Susan S. Spencer Clinical Research Training Fellowship in Epilepsy
Cosponsored by the American Academy of Neurology, the American Brain Foundation, the American Epilepsy Society, and the Epilepsy Foundation

Application Deadline: October 1, 2016

The American Academy of Neurology and the American Brain Foundation are pleased to announce a two-year fellowship to support clinical research training in the field of epilepsy. The fellowship is supported by the American Academy of Neurology, the American Brain Foundation, the American Epilepsy Society, and the Epilepsy Foundation. 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, an internationally renowned epileptologist, exemplified the qualities of a clinician-investigator. The award aims to recognize the importance of good clinical research and encourage young investigators in clinical studies.

Each fellowship will consist of a commitment of $55,000 per year for two years, plus a $10,000 per year stipend to support education and research-related costs. Supplementation of the award with other grants or by the fellowship institution is permissible, but fellows may not accept other fellowships, similar awards, or have another source of support for more than 50 percent of their research salary during the first year of the Clinical Research Training Fellowship. If similar awards are obtained after completion of the first year of the Clinical Research Training Fellowship, fellows are required to submit a revised budget for review or may need to forfeit the rest of the fellowship.

HOW TO APPLY
1. Visit AAN.com/view/ResearchProgram
2. Select “Research Training Scholar (Fellowship)”
3. Select “Susan S. Spencer Clinical Research Training Fellowship in Epilepsy”
4. Select “Apply now”

Please submit only one application. The review committee will consider your application for all of the applicable fellowships.

IMPORTANT DATES
October 1, 2016: Application deadline
January 2017: Notification of recipients
July 1, 2017: Funding begins

ELIGIBILITY
1. For the purpose of this fellowship, clinical research is defined as “patient-oriented research conducted with human subjects, or translational research specifically designed to develop treatments or enhance diagnosis of neurological 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 also are encouraged if the primary goal is the development of therapies, diagnostic tests, or other tools to prevent or mitigate neurological diseases.

2. The recipient must be an AAN and AES member interested in an academic career in clinical research who has completed residency or a post-doctoral fellowship (for a PhD) within the past five years of the start date of the award (July 1, 2017). 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 members of the Research Program Workgroup and Clinical Research Subcommittee, Translational Neuroscience Subcommittee, and various ad-hoc 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 curriculum vitae (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)

ANNUAL AND FINAL PROGRESS REPORTS
An annual progress report is due in May of the first year. Renewal of the award in year two is contingent upon presentation of a satisfactory progress report. Additionally, a final research report and a final expenditure report are due within 60 days following the close of the grant term. The institution must prepare the final expenditure report.

MATERIALS FOR APPLICATION
One complete set of the following application materials must be uploaded at the time of applying in order to complete the application process:

1. Letter of nomination from the chair of the department of neurology, including assurance that there will be at least 75 percent protected time for research and specifically stating what clinical and administrative duties will be assigned to the candidate during the period of the award.

2. Three-page research plan, including brief statements of aims, background, and the contemplated approaches to methodology and data. 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 for the proposed work to be specifically related to the mentor’s ongoing research, but not required.


4. Two letters of reference supporting the applicant’s potential for a clinical, academic research career and qualifications for the fellowship. Letters of reference are in addition to the three-page research plan.

5. Listing of the applicant’s and mentor’s current and pending support, other than this fellowship, using NIH format.

6. Letter from proposed mentor detailing his/her support of and commitment to the applicant and the proposed research and training plan. More than one mentor is permitted. One mentor should be designated as primary and be responsible for administrative issues. The letter should specifically indicate the mentor’s role in the development and preparation of the applicant’s research plan. Letter should describe:

• 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 amongst other residents.

7. Proposed mentor’s NIH Biographical Sketch.

8. Document describing arrangements for formal course work including, quantitative clinical epidemiology, biostatistics, study design, data analysis, and ethics.

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING PHYSICIAN PAYMENT SUNSHINE ACT
The Physician Payment Sunshine Act (“PPSA”) requires pharmaceutical and device manufacturers (“Manufacturer”) to report to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (“CMS”) certain payments or transfers of value made to physicians, including payments made through third parties. The award may be funded in whole or in part from a transfer of value made from a Manufacturer. By applying for this award, you understand that if you are awarded the award, the supporting Manufacturer may be required under the PPSA to report the following information to CMS: your First, Middle, and Last Names, Primary Business Address, Email Address, Physician Primary Title, National Provider Identifier (if applicable), Physician Specialty, and Physician License State and License Number (“Reporting Information”). If required, the Reporting Information will be included in the CMS report that is published on a publicly available website. If requested by AAN, all recipients must provide Reporting Information to AAN within thirty days of AAN’s request. If required, AAN will provide Reporting Information to the applicable supporting Manufacturer, and that Manufacturer will provide CMS the Reporting Information along with additional information, including: Total Amount of Payment, Date of Payment, Form of Payment, and Nature of Payment. If you do not wish to be reported for accepting this award, please do not apply.

Contact Information
Kristin Roehl, Grants Program Manager | Phone: (612) 928-6082 | Email: kroehl@aarnet