



National Institute of Dental  
and Craniofacial Research

# Intramural Research Training and Career Development Programs



The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) is responsible for meeting biomedical workforce needs in dental, oral, and craniofacial health research. NIDCR intramural research training and career development programs provide professional development for scientists pursuing careers in basic research, clinical research, and public health. The NIDCR offers programs for undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral students, as well as junior faculty.

## Programs for **Predoctoral and Dental Students**

### **Summer Internship Program (SIP)**

This internship provides an opportunity for students to conduct summer research at NIH working side-by-side with cutting-edge scientists in an environment devoted to biomedical research. The NIDCR conducts research in basic, translational, and clinical research and public health. Applicants must be enrolled at an undergraduate, graduate, or accredited professional school (medical, dental, nursing, pharmacy, veterinary, etc.). They must also be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Program applications are accepted annually by NIH mid-November through March 1.

### **Postbaccalaureate Intramural Research Training Award (Postbac IRTA)**

The Postbac IRTA provides recent college graduates who are planning to apply for graduate or professional school (medical, dental, pharmacy, nursing, veterinary, etc.) an opportunity to spend 1 to 2 years conducting full-time oral health-related research at the NIDCR. Postbac IRTA trainees have opportunities to work directly with leading scientists conducting oral health-related research. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents who intend to apply to graduate or professional school during their time at NIH. Program applicants are encouraged to apply 6 months before they wish to begin training at NIH.

### **Summer Dental Student Award (SDSA)**

The NIDCR SDSA is designed to provide a hands-on summer research experience in the latest areas in oral health research for outstanding dental students. Students work alongside NIDCR researchers using the most advanced technologies. Competitive stipends are provided for all SDSA's. Acceptance of this award requires a minimum 8-week consecutive research commitment. The nominating dental school must agree to support air or ground transportation for their student(s). Eligible applicants must be enrolled in accredited U.S. dental schools, be U.S. citizens or permanent residents, have written nomination support from their dental school deans, and be available to work at the NIDCR for a minimum of 8 consecutive weeks. Applications for this program are accepted annually mid-November through January 15.

### **Medical Research Scholars Program (MRSP)**

The MRSP provides a year-long comprehensive research experience for research-oriented medical, dental, and veterinary students at NIH. This program is designed for students who have completed initial clinical rotations. The MRSP curriculum includes lectures on seminal basic, translational, and clinical research topics; training in clinical protocol development and leadership; year-long mentoring; tutoring; and participation in grand rounds. Eligible candidates must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents currently enrolled in an accredited professional school in the U.S. or its territories. Dual-degree candidates are also eligible to apply. Due to the integrated nature of the third and fourth (clinical) years at most dental schools, participation in the MRSP is recommended after you have completed your second or fourth year in school. The deadline for receipt of applications is September 15.

### **Graduate Partnership Program (GPP)**

Hosted by the NIH Office of Intramural Training and Education, the GPP brings PhD graduate students to the NIH Intramural Research Program (IRP) to do their dissertation research. The goal of the program is to create a unique graduate experience focused on training future scientific leaders by emphasizing communication, collaboration, and interdisciplinary investigation. The GPP is open to U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and international graduate students. Stipend levels depend on prior research experience and number of years at NIH as a graduate student.

# Programs for **Postdoctoral Fellows and Junior/Mid-Level Faculty**

## **Postdoctoral Intramural Research Training Award (Postdoc IRTA)**

The Postdoc IRTA allows recent doctoral recipients to further enhance their research skills in the NIH environment. While at NIH, postdocs work in a highly collaborative research environment with leading oral health researchers. The postdoctoral community at NIH is very active and consists of more than 1,000 trainees from across the U.S. and around the world. Eligible Postdoc IRTA trainees must have a doctoral degree (PhD, MD, DDS, DVM, combined degree, or equivalent) and have less than 5 years of relevant postdoctoral research experience after receipt of their most recent doctoral degree. U.S. citizens and permanent residents are appointed as Postdoc IRTAs; international trainees are appointed as Visiting Fellows.

