

Susan S. Spencer, MD Clinical Research Training Scholarship in Epilepsy

Funded by the American Epilepsy Society, Epilepsy Foundation, and American Brain Foundation
In collaboration with the American Academy of Neurology

Application Deadline: October 1, 2019

This two-year award supports clinical research training in the field of epilepsy. It is hoped that this program, targeting fellows and new faculty, will foster the development of investigators interested in pursuing careers in patient-oriented research. The late Susan Spencer MD, an internationally renowned epileptologist, exemplified the qualities of a clinician-investigator. The award recognizes the importance of good clinical research and encourages young investigators in clinical studies in epilepsy.

The award will consist of a commitment of \$65,000 per year for two years, plus a \$10,000 per year stipend to support education and research-related costs for a total of \$150,000. Supplementation of the award with other grants is permissible, but to be eligible to apply for this award, the other grant source(s) cannot exceed \$75,000 annually.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Visit AAN.com/view/ResearchProgram
2. Select "2020 Susan S. Spencer Clinical Research Training Scholarship"
3. Select "Apply now"

Please only submit one application - applicants are not allowed to submit applications for more than one award. Your application may be considered for another category at the discretion of the review committee, however, the system will only allow one application per person.

Visit the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) portion of the website for more information.

IMPORTANT DATES

October 1, 2019: Application deadline – Note that the applicant proposal and Biosketch must be received prior to this date so that subsequent materials from the reference, mentor, and chair can be received on time. Applications will be declined if all materials are not submitted by October 1.

January 2020: Notification of recipients

July 1, 2020: Funding begins

ELIGIBILITY

1. For the purpose of this scholarship, research is defined as "patient-oriented research conducted with human subjects, or translational research specifically designed to develop treatments or enhance diagnosis of neurologic disease. These areas of research include epidemiologic or behavioral studies, clinical trials, studies of disease mechanisms, the development of new technologies, and health services and outcomes research." Disease-related studies not directly involving humans or human tissue are also encouraged if the primary goal is the development of therapies, diagnostic tests, or other tools to prevent or mitigate neurological diseases.
2. Recipient must be an AAN and AES member interested in an academic career in neurological research who has completed residency or a PhD no more than 5 years prior to the beginning of this award (July 1, 2020). If you have completed both residency and a PhD, your eligibility is based on when you completed residency. If you completed a fellowship of any kind after residency, your eligibility is based on the date you finished residency.
3. At the time of application, applicants can be epilepsy fellows, postdoctoral fellows, or newly appointed junior faculty members (first two years of appointment). During the award period, it is acceptable for the candidate to be pursuing formal graduate coursework (e.g., MPH) as part of the 75 percent protected time for research.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Applications are evaluated by reviewers based on the following criteria:

- Applicant's ability and promise as a clinician-scientist based on prior record of achievement and career plan, letters of reference, and NIH Biosketch (30 percent)
- Quality and nature of the training to be provided and the institutional, departmental, and mentor-specific training environment (30 percent)
- Quality and originality of the research plan (40 percent)

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS FOR APPLICATION

1. PDF of Three-page Research Plan, including brief statements of aims, background, contemplated approaches to methodology and any supporting preliminary data/figures. References do not count toward the page limit. 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 discussion with the proposed mentor. It is appropriate, but not required, for the proposed work to be specifically related to the mentor's ongoing research.
2. PDF of Applicant's NIH Biosketch. See this [link](#) for the most recent NIH Biosketch template

Once the above information is fully completed and submitted by the applicant:

3. The **chair** will receive an email with a link asking them to check a box confirming that the applicant's clinical service responsibilities will be restricted to no more than 25 percent of your time. The chair will NOT be asked to submit a letter.
4. **Two references**, identified by applicant, will receive an email with a link to submit a letter of reference for the applicant's potential for a clinical, academic research career and qualifications for the scholarship.
5. The **mentor** will receive an email with a link to submit a **letter of reference** detailing his or her support of and commitment to the applicant and the proposed research and training plan. The letter should specifically indicate the mentor's role in the development and preparation of the applicant's research plan and should include:
 - How the proposed research fits into the mentor's research program
 - Expertise and experience in the area of research proposed and the nature of the mentor's proposed time commitment to the supervision and training of the applicant
 - Mentor's prior experience in the supervision, training, and successful mentoring of clinician scientists
 - Potential for applicant's future research career and comparison of applicant among other residents
 - A description of the mentor's plan to encourage the applicants to transition to independence at the appropriate time
6. The **mentor NIH Biosketch** will also be required, include a list of the mentor's current & pending support.
7. Applications will not be processed or reviewed until the letters of recommendation are submitted. The applicant will receive an email confirmation upon receipt of each support letter. To send a reminder email to the letter writer, log back into the application and select "Re-send Recommendation Request" located in the Support Information section of the application.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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