



THE NEURORADIOLOGY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION

PROSPECTUS:

- ◆ *NER Foundation Scholar Award in Neuroradiology Research*
- ◆ *NER Foundation / Bayer Basic Science Award*
- ◆ *NER Foundation / Boston Scientific Award in Cerebrovascular Disease Research*

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

PURPOSE

The Neuroradiology Education & Research Foundation and Partner Organizations have established awards to provide educational opportunities for investigators not yet professionally established in radiological science research, and to obtain experience and competency in newly developing fields within Neuroradiology. Scientific research is the foundation upon which the clinical practice of Neuroradiology is built. Neuroradiologists must be leaders in the development of new imaging technologies and image-guided procedures, as well as in assessment of the roles of these technologies and procedures in the care of patients. The directive of these awards is to train individuals in neuroscience research in important areas. **Although any research area in Neuroradiology will be considered, the various awards available emphasize basic science (Bayer), physiological imaging and general neuroradiology (Scholar) and interventional neuroradiology (Boston Scientific).**

ELIGIBILITY

A candidate must have a M.D. or D.O. degree, and must be board-certified or board-eligible in Radiology by either the American Board of Radiology or the Canadian equivalent. A candidate must have completed a residency in diagnostic Radiology. Awardees are expected to hold a position as either an Assistant Professor of Radiology, or as a Neuroradiology fellow (with or without an academic title, such as lecturer or instructor). Junior faculty are encouraged to participate.

While under the auspices of the NER Research Awards, the candidate must be in an approved fellowship program, or be serving as a faculty member in an approved Neuroradiology program. The candidate must be under the direct supervision of an ASNR *Senior* Member, who is willing to act as mentor and project supervisor.

RESEARCH AWARDEE ACTIVITIES

Allocation of award resources (percent of effort, support of other individuals, and other costs) is left to the discretion of the investigator, who is required to submit a line-item budget with the full proposal. Considerable allocation of effort from the PI is expected.

- A. The award will initially be approved for one year. A second year may be requested during the third quarter of the first year of the award. Approval for the second year will depend on funding cycles, and a successful demonstration of research progress.
- B. Research may involve any aspect of Neuroradiology, but priority will be given to projects related to: technology assessment, patient outcomes, or some aspect of health services research; physiological neuroimaging using FMRI, MR spectroscopy, PET, MEG, CT, or related techniques; or the development or evaluation of interventional and therapeutic procedures in Neuroradiology.
- C. **An itemized budget is required as part of the grant proposal submission. Funds (up to the maximum \$60,000) may be apportioned as required by the investigator, but must be briefly justified in the application. Examples of fund use might include: (i) salary support for protected research time for the investigator, (ii) salary support for associated staff (e.g. research assistants and/or PhD collaborators), (iii) appropriate equipment and/or scanner time access, and combinations of the above.**
- D. The ASNR *Senior* Member who is the mentor should be an individual with expertise in research or teaching and education in health services research, functional neuroimaging, interventional neuroradiology, or other area related to the proposed project. This mentor will serve to guide the project, and must be willing to take responsibility for its performance and completion.
- E. Awardees will be expected to submit a K08 award (or another K series award), based on the research sponsored by the Award at the end of the period of sponsorship. Applicants and their mentors should carefully review the requirements for K series awards on the following website: <http://grants.nih.gov/training/careerdevelopmentawards>, and discuss the time commitment required of these awards with their department chairman, before submitting the application for the NER Foundation and partner awards.
- G. Awardees must attend a grant-writing course.

LOCATION OF STUDY

- A. Strong consideration will be given to applicants from departments and institutions that show a commitment to the applicant's career development.
- B. The parent institution must demonstrate adequate resources and facilities to carry out the terms of the project. Specific involvement by experts outside of Radiology will be looked upon favorably.

CONDITION OF APPOINTMENT

- A. The award will be \$60,000 per year, which includes fringe benefits. The grant may be used to directly support the salary of the awardee and other costs itemized in the budget.
- B. The funding will go directly to the Radiology Department or Institution as direct costs to support the awardee position and budget requirements. **No overhead or indirect costs are included.** Unused funds will revert to the NERF at the completion of the project.