## **Dental Clinical Research Fellowship**

This fellowship is designed to prepare dental researchers for academic careers in clinical science. It is a 2-year or longer full-time program designed to provide training in the latest clinical, translational, and basic research methodologies. Participants will also have modest clinical service responsibilities and participate in a rigorous program curriculum. Fellowships begin July 1 each year. Fellows work with intramural investigators to develop an independent clinical and translational research program that complements existing basic science laboratory projects. Qualified applicants must have a DDS/DMD or equivalent dental clinical degree and a demonstrated interest in dental, oral, and craniofacial research as evidenced by prior research experience and/or masters and doctoral level education beyond clinical training. U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status is not required, but candidates must have relevant U.S., Canadian, or equivalent clinical licensure approved by the NIH Clinical Center Credentialing Committee. The application deadline is September 15.

## **Training in Oral Health Informatics**

This program provides opportunities for dentists to pursue oral health informatics training with a dental public health emphasis. The Oral Health Informatics training program is a 2-year, full-time postdoctoral fellowship co-sponsored by the NIDCR and the National Library of Medicine. After completing the program, graduates may apply for specialty certification by the American Board of Dental Public Health. Applications are accepted between July 15 and January 15.

## **NIDCR Director's Postdoctoral Fellowship to Enhance Diversity in Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research**

This program is designed for graduating doctoral students enrolled in the final year of a PhD, MD/PhD, DVM/PhD, or DDS/DMD or equivalent/PhD program with an interest in pursuing dental, oral, and/or craniofacial research. Postdoctoral trainees selected for this full-time fellowship will spend up to 5 years working side-by-side with NIDCR's leading scientists in the Division of Intramural Research. This exciting opportunity will support fellows through mentorship and training, including opportunities to map a research career path and develop a grant proposal.

NIDCR encourages students from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds to apply. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents at the time of award. Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis.

## **Sang-A Park Memorial Intramural Postdoctoral Fellowship**

The Park Fellowship is a highly competitive intramural postdoctoral fellowship that includes an expectation that its participants will serve as mentors in research areas within the NIDCR mission. Selected fellows will receive up to 5 years of postdoctoral funding. The focus of the fellowship is on career development for junior investigators to better equip them to remain in a biomedical research career and continue to serve as mentors in the scientific community.

## **Sabbatical in Clinical Research Management**

The Clinical Research Management Sabbatical at the NIH Clinical Center (<https://www.cc.nih.gov>) is a 4- to 12-week independent study for experienced clinical research investigators and midcareer managers of clinical research programs. While on approved sabbatical from their place of employment, participants work with NIH experts to learn best practices and create new solutions to develop and sustain a clinical research enterprise.

# Funding for **Postdoctoral Career Transition**

## **Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00)**

This award provides an opportunity for future postdoctoral scientists to receive mentored and independent research support. The initial 1- to 2-year mentored phase of the award is conducted in the NIDCR Intramural Research Program. This is followed by an independent phase in a tenure track (or equivalent) position. Applicants must have no more than 4 years of postdoctoral experience beyond receipt of their most recent doctoral degree. U.S. citizens and non-U.S. citizens are eligible to apply.

## **NIDCR Dentist Scientist Career Transition Award for Intramural Investigators (K22)**

The K22 provides highly qualified dentists in postdoctoral fellowship positions at the NIDCR the opportunity to receive 2 years of mentored intramural research experience at NIH followed by 3 years of independent funding to facilitate transition to an extramural research investigator position. Candidates for this award must have a dual-degree (DDS/DMD-PhD/MS) or equivalent dental clinical degree and some expertise in dental, oral, and craniofacial health, and must be in an NIH postdoctoral fellowship position at the time of applying. Applicants can be U.S. citizens, non-citizen nationals, or permanent residents.

## How to apply

For more information about these programs please contact:

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**More information is available through the NIDCR web page:**

<https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/careers-training>



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