

NAGMS Concept Clearance: Predoctoral Fellowships (F31) for PharmDs Students in PhD Programs

Division: \_\_\_PPBC\_\_\_ Program Director: \_\_\_Richard Okita \_\_\_

Division Director: \_\_\_Michael Rogers\_\_\_

Announcement type: PA Intend to reissue? Maybe

Activity code(s): \_\_\_F31 FY funds: \_\_\_(FY09/10/11, etc)\_\_\_

Funding source: \_\_\_(RPG/Ctrs/NRSA...)\_\_\_ Set-aside amount in 1<sup>st</sup> year: (\$0.00)

Maximum length of award: 5 years Number of awards: 5t6

Average award direct cost/year: (\$45,000.00)

*Clinical Pharmacologist*

Narrative: (include rationale for origin of concept, activity proposed, locus of review; 1 page maximum)

NIGMS proposes to support Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Predoctoral Fellows (F31) who are pursuing a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree and are in PharmD/PhD dual degree programs. Applicants must be at the dissertation research stage of their doctoral training and must show evidence of both high academic performance in the sciences and substantial interest in areas of high priority to the NIGMS mission. NIGMS, as well as other NIH institutes, were approached by faculty and administrators at schools of pharmacy to support the training of their students who are pursuing the PharmD and are interested in research training in basic and clinical sciences. Recently, pharmacy schools have taken on a much greater role in training individuals who enter the field of clinical pharmacology, however. PharmD students have not had many opportunities to concurrently pursue intensive research experiences during the time they are in the PharmD program. Because of job opportunities for PharmDs once they graduate, it is difficult to interest them to return and pursue clinical or research careers. We have been told that there may be a critical shortage of PharmD graduates in the near future who have the necessary training and tools to pursue NIH supported research and hold faculty positions in schools of pharmacy. To meet this situation, a number of research intensive pharmacy schools have recently stalled dual degree PharmD/PhD programs. MOMS and NCI supported a workshop "Pharm.D. Pathways to Biomedical Research" in December 2006 and had a frank discussion with PharmDs who have NIH grants and pharmacy school administrators to discuss opportunities for research training for PharmD students and possible NIH support mechanisms. In discussions within PPBC, it was felt that the support of PharmD students who are interested in pursuing a PhD degree could be best met through individual F31 fellowship awards which provides stipend and tuition support for the dissertation stage of their PhD training. Applications from PharmD/PhD students would compete in standing fellowship review panels with other predoctoral applicants who are seeking the PhD degree or are enrolled in joint professional degree (MD, DVM, DDS and others)/PhD programs. \_\_\_\_\_

*for support of students during dissertation phase*  
*similar to F31*  
*up to 5 yrs support*  
*15-20 apps*  
*to award 4-6 fellowships / yr anticipated*

Timeline: Council concept approval: \_\_\_1/25/2008\_\_\_  
NIH Guide publication: \_\_\_4/2008\_\_\_  
Application receipt: \_\_\_F receipt dates (8/8.1210 4/8\_\_\_  
Initial review: \_\_\_10/2008\_\_\_  
NAGNIS Council review: \_\_\_1/2009\_\_\_  
Earliest award date: \_\_\_4/2009\_\_\_