

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS CLINICAL CARE PHYSICIAN FELLOWSHIP

PEDIATRIC CARE

This policy section is specific to applicants who will spend the majority of their time in pediatric neurologic care of patients with MS and related conditions. The section specific to applicants who will spend the majority of time in adult neurologic care can be found on page 51.

See pages 4-21 for general policies, procedures, and obligations related to applying for and receiving funding awards.

INTRODUCTION AND GOALS OF THIS AWARD

Consistent with its mission to move toward a world free of multiple sclerosis, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society supports the professional development and training of physicians in the comprehensive care of people with MS. The MS Clinical Care Physician Fellowship program offers a one-year, post-residency program designed to train board eligible/certified neurologists or physiatrists in specialized MS clinical care. The program provides fellows with the opportunity to perform new patient consultations and follow-up evaluations under the direct supervision of an MS specialist physician. The fellows will also participate in multidisciplinary team activities, lectures, and professional meetings, leading to the acquisition of skills and knowledge necessary to provide personalized, high-quality MS care.

The pediatric neurology applicant and mentor are expected to propose a program that involves direct, supervised MS and related demyelinating disease patient care, with other activities that will expose the applicant to a multidisciplinary healthcare team and didactic activities. Keep in mind that the focus of this fellowship is clinical care. **This is not a research-focused fellowship.**

Although the MS Clinical Care Physician Fellowship program is intended to provide a single year of clinical training, current clinical fellows may apply for an additional year of adult or pediatric MS clinical fellowship training. A clear plan must be provided that describes the need, purpose and expected outcomes for the additional year of fellowship training.

After completing the fellowship program, the fellows will have acquired the skills and experience necessary to develop into physicians who:

- Provide high-quality, state-of-the-art, comprehensive clinical care to pediatric patients with MS and other related demyelinating disorders
- Become an active participant and future leader in the MS clinical community

Within two years of the fellowship experience, the fellows are expected to:

- Establish or join an active MS clinical practice in the United States
- Volunteer with the Society (e.g., as a member of the local Healthcare Provider Councils or Board of Trustees, as an advocacy activist, or as a speaker at a patient or professional education program, etc.)
- Actively participate in related professional associations

ELIGIBILITY

Previous Training: Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Hold an MD or DO degree (or equivalent)
- Be licensed to practice medicine in the United States

Residents who have or will have received training in pediatric neurology or physiatry in the United States, and who are entering their final year of residency or beyond at the time of the application deadline, are eligible to apply.

Citizenship: There is no citizenship requirement.

Mentor and Institution: It is the responsibility of the applicant to make arrangements for the proposed training with an appropriate mentor and institution prior to applying. It is the expectation that the mentor (and co-mentor, when relevant) will be providing the majority of the direct supervision and training to the fellow to achieve the objectives of the program.

CLINICAL CARE PHYSICIAN FELLOWSHIP – PEDIATRIC CARE

The Society discourages the submission of more than two applicants (including adult and pediatric applicants) to this program from an individual institution and/or mentor within the same deadline.

APPLICATIONS AND REVIEW

Applications: Application instructions for each funding opportunity are made available on the MSGrants grants management system. In MSGrants, select ‘MS CLINICAL CARE PHYSICIAN FELLOWSHIP’ and ‘pediatric’ for the application type.

Training Components, Activities and Time – Majority of Time Spent in PEDIATRIC MS AND

RELATED DISORDERS Care: The applicant and mentor will propose a program of study that includes the following activities in the following proportions:

- 60% - Direct, **supervised** MS and related demyelinating disease patient care. The majority of this time (50-85%) should be spent in a pediatric setting with the remainder (at least ½ day per week) dedicated to adult patient care.
- 20% - Exposure to relevant pediatric neurology subspecialties (neurogenetics, leukodystrophy, neuro-rheumatology, infectious disease, etc.) and the multidisciplinary healthcare team and activities, including physical medicine and rehabilitation, nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, school social services, case management, clinical and cognitive psychology, nutrition and wellness, vocational rehabilitation, orthotics, neuroradiologic interpretation and electrodiagnostics.
- 20% - Didactic activities, such as producing a clinical paper, review, poster, etc., attending lectures, grand rounds, seminars, and professional meetings. While the fellow may be involved in the conduct of a clinical research project, this is not a research-focused fellowship.

