



# Susan S. Spencer Clinical Research Training Scholarship

Funded by the American Brain Foundation, the American Epilepsy Society, and the Epilepsy Foundation

Application Deadline: October 1, 2017

The American Academy of Neurology and American Brain Foundation are pleased to announce a two-year scholarship to support 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, 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 award 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 for a total of \$130,000. 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 \$65,000 annually. For additional information regarding this policy visit [aan.com/research-and-awards/aan-research-program/frequently-asked-questions/](http://aan.com/research-and-awards/aan-research-program/frequently-asked-questions/)

## HOW TO APPLY

1. Visit [AAN.com/view/ResearchProgram](http://AAN.com/view/ResearchProgram)
2. Select "Research Training Scholarship (Fellowship)"
3. Select "Susan S. Spencer Clinical Research Training Scholarship (Fellowship)"
4. Select "Apply now"

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

## IMPORTANT DATES

October 1, 2017: Application deadline  
January 2018: Notification of recipients  
July 1, 2018: 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 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 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 the award.
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 for a career in clinical research on epilepsy 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)

## 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 final expenditure report must be prepared by the institution's financial office.

## MATERIALS FOR APPLICATION

Complete an online application by visiting [AAN.com/view/ResearchProgram](http://AAN.com/view/ResearchProgram):

1. Letter of nomination from the chair of your department, including assurance that the recipient will have 75% of their time protected for research.
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 but not required for the proposed work to be specifically related to the mentor's ongoing research.
3. Applicant's NIH Biosketch.
4. Two letters of reference supporting the applicant's potential for a clinical, academic research career and qualifications for the scholarship.
5. Listing of the applicant's current, pending, and overlapping support, including pending overlapping support 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. The letter should specifically indicate the mentor's role in the development and preparation of the applicant's research plan and 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 for encouraging the applicant to transition to independence
7. Proposed mentor's NIH Biosketch, including listing of mentor's current and pending support.
8. Plans and arrangements for formal course work including quantitative clinical epidemiology, biostatistics, study design, data analysis, and ethics.

## Contact Information:

Kristin Roehl, Grants Program Manager  
Phone: (612) 928-6082  
Email: [kroehl@aan.com](mailto:kroehl@aan.com)