National Institute of General Medical Sciences

Program

TWD Program Officers

Grants Management

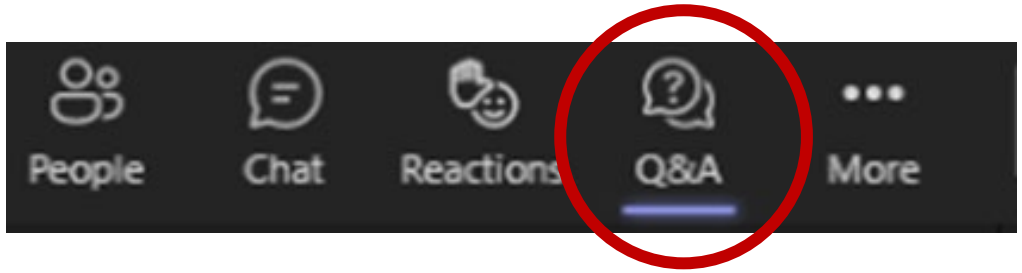
Brett Hodgkins

NIGMS Office Hour – Predoctoral Basic Biomedical and Medical Scientist Training Programs

May 7, 2026

Webinar Information

- The webinar slides are available on the Predoctoral Basic Biomedical T32 and Medical Scientist Training Program Websites.
- This meeting is being recorded and will be posted online.
- Please type your questions in the Q&A box instead of the chat box.



Disclaimer

- This presentation and accompanying slides are for informational purposes only.
- They serve as an overview and are not meant to be comprehensive in coverage of all required components of an application.
- For any submission, applicants are responsible for following instructions detailed in:
  - SF424 Guide
  - The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), and
  - Any Related Notices

Each NOFO has unique requirements – please read and follow them closely (and reach out to NIGMS staff with questions)

Agenda

- General Considerations
- Overview of relevant funding opportunities
  - NIGMS Predoctoral Basic Biomedical Sciences (BBM) Research Training Program (PAR-23-228)
  - Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) (PAR-24-128)
- Overview of updates to NIH applications
- Q & A

Basic Biomedical (BBM) T32 Team

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General Considerations

NIH Director's Unified Strategy Prioritizes Training

Training future biomedical & clinician scientists

NIH training programs should focus on training future physicians and scientists to lead American preeminence in biomedical research in the 21st century. Programs should allow trainees to design and conduct the highest quality scientific studies. Importantly, these programs should be based on merit, follow civil rights law, and not discriminate against anyone. NIH and the institutions we support must also uphold safe, equal, and healthy working and learning conditions conducive to high-quality research and free inquiry.

Advancing NIH's Mission Through a Unified Strategy | National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Major Themes in NIGMS Training Programs

- **Training objectives** — specific, obtainable and measurable.
- **Trainee skills development** — use of evidence-informed approaches to provide technical, operational, and professional skills.
- **Rigor and transparency, responsible & safe conduct** of research throughout the training experience.
- **Safe and supportive research training environments** that promote the development of all trainees.

Major Themes in NIGMS Training Programs (cont.)

- **Mentor training and oversight** of trainee/mentor matches.
- **Career preparedness** — provide knowledge of and skills to transition into relevant careers in the biomedical research workforce.
- **Strong organizational support** for research training.
- **Evaluation** — the collection and dissemination of data on the success/failure of education aims. Make career outcomes publicly available.

NIGMS Predoctoral Basic Biomedical Sciences (BBM) Research Training Program (PAR-23-228)

Predoctoral Basic Biomedical Sciences Training (PAR-23-228):

Application Due Dates		Review and Award Cycles		
New	**Renewal or Resubmission**	**Scientific Merit Review**	**Advisory Council Review**	**Earliest Start Date**
May 25, 2026	May 25, 2026	November 2026	January 2027	July 2027
September 25, 2026	September 25, 2026	March 2027	May 2027	July 2027

