology and contribute to mitigation and ultimate cure of the disease. The program is based primarily on funding of postdoctoral fellowships for the most talented young investigators with a commitment to a career in the bioscience that provides the intellectual and technical substrate for amelioration, prevention and cure of diabetes.

The award will be \$75,000 per year. Preference will be given to applicants who have strong commitment to a career in biomedical research consistent with the Program's mission statement below. Primary and renewal applications are reviewed by a standing panel of Columbia and extramural investigators. Projects are generally awarded for one year, with a second year of funding contingent upon progress and availability of funds. Applications are examined primarily for the quality and relevance of the proposed science, the caliber and commitment of the applicant and mentor, and the programmatic aims of the Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center. Applicants with a committed career path in diabetes and obesity research, as demonstrated by prior achievements, completed training, or special skills in novel and underrepresented research themes, will be given preference. "High risk" studies, designed to test or extend novel concepts, are encouraged.

Awardees will be expected to attend the annual Frontiers Symposium (November), as well as the annual Fellows Day to present current and proposed research.

Two new awards will be made each year. Awards will be renewable for a 2nd year contingent on scientific progress, and continued engagement in the Frontiers program. Application deadline is October 26, 2018, for funding start date of January 1, 2019. Applications should include the following materials:

1) Cover Page, which includes the following information:

- Nominee's Name and Degrees
- Current Position
- Date of Birth
- Education (institutions and degrees)
- Mentor's Name
- Mentor's Title, Department and Institution
- Title of Proposed Project

2) Description of Project (1,000-word maximum not including citations)

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- 3) Mentor's Statement of Support (500-word maximum)
- 4) Nominees Statement on commitment to diabetes research (500-word maximum)
- 5) NIH-style biosketches of nominee and mentor.
- 6) Budget justification - funds can be used for salary and supplies (including animals) but not for travel or equipment.

Please collate all the above documents as a single PDF, and e-mail the completed application to Dr. Utpal Pajvani at up2104@cumc.columbia.edu. Applicants will be informed of the review committee's decisions by December 14, 2018. For questions, please e-mail Dr. Pajvani directly.

Mission Statement of the Russell Berrie Foundation Frontiers Program in Diabetes.

This program, now in its 21st year, is designed to support research in diabetes mellitus and its allied disorders that can improve understanding of pathophysiology and contribute to mitigation and ultimate cure of the disease. The program is based primarily on funding of postdoctoral fellowships for the most talented young investigators with a commitment to a career in the bioscience that provides the intellectual and technical substrate for amelioration, prevention and cure of diabetes. Applicants are sought from academic venues within Columbia, New York City and internationally. Specific applications relate to each of these sources.

The Frontiers Program also includes a yearly one-day meeting devoted to a single organizing topic related broadly to bioscience related to diabetes. An international group of ~8 speakers are invited to this Symposium held at the Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center. Attendees (~200) include students, fellows, research scientists, clinicians and other health professional. Attendance is free.