

Rheumatic Heart Disease Fellowship: American Heart Association Children's Network

Children's National Health System seeks a highly motivated postdoctoral fellow with an interest in in global health research to join our Center, *Strengthening the Health System Response to Rheumatic Heart Disease: Developing Evidence-Based Strategies For Prevention*. This Center is one of four recently awarded by the American Heart Association (AHA) as part of the AHA'S Strategically Focused Children's Research Network. This two-year fellowship will enable the trainee to engage in basic/translational, clinical, and population research while working across three interconnected projects. The fellow will also participate in educational, mentorship and professional development programs based on the applicant's professional goals and interests. We seek to train the next generation of globally minded transdisciplinary investigators and equip them with the skills they will need to develop impactful independent careers in basic, clinical and/or population science research.

Project Overview and Location

With funding from the AHA, Children's National Health System has collaborated with the world's Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) experts to rapidly advance the global fight against RHD, which afflicts over 33 million people. Craig Sable, MD from Children's National directs the Center and training program. The Center consists of three highly synergistic research projects lead by physicians from Memphis, Washington, and Seattle:

1. Basic/Translational Science: Project PI, James Dale, MD, University of Tennessee
Human Immune Responses to Potential GAS Vaccine Antigens in Subjects at High Risk for RHD
Goal: Make critical advancements in the science needed for the development of a safe, effective GAS vaccine through study of the immune response to group A strep infection.
2. Clinical: Project PI, Andrea Beaton, MD, MS, Children's National Health System
Working Towards a Better Understanding of ARF
Goal: Characterize the pattern of contemporary and endemic ARF and develop a biological signature to improve sensitivity and specificity of ARF diagnosis.
3. Population: Project PI, David Watkins, MD, MPH, University of Washington
Building a Case to Invest in RHD Prevention and Control in Limited Resource Settings
Goal: Identify health-system shortfalls and develop a "costed" action plan to incite meaningful policy change.

Each fellow will focus on one of the three projects in the Center with an opportunity to collaborate in the other two projects with leading researchers from the following institutions:

- Children's National Health System – Washington, DC
- University of Tennessee – Memphis, TN
- University of Washington – Seattle, WA
- Case Western University – Cleveland, OH
- Uganda Heart Institute – Kampala, Uganda
- University of Cape Town – Cape Town, South Africa
- Telethon Kids Institute – Perth Australia

The fellow will be based at Children's National in Washington, DC, but over their two year team, they will conduct supervised field work in Uganda and/or South Africa and gain laboratory experience in Seattle, Memphis, Cape Town and/or Perth. Additional optional clinical experience is available at Case Western for fellows from outside the United States.

Transdisciplinary Educational and Professional Development Opportunities

Fellows will be encouraged to collaborate with fellows across the network, and work closely with the training director on an individualized multidisciplinary training plan. The fellow's academic and professional development plan will be tailored to their interests and needs.

Some of the learning opportunities that will be available to the fellow include earning/participating in:

- Masters of Clinical and Translational Sciences (36 credits)
- Assignment of a primary project for longitudinal learning (IRB to Manuscript)
- Rotation through other projects & labs to gain broad exposure
- Research meetings and journal club
- Young Investigator Grants Enhancement Program
- Global Health certificate programs
- Exposure to Washington, DC 's governmental and non-governmental global health and research institutions
- Established mentorship program with established global health professionals
- Annual attendance at AHA Scientific Sessions including day long Network meeting and presentation of research

Minimum Qualifications/Required Education

PhD, MD, DO, DVM or equivalent doctoral degree and must meet the citizenship criteria throughout the duration of the two-year fellowship program. We anticipate a diverse pool of applicants including basic scientists and clinicians/clinician scientists and with a variety of training backgrounds including internal medicine, pediatrics, cardiology, infectious disease, immunology, and surgery.

Center Fellow Citizenship Criteria

U.S. citizen; Permanent Resident; Pending Permanent Resident (applied for permanent residency and filed Form I-485 with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and have received authorization to legally remain in the U.S., and filed an Application for Employment Form I-765); E-3 (Specialty Occupation Worker); F-1 Visa (Student); G-4 Visa (Family member of Employee of Internal Organization and NATO); H1-B Visa (Temporary Worker in a Specialty Occupation); J-1 Visa (Exchange Visitor); O-1 Visa (Temporary Worker with Extraordinary Abilities in the Sciences); or TN Visa (NAFTA Professional).

Fellowship Qualifications

Fellows may not hold another fellowship award, although the institution may provide supplemental funding. Fellows may hold a title of instructor or similar due to their patient care responsibilities, but must devote between 75 and 100% effort to research training. The named fellow may have been a recipient of an AHA fellowship, but may not hold an AHA affiliate fellowship or AHA Fellow-to-Faculty Transition Award at the same time as an AHA Strategically Focused Research Network fellowship.

Application Requirements

Interested applicants should email their CV's as well as any questions about the program to Dr. Craig Sable csable@childrensnational.org. Additional application materials will be requested after initial contact is made – three letters of reference, personal statement, and onsite interview in Washington, DC. A video interview would be considered in cases where travel is hardship.

Training Period

The Center is funded from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2021. The fellowship training period is 24 months and three fellows will be named during the four year award cycle:

	Applications Open	Applications Close	Start Date	End Date
Fellow 1	July 1, 2017	August 31, 2017	October 1, 2017*	September 30, 2019
Fellow 2	November 1, 2017	January 31, 2018	July 1, 2018	June 30, 2020
Fellow 3	November 1, 2018	January 31, 2019	July 1, 2019	June 30, 2021

*Fellow 1 start date may be sooner based on availability of applicant