Program Goal and Areas

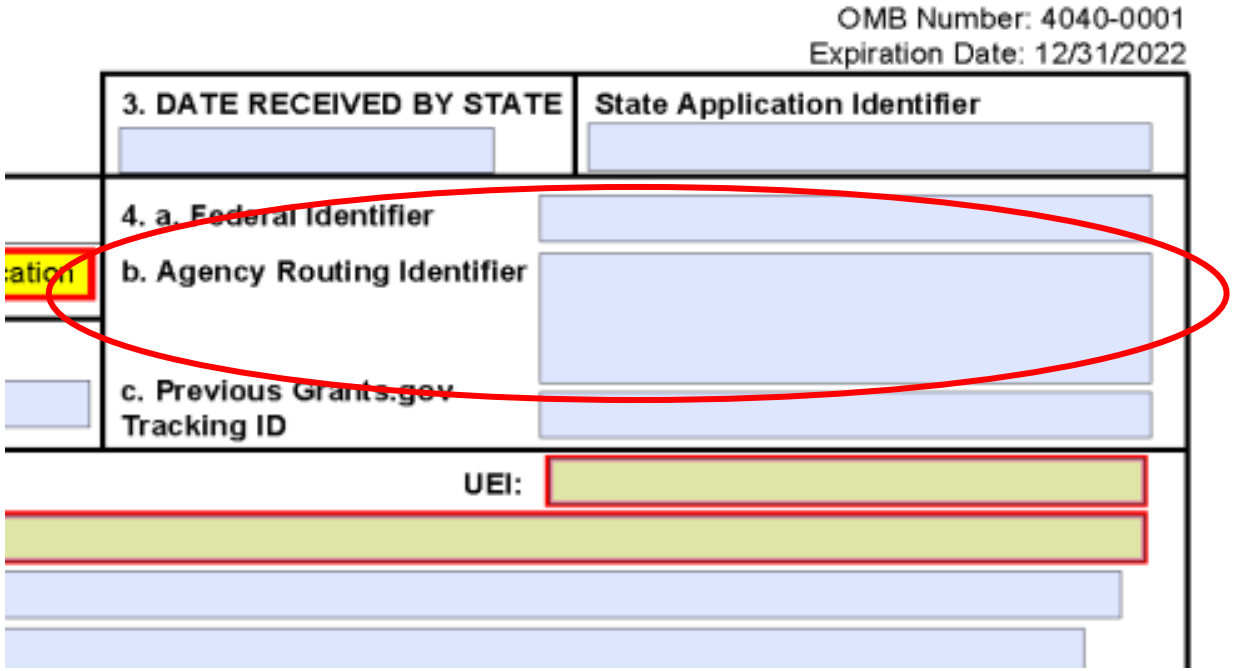
Goal: To develop a pool of well-trained scientists available to address the nation's biomedical research agenda.

Program Areas:

- Behavioral and Biomedical Sciences
- Biostatistics
- Biotechnology
- Cellular, Biochemical, and Molecular Sciences
- Chemistry-Biology Interface
- Computational Biology, Bioinformatics, and Biomedical Data Science
- Genetics
- Molecular Biophysics
- Molecular Medicine
- Pharmacological Sciences
- Systems and Integrative Biology
- Transdisciplinary Basic Biomedical Sciences

Basic Biomedical (BBM) Program Codes

1. BBS: Behavioral-Biomedical Sciences Interface
2. BS: Biostatistics
3. BT: Biotechnology
4. CBM: Cellular, Biochemical, and Molecular Sciences
5. CBI: Chemistry-Biology Interface
6. CBB: Computational Biology, Bioinformatics, & Biomedical Data Science
7. GEN: Genetics
8. MB: Molecular Biophysics
9. MM: Molecular Medicine
10. PS: Pharmacological Sciences
11. SIB: Systems and Integrative Biology
12. TBB: Transdisciplinary Basic Biomedical Sciences



Basic Biomedical (BBM) Considerations

- **Integrated within graduate department(s)/ program(s) and have a strong influence on institutional research training & mentoring practices**
- Students are typically provided 1-2 years full time support. Use of TG support early in graduate training is strongly encouraged.
- Programs should be tailored to organizations environment and provide additional benefits, including laboratory rotations, courses, and professional development activities.
- Predoctoral students may receive a maximum of five years of Kirschstein-NRSA support at the predoctoral level, across a combination of institutional and individual awards.

Additional Considerations for Biotechnology (BT) programs

- **Goal:** Prepare broadly trained investigators who can bridge **basic and applied research** in biotechnology.
- Program must include a **2- to 3-month industrial internship** in a biotechnology or pharmaceutical firm to provide meaningful research experience.
- Programs may be **broad across multiple areas** or **focused on a highly interdisciplinary theme** (e.g. tissue engineering, metabolic engineering, etc.)

