Request for Proposals

Leon Levy Neuroscience Fellowship Program at NYU Langone

The Leon Levy Neuroscience Fellowship Program at NYU Langone Medical Center was established in 2007 within the NYU Child Study Center, and because of its measurable impact was expanded in 2013 to include the entire neuroscience community. The aims of the program are to:

- Recruit promising, early-career, basic and clinical neuroscientists from a broad range of disciplines into faculty appointments or residency or fellowship programs.
- Support five of these young neuroscientists each year as Leon Levy Neuroscience Fellows for two-year appointments.
- Provide training and career development programs for Fellows that facilitate their success as they launch independent careers in the field of neuroscience.
- Afford early-career neuroscientists the opportunity to leverage their creativity and pursue cutting-edge, high-impact discoveries that may not be supported by traditional grant awards.

The anticipated impact of the program is to:

- Fill an important shortfall in funding at a critical career stage and safeguard the vital pipeline of young neuroscientists.
- Support the most talented young neuroscientists as they launch independent careers, and allow them to pursue high-risk, high-impact research.
- Train junior investigators to mentor and manage the next generation of neuroscientists to amplify their impact on the field for years to come.

Prospective Fellows must be Assistant Professors (tenure track or non-tenure track) within the first 3 years of their appointments, and/or clinical residents and fellows who can dedicate 24 months to research. During their tenure, Leon Levy Fellows will work in their own wet or dry laboratory, or in the lab of a researcher funded by NIH, VA, CDC, HHMI, or an equivalent nationally peer-reviewed agency or foundation. Fellows will conduct research consistent with “first authorship” in peer-reviewed publications, and submit such publications during their tenure as Leon Levy Fellows. A successful Leon Levy Fellow should achieve funding as an independent investigator within three years of concluding their fellowship.

On behalf of the Co-Principal Investigators, Glenn N. Saxe, MD and Richard W. Tsien, DPhil

The purpose of this RFP is to solicit applications for the 2015-2017 funding period.

APPLICATIONS AND QUERIES SHOULD BE SENT TO LeonLevyFellows@nyumc.org

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 24, 2015
APPLICATION

Primary academic or administrative departments at NYULMC may support the nomination of Assistant Professors, residents, or clinical fellows working on neuroscience-related research. Candidates may be nominated by their Chairs or may self-nominate within 3 years of their initial appointment at NYU and must still be in their start-up period. This Fall, a committee comprising representatives from across NYULMC will select up to 4 Fellows. The length of the fellowship will be 2 years with a limited possibility of a third year for exceptional performance.

Applications are due by September 24, 2015. They will be reviewed and decisions will be announced October 15, 2015. Fellowship appointments will begin November 1, 2015. Details of the application requirements are described below. Applications and questions should be sent by email to LeonLevyFellows@nyumc.org.

Award Details

The award amount is $70,000 per year (plus a 3% inflationary increase in year two), which may be used for Fellow salary support. Each Fellow is also granted an additional $450/year for supplies. The award is intended to defray start-up package costs to the Department, Division, or Institute.

Applications should consist of the following elements:

1. Cover Sheet that includes, Department, Division, or Institute name, name of Applicant, Current Title, and Date of appointment

2. Signature of Department/Division Chair or Institute Director endorsing the candidate (letter not required)

3. Curriculum Vitae (CV) of trainee in NYULMC format, including date of appointment and current title

4. NIH Biosketch of Primary Mentor (and Co-Mentor), with current support, if applicable (i.e., if research will be performed in another researcher’s laboratory)

5. Letter of Commitment by Primary Mentor, if applicable (see above), confirming their intent to serve as mentor (letter of recommendation not required)

6. Research Proposal (maximum 4 pages, excluding references) that includes Background and Significance, Hypothesis, Preliminary Results, if any, and Work Proposed

7. A career development plan (maximum 2 pages) that discusses the applicant’s long-term professional goals, with emphasis on how the Leon Levy training period will enhance the chance of achieving these goals

Materials may be submitted as a single file or as separate documents. Aside the stipulations above, applicants may select formatting (e.g., font, spacing, figures) as they see fit.
Appendix 1. Membership of the NYU Leon Levy Program Fellows Committee

Moses Chao, PhD (CHAIRMAN)
   Professor
   Departments of Cell Biology, Neuroscience & Physiology, and Psychiatry; Skirball
   Institute of Biomolecular Medicine and Neuroscience Institute

Nina Gray, PhD (ex-officio)
   Executive Director, Neuroscience Institute

Gyorgy Buzsaki, MD, PhD
   The Biggs Professor of Neuroscience
   Department of Neuroscience & Physiology; Neuroscience Institute

Francisco Xavier Castellanos, MD
   Brooke and Daniel Neidich Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
   Departments of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Neuroscience and Physiology, and
   Radiology
   Research Psychiatrist, Nathan S. Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research

Mitchell Chesler, MD, PhD
   Professor and Vice Chair of Research
   Departments of Neurosurgery, and Neuroscience & Physiology

Donald Goff, MD
   Marvin Stern Professor and Vice Chair of Research
   Department of Psychiatry
   Director, Nathan S. Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research

James L. Salzer, MD, PhD
   Professor
   Departments of Neuroscience and Physiology, and Neurology; Neuroscience Institute

Helen Scharfman, PhD
   Professor
   Departments of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Neuroscience & Physiology and
   Psychiatry
   Research Scientist, Nathan S. Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research

Donald A. Wilson, PhD
   Professor
   Departments of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and Neuroscience and Physiology
   Senior Research Scientist, Emotional Brain Institute, Nathan S. Kline Institute for
   Psychiatric Research

External:
Louis F. Reichardt, PhD
   Director of the Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative (SFARI)
Appendix 2: Program Elements

**Research Education**
We provide our Leon Levy Neuroscience Fellows with a broad range of educational experiences related to research, tailored to their specific career and scientific interests. These opportunities allow the Fellows to present their work, share ideas with other neuroscientists, and interact with each other. These include neuroscience colloquia, symposia, retreats, and meetings, Grand Rounds, and specialized training for young investigators. We have also developed and implemented educational seminars designed for the Leon Levy Fellows on special topics in basic, clinical, and translational neuroscience, and interactive career advice from some of our foremost neuroscientists. We place particular emphasis on career decisions related to the pursuit of innovative scientific ideas.

**Leadership Education and Professional Development**
To develop the next generation of scientific leaders, NYU Langone offers Leon Levy Fellows a variety of career development resources. These include grant preparation workshops, a human resources management workshop, a leadership training program, and access to a variety of other resources aimed at preparing Fellows to successfully navigate the practicalities of running a laboratory.

**Mentorship Program**
Through the highly successful mentorship program directed by Dr. F Xavier Castellanos, each Leon Levy Fellow is assigned a mentorship committee comprised of three multidisciplinary scientists representing both clinical and research science, one of whom will be designated as primary mentor. Each Fellow establishes a personalized career development plan in consultation with his/her mentorship committee that includes ongoing meetings with his/her mentors; specific research, leadership, and educational training customized to the Fellow’s interests; and clinical or research experiences that support the Fellow’s capacity to conduct translation research. The primary mentor, in conjunction with the committee, provides direct support for the Fellow’s success and career development.

**Participation in the Annual Leon Levy Neuroscience Symposium**
In order to increase collaboration among individual research scientists in neuroscience in the New York metro area, Fellows present at poster sessions and participate in the annual Leon Levy Neuroscience Symposium. Mentors and lab associates who work with the Fellows also attend the event.