

Fischell Institute Young Investigator fellowship program: Call for proposals

Overview

The Robert E. Fischell Institute (REFI) for Biomedical Devices is launching the first Fischell Institute Young Investigator Fellowship Program. The purpose of this program is to foster collaborations amongst Institute faculty and enable high impact, translational and/or exploratory research in medical devices. Proposals are solicited from Institute affiliated faculty whose teams are pursuing innovative and collaborative work. Three teams will be selected to receive funds for recruiting FY21 REFI Young Investigators.

Motivation:

The campus(es) have several programs to facilitate teaming. A Fischell Fellow faculty appointment is one such program wherein faculty are provided with financial support in recognition of teaming efforts that cross disciplinary boundaries. There are few programs, however, that provide internal support to groups that are already successful, with the goal of enabling further success. The funds to be allocated in this program are meant to provide additional support to interdisciplinary groups that have demonstrated success and that can strategically leverage the additional support to expand their impact. As these funds are short term, they should be used at the postdoctoral or research assistant professor level, or equivalent. Up to three awards of \$50K each will be made available to such teams. Funded teams are expected to leverage results arising from the awarded project to generate a proposal for a major funding opportunity (at least at the level of a multi-PI NIH R01 or equivalent) and/or pursue a commercialization path based on the project.

Teams:

All proposals must be multi-disciplinary. PIs must be tenured, tenure-track, or research faculty members of the REFI. Only the lead PI need be affiliated in REFI, this mechanism can be used to reach out to colleagues, irrespective of affiliation, campus, or institution, to foster multi-PI collaborations. Each PI can participate as lead on only one proposal. The lead PI must be lead on an *active* externally funded multi-disciplinary program with 3 or more investigators, have submitted 2 or more invention disclosures in the last 12 months, and at least through this program, engage with the Fischell Foundry regarding the translation of their efforts.

Support Provided:

The intent is to provide researcher support to each selected team for one year (including stipend and benefits; there is no overhead charge). A total support of up to 3 REFI Young Investigator fellows will be provided in FY21. Funds can be used to support a current group member (offsetting current support to be used for additional effort) or hire a new researcher. In case of the latter, a six month start date window is provided. Note that the designation "Fischell Young Investigator" may help to attract interested candidates.

Submission Process and Deadlines

The proposals should contain the following sections:

1. Proposal (not to exceed 5 pages including figures and excluding references, no page limit for references)
 - a. **Description of the funded team project.** This includes the title and funding agency of current award, an abstract, and a subsection describing the *Significance, Innovation, and*

- Approach* to be undertaken by the awarded Postdoctoral Fellow (not to exceed 2 pages). Please strive to make the impact of the proposed work clear to individuals both within and outside your discipline. Priority will be given to plans that focus on the translation of research into commercial practice.
- b. **Training and development plan.** Include a half page description of the mentoring activities that will be provided for trainee.
 - c. **Description of interaction with Fischell Foundry** (not to exceed 1 page). The Fischell Foundry (see fischellinstitute.umd.edu) consists of engineers with a track record of success in developing prototypes, providing regulatory guidance, and fostering medical device commercialization.
 - d. **Description of future plans** (not to exceed 1 page). The proposal must describe how the additional fellow will lead to augmented team activities, the development of new products, and/or the development of teams that will grow out of the existing program. Be specific as to future direction and funding agencies.
2. Short bios of the PIs (can be a paragraph for each PI but not to exceed 2 pages for each PI)

Format / Submission: All text should be in Arial 11pt, 1-in margins, single spaced. Merge all documents into a single pdf named PIsLastName_REFI_FELLOWSHIP with the subject line of the email: REFI FY21 YOUNG INVESTIGATOR FELLOWSHIP PROPOSAL. Questions should be directed to: fischellinstitute@umd.edu.

Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances and incomplete applications will be returned without review.

Proposal deadline: 11:59 pm EST February 24, 2021 Selection

Notification Date: March, 2021

Expected Start Date: March, 2021

Selection criteria:

The awards will be on a competitive basis; each proposal will be reviewed and scored by the REFI executive committee. The selection of awards will be made by a final selection committee based on the relevance and potential impact of the research or translational activity, the future vision of the collaborative team, and the likelihood of continued support from external sources.

Expectations of Awardees & Post-Award Requirements:

- At least one journal publication, invention disclosure, or conference presentation is expected from each awardee; Acknowledgment of the REFI support is required for these publications, disclosures, and presentations.
- The awardees are required to attend kickoff and year-end REFI Young Investigator Program reviews and give presentations.
- The awardees must be agreeable to attend REFI events (virtual and in-person) and be willing to make poster and/or oral presentations supporting Institute activities.
- After the 12-month period of performance, the awardees will be asked to submit a short progress report summarizing project results and describing how the supported effort is being leveraged into additional support or commercialization.