Additional Considerations for Trans-Departmental (TBB) Programs (NOT-GM-25-025)

- **Goal:** Broaden distribution of BBM training & enhance organizational training capacity.
- Provide training opportunities to all biomedical disciplines available at participating organizations.
  - Narrowly focused TBB programs will be low funding priority.
- Applicants may not have an active NIGMS T32 in any other 11 BBM area **at time of TBB T32 award**.
  - Organizations may not have another active BMM T32 if a TBB is active.
- NIGMS encourages organizations with few/no NIH predoc T32s, IDeA state organizations, HBCUs and Tribal organizations to apply for TBB program area.

Dual Degree Clinician Scientist Training Opportunities: Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) (PAR-24-128)

Application Due Dates		Review and Award Cycles		
New	**Renewal or Resubmission**	**Scientific Merit Review**	**Advisory Council Review**	**Earliest Start Date**
May 25, 2026	May 25, 2026	November 2026	January 2027	July 2027
September 25, 2026	September 25, 2026	March 2027	May 2027	July 2027
January 25, 2027	January 25, 2027	July 2027	October 2027	July 2028

MSTP Program Goals & Considerations

Goal: To develop well-trained clinician-scientists to address the Nation's biomedical research needs.

- MSTP supports eligible domestic institutions to develop and implement effective, evidence-informed approaches to fully integrate the transitional phases of dual-degree training and mentoring that will lead to the completion of both clinical degrees (e.g., M.D., D.O., D.V.M., D.D.S., Pharm.D., etc.), and research doctorate degrees (Ph.D.)
- NIGMS encourages institutions to offer PhD training in a broad range of disciplines to meet needs for clinician scientist researchers in all areas of the biomedical workforce.
- Organizations with multiple Dual Degree programs are encouraged to develop plans that support trainees across those programs.

MSTP Program Goals & Considerations

- Trainees may receive up to six years of NRSA support at the predoc level for dual-degree training (including support from individual and/or institutional awards)

- PhD training can occur at the applicant organization, or through a formal partnership established by the applicant organization with another higher education institution located in the United States and/or its territories.

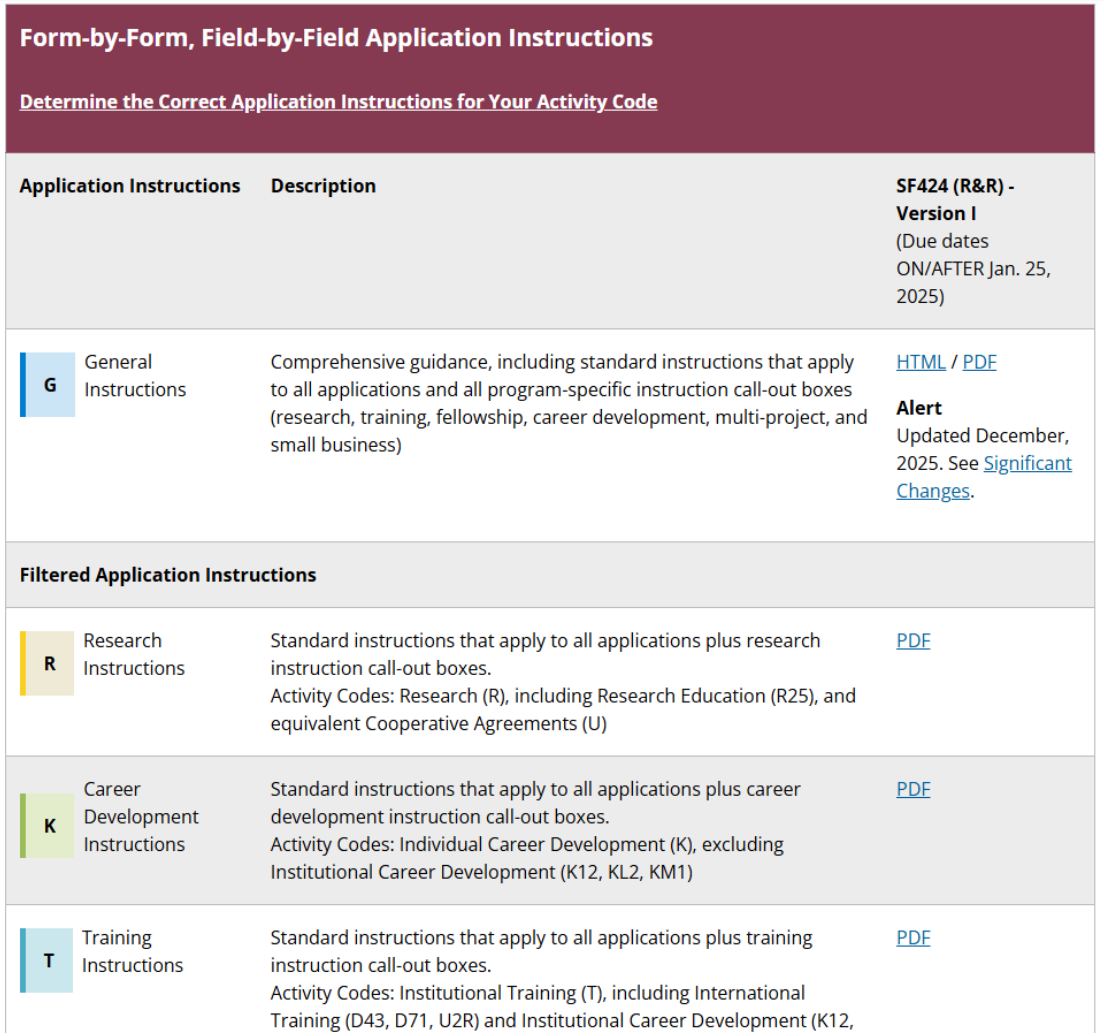
MSTP Advancing Health and Development (AHeAD) (NOT-GM-25-024)