- C. Bi-yearly updates due on the 1st of January and the 1st of July within the year of the grant must be submitted in writing to the NER Foundation.
- D. Participants are required to submit material on the progress and outcome of the grant for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the ASNR, or for publication in the *AJNR*, as appropriate.
- E. Applicants who hold any of the ASNR Neuroradiology Education and Research Foundation fellowships or awards, the RSNA Fellowship or Scholar Award, or similar extramural support will not be eligible for another award or fellowship in that year.
- F. **Note: while institutional IRB approval is not required at time of grant proposal submission, no funds will be disbursed before such approval is documented.**
- G. **No award will be made without prior confirmation from the Program Director or Department Chair that the applicant's proposal will be supported in full by the host institution. Such documentation will be requested by the ASNR office after proposal review.**

CODE FOR REQUIREMENTS OF FELLOWSHIP

- A. The grant must be for prospective projects in areas specifically important to the advancement of the field of Neuroradiology, as outlined in section B under *Research Awardee Activities*.
- B. Retrospective reviews will not be considered. The research proposal must have a clearly stated, testable hypothesis and well-developed aims.
- C. During the tenure of the grant, Award holders must have access to and participate in an organized core-training program, to include such topics as biostatistics, experimental design, epidemiology, neurophysiology, image processing, and preparation of scientific papers and grants. A plan and schedule to carry out this training must be provided in the original grant application, and will be strongly considered in awarding the grant. Sources for this training may include institutional programs available to research fellows within the institution, RSNA courses in writing papers or grant writing and design, and personal instruction by the mentor on paper, as well as grant writing training.
- D. Preference will be given to those projects which demonstrate potential for external funding beyond the NER Foundation funding period.

STIPENDS AND ALLOWANCES

- A. The total yearly stipend will be \$60,000, which will be paid in two equal installments on July 1st and January 1st of the year of the award. **Any portion of the grant not utilized should be returned to the NER Foundation.**
- B. This award may be transferred to another institution, following approval by the NER Foundation for the designated individual, as long as the new institution provides and abides by the original agreement regarding time commitment and organized core training. **This transfer may occur during, but not before, the first year of the award (i.e., the**

project must be started at the institution that received the award). This request must be submitted in writing to the NER Foundation at least 30 days prior to the transfer. Each institution sponsoring the awardee will receive a portion of the funding that is in proportion to the length of time that research was performed at their institution.

In the event that a decision is made by the NER Foundation not to allow transfer of the award to another institution, the original institution sponsoring the awardee will receive funds that are proportionate to the length of time the research project was performed at that institution.

- C. An institution will only be permitted to accept one fellowship award per category (i.e., one *ASNR Neuroradiology Education & Research Foundation Scholar Award in Neuroradiology Research*, *NER Foundation/Boston Scientific Fellowship in Cerebrovascular Disease Research*, or *Bayer/NER Foundation Fellowship in Basic Science Research*).
- D. The grant is not transferable to another individual.

METHOD OF NOMINATION

- A. Awards will be designated and administered by the Neuroradiology Education and Research Foundation.
- B. The Research Committee of the ASNR, or its designate, will provide review and recommendations to the Foundation for awarding the scholarship.
- C. The Awards will be announced at the Annual Meeting of the ASNR.

SCHEDULE OF THE AWARD

As this scholarship may potentially be awarded to establish a second-year fellow position, ample time must be given to both applicants and institutions to determine placement of a fellow for the second year. Additionally, this will allow for alternate plans for unsuccessful candidates. Candidates will be notified of the decision in the early winter for a grant beginning in the subsequent academic year.

Following is the schedule:

- A. **The deadline for receipt of Letters of Intent is October 1, 2008. These should be one-page abstracts of the research proposal, submitted electronically (in .pdf or .doc format) to Bonnie Mack (bmack@asnr.org). On the subject line of e-mail submissions, indicate *one* of the following:**
 - ◆ **NERF/Bayer Scientific Submission**
 - ◆ **NERF/Berlex Submission**
 - ◆ **NERF/Scholar Submission**

- B. ***Applicants* who are short-listed from the letter of intent stage will be notified that they are invited to submit a full proposal, and an application will be provided. The deadline for receipt of full proposal submissions is December 12, 2008. Full proposals should also be submitted in electronic form (.pdf or .doc).**
- C. Selection of grant recipients will be in early winter, with subsequent notification of the recipient and institution. All those with interests in the grant, or employees of an institution that may be involved in the grant, shall recuse themselves from voting on such applications. In the event that an application is received from the institution of the Research Committee Chair, the ASNR Vice President will assume the responsibility of coordinating review of the applications.
- D. Announcement of the 2009 Awards will be made at the 2009 Annual Meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.