University of Minnesota

MnDRIVE Fellowship in Neuromodulation – Discoveries through Industry Partnerships

Graduate ● Postdoctoral ● Resident/Clinical/Innovation Fellows

2018-2019 Fellowship Program

Award duration and amount: one year, up to $70,000 for stipend, benefits and tuition (in the case of student trainees)

Deadline to apply is May 4, 2018

Recipients will be notified of awards by early June, 2018

Fellowships to start in the summer (after July 1) or fall of 2018

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Innovation through Collaboration

The University of Minnesota announces this year’s industry-focused trainee fellowship program in Neuromodulation, the 2018-2019 Discoveries through Industry Partnerships award. Awards are funded by the Brain Conditions core area of the MnDRIVE (Minnesota Discovery, Research and Innovation Economy) initiative. Fellowships will be awarded to an outstanding individual trainee or trainee team that has a translational and neuromodulation-focused research topic with high commercial potential and a strong collaboration with an industry partner. This award is intended to equip trainees with unique ‘seed’ funding and foster University-industry collaborations that seek to deliver neuromodulation discoveries and innovations with high commercial potential.

Neuromodulation is an emerging transdisciplinary field focused on treating neurological and neuropsychiatric disorders with technological interventions at an appropriate neural interface that provides a therapeutic response and is non-destructive, reversible, and adjustable. Neuromodulation research integrates basic science, engineering, and clinical disciplines to yield new insights into brain function and develop therapeutic innovations that include electrical, magnetic, optogenetic, and ultrasound technologies. Bringing such innovations to patients leverages different researcher skill sets and partnerships that are essential to accomplish the “Bench to Bedside” goal.

Academic-industry partnerships have been essential building blocks for the commercial medical device and drug therapies industry. Historically, many such innovations have been developed between the University of Minnesota and what is now the surrounding Medical Alley health technology industry (https://www.medicalalley.org/). As traditional funding climates change, the ability to foster strong relations between the University and Industry partners becomes more important to the future of medical research and innovation. Trainees able to identify translational research questions and successfully partner with industry will be uniquely prepared to advance neuromodulation therapies for brain conditions. This fellowship is intended provide trainees with a valuable opportunity to develop their career and skills, and strengthen industry investment in the expertise and resources the University and MnDRIVE have to offer in bringing neuromodulation therapies to patients in need.

MnDRIVE

MnDRIVE is a landmark partnership between the University and the state of Minnesota. Brain Conditions, a MnDRIVE core area of research and partnership, addresses complex and debilitating brain-related disorders by leveraging university and state investments in medicine and engineering and extending our vibrant partnerships with medical device industries in Minnesota. For more information about the MnDRIVE core area of Discoveries and treatments for brain conditions, go to: https://mndrive.umn.edu/brain. For more information on MnDRIVE please visit: https://mndrive.umn.edu/.
CRITERIA FOR SELECTION
We seek outstanding trainees* (masters/PhD students, Postdoctoral fellows, Medical Residents, Clinical Fellows, Medical Device Innovation fellows) or trainee teams who will work collaboratively with an industry partner on a neuromodulation-related project with high commercial potential. Selection will be based on the strength of the applicant’s academic records and work history, relevance of the proposed research to neuromodulation, evidence of past productivity in research or industry, alignment of the training experience with the goals of the MnDRIVE initiative, project quality, commercialization potential, and strength of the industry partnership.

Trainees must be affiliated with the University of Minnesota and mentored by a University of Minnesota faculty for the duration of the award period.

The University of Minnesota is an affirmative action/equal opportunity educator and employer.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
There are three parts to the application; all must be completed no later than May 4, 2018.

Part 1. Online Fellowship Application Form. Applicant should complete the online fellowship application form no later than May 4, 2018. For full announcement, link to the online application, and to learn more about information required in the application go to: https://mndrive.umn.edu/brain/funding

Part 2 LETTERS OF SUPPORT from two professional references. Applicant should arrange for a LETTERS OF SUPPORT to be submitted by each of two references who can comment on the applicant’s qualifications to contribute to the project (each letter should be no longer than 2 pages). One letter should come from the industry partner, and the other from a professional reference who is not the academic mentor. Letter writers should submit letters by email to mnbc-fel@umn.edu no later than May 4, 2018.

Part 3. LETTER OF CONFIRMATION signed by the U of MN faculty mentor(s) and the industry partner. The LETTER OF CONFIRMATION should identify the applicant(s), state the project title, verify the nature and status of the collaboration with industry partner, and confirm that the faculty mentor, is committed to mentoring the applicant(s) for the duration of the award period should the fellowship be awarded (Letter of Confirmation should be no longer than 3/4 page). U of M faculty mentor(s) should submit letter by email to mnbc-fel@umn.edu no later than May 4, 2018.

FOR QUESTIONS
Dori Henderson, PhD | Program Manager, MnDRIVE Brain Conditions
Department of Neuroscience | University of Minnesota 6-145 Jackson Hall | Minneapolis, MN 55455
Direct: 612.626.2321 | Email: hend0054@umn.edu

Please share this opportunity with others who may be interested!