- To enhance research training capacity and broaden the geographic and organizational distribution of MSTP programs, **NIGMS will consider the following types of organizations**:
  - Have an accredited clinical degree-granting program AND Meet one of the following criteria:
    - Are located in an IDeA-eligible state, commonwealth, or jurisdiction
    - Historically Black College or University (HBCU) (see 20 U.S.C. 1061(2))
    - Tribal entity defined as:
      - A federally recognized AI/AN Tribe, as defined under 25 U.S.C. 1603(14); or
      - A Tribal college or university, a Tribal health program, or a Tribal organization as defined under 25 U.S.C. 1603 (24), (25), and (26), respectively; or
      - A consortium of two or more of those Tribal entities.

Notable Application Reminders

FORMS-I Application Package

Refer to Forms-I instructions



Form-by-Form, Field-by-Field Application Instructions

Determine the Correct Application Instructions for Your Activity Code

Application Instructions	Description	SF424 (R&R) - Version I (Due dates ON/AFTER Jan. 25, 2025)
G General Instructions	Comprehensive guidance, including standard instructions that apply to all applications and all program-specific instruction call-out boxes (research, training, fellowship, career development, multi-project, and small business)	HTML / PDF **Alert** Updated December, 2025. See Significant Changes.
Filtered Application Instructions		
R Research Instructions	Standard instructions that apply to all applications plus research instruction call-out boxes. Activity Codes: Research (R), including Research Education (R25), and equivalent Cooperative Agreements (U)	PDF
K Career Development Instructions	Standard instructions that apply to all applications plus career development instruction call-out boxes. Activity Codes: Individual Career Development (K), excluding Institutional Career Development (K12, KL2, KM1)	PDF
T Training Instructions	Standard instructions that apply to all applications plus training instruction call-out boxes. Activity Codes: Institutional Training (T), including International Training (D43, D71, U2R) and Institutional Career Development (K12,	PDF

Common Forms for Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other Support)

- NIH is adopting Common Forms for Biographical Sketch (NOT-OD-26-018).
- After May 7th, 2026, applications **must use** the Commons Forms for Biographical Sketch and NIH Biographical Sketch Supplement (NOT-OD-26-079).
- Faculty preceptors are encouraged to use the NIH Biographical Sketch supplement to describe their commitment to training and mentoring.
- Refer to the Common Forms FAQ with questions about NIH Common Form policies, requirements, or what information to include on the form; or contact the NIH OS/Biosketch inbox at nihosbiosketch@nih.gov
- Technical issues with SciENcv should be directed to the SciENcv Helpdesk at nlmsciencv@mail.nih.gov

Other Attachments (optional)

Advisory Committee (1-page maximum)

- An Advisory Committee is **not required** for a training program
- **If including an Advisory Committee**, provide a plan for monitoring of program progress
- **Only name pre-existing Advisory Committee members** in the application
- **Do not identify or contact potential Advisory Committee members** before receiving an award
- **File name:** Advisory_Committee.pdf

Note: The filename provided for each "Other Attachment" will be the name used for the bookmark in the electronic application in eRA Commons.

Training Activities (10-page maximum)

- May include **brief descriptions** of:