Interview: All clinical fellowship applicants must agree to participate in an interview with a member of the Society’s Clinical Training Programs Committee.

Evaluation Criteria:

Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- 1) the applicant’s background, training, potential to develop into a productive MS and related demyelinating disease clinician, and the interview
- 2) the environment in which the training program will be conducted, specifically the qualifications and expertise of the mentor and the institutional commitment to the program, including adequacy of existing resources and plans for use of institutional funds to augment training resources (for such costs as tuition, etc.)
- 3) description of the formal and informal training programs, including direct supervised MS and related demyelinating disease pediatric patient care, exposure to MS multidisciplinary healthcare team, and didactic activities

The program description should include what training will be available to the fellow for working with systematically disadvantaged populations (rural populations, people from diverse racial and ethnic groups, low socioeconomic populations, Veterans and military servicemembers, people who are LGBTQ+, people with progressive MS, etc.).

Review Group: All applications are reviewed by the National MS Society’s Clinical Care Fellowship Review Committee.

CONDITIONS OF AWARD

Term or Duration of the Fellowship: This fellowship is for a period of 12 months, starting July 1. Successful applicants are expected to begin their fellowships following completion of their residencies.

Stipend: The stipend offered is \$75,000, payable to the institution, to cover the fellow’s salary and fringe benefits, and institutional costs. (Note: Indirect/institutional costs may be included in the stipend budget, not to exceed 10% of the award). It is the intent of this fellowship award that the fellow’s time will be spent on the approved Society’s training program.

Participation in Society Educational Programs: In addition to following the training plans outlined in the application, funded fellows are also expected to attend and participate in the educational programs organized by the Society staff for clinical fellows. New fellows will receive communication from Society staff about the schedule.

Notification of Award: Applicants will be notified by email of their status, generally in November. By January, successful applicants will receive notification that their award notice is ready to be signed by the awardee and institution and uploaded to the Society's apply online system.

Transfer of a Fellowship Award: The transfer of an award from one institution to another along with transfer of the fellow cannot be made without prior approval in writing by the Society and will require re-submission of select application materials for review and approval by the Society.

Supplemental Funds: Supplementation or additional support to offset the cost of living may be provided by the awardee's institution but must not require any significant obligation from the trainee. The extent of anticipated supplementation should be stated in the application and the Society must be notified of subsequent additional support.

Change of Mentor: If the fellow's mentor becomes unable to continue the supervision of the fellow's training, a replacement may be named by the sponsoring institution pending approval by the Society. However, in the event that the fellow is unable to continue with the training, the fellowship award is non-transferable.

Personnel Policies: Fellows are not considered employees of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, but rather of the institution where the training is provided. Beginning in 2020, fellows funded by the National MS Society may use funds for maternity/parental leave as outlined in the During the Award Period section above; otherwise, the fellowship is to be administered in accordance with the prevailing policies of the sponsoring institution, including vacation days, sick leave, holidays, etc.

Termination of Fellowship: Whenever a fellow or a mentor elect to terminate a fellowship on a date prior to that indicated in the letter of award, the Society must be notified immediately in writing of the action taken. Grounds for revocation of the fellowship will be deemed to exist:

1. if a mentor requests in writing that the fellowship be terminated because of unsatisfactory performance by the fellow
2. if a fellow requests in writing that the fellowship be terminated for any reason
3. if the fellow's mentor becomes unable to continue the supervision of the fellow's training and a replacement acceptable to the Society is not named
4. if the fellow changes any aspect of the award from that which was originally approved by the Society, including the mentor, the department, and/or the institution without prior notification and approval by the Society
5. when reports of progress are not received from both the mentor and the fellow within one month of the date due
6. for a cause established by due process of law; or as a consequence of an institutional review committee's determination of fraud or malfeasance.

EVALUATIONS

The mentor will evaluate the fellow at the end of the 12-month term via a written evaluation submitted to the Society and the fellow. Upon completion of the program, the fellow will also evaluate the mentor and the training program via a written evaluation submitted to the Society. In addition, the Society will conduct follow-up surveys with the fellow to determine long-term outcomes of the program.