Option for an Additional Year of Research Training for Fellows in Two-Year Fellowship Programs

Fellows in a two-year fellowship program may want an additional year of research training after completion of their clinical fellowship program to prepare for a career as an independent investigator. For those interested, below is information and the policies:

I. Eligibility
   a. Fellow must be enrolled in a two-year clinical fellowship program.
   b. Fellows in the US on a J-1 ECFMG visa are not eligible to apply for an extra year of funding due to visa limitations.
   c. MCHRI will fund 50% of the cost for a second year of research training. The fellow’s department/division must commit to fund the other 50% of the cost.
   d. In order to qualify for the second year of funding from MCHRI, the fellow must submit an F32 grant application in either the August or December cycle of their second year of MCHRI funding.

II. Application Process
   a. The fellow must apply for two years of MCHRI grant funding in their first year of fellowship. To do so, the fellow must propose a research project that can be completed in two years and submit a budget proposal for two years of funding.
   b. The fellow must also include with their grant application materials a letter of support from their Department Chair or Division Chief indicating that:
      i. The Department Chair or Division Chief believes the fellow is motivated and adequately supported to pursue a career as an independent investigator and that a second year of research training is necessary, and why this additional year is desired.
      ii. The department/division will provide a Clinical Scholar and a Postdoctoral Scholar appointment to the fellow during the second year of research training.
         1. The Clinical Scholar appointment allows the fellow to practice clinically, and the Postdoctoral Scholar appointment allows the fellow to conduct research.
iii. The department/division will pay for 50% of the salary and benefits cost for the fellow’s second year of research training.

III. Payment

a. If the fellow is awarded an MCHRI grant for two years:

i. For the first year of the grant:

1. The fellow will continue to be appointed as a SHC employee through the GME Office.
2. The fellow will be paid at their PGY rate, and they will receive all benefits through their SHC employee appointment.
3. MCHRI will cover the full cost of the salary and benefits for the fellow. However, if the applicant is successful in obtaining external funding for his/her salary, s/he must immediately notify the MCHRI. In such a situation, the MCHRI award will be reduced by a comparable amount. The applicant will also receive an incentive ‘bonus’ of up to $10,000 to be used as stated in our policy. Fellows selected for slots on T32 grants are not eligible for the incentive bonus.

ii. For the second year of the grant:

1. The fellow will be appointed as a Postdoctoral Scholar through the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs at a rate of 75% and as a Clinical Scholar through the Office of Academic Affairs at a rate of 25%.
2. The fellow’s salary will be at the PGY6 rate.
3. The fellow’s benefits will be at the postdoc benefit rate (currently 24.3%). The Clinical Scholar appointment has no benefits associated with it.
4. The fellow will not be provided any GME benefits, including housing allowance, cell phone allowance, educational allowance, or moving allowance during that final year.
5. The total cost of the fellow’s salary and benefits will be split between MCHRI (50%) and the fellow’s department/division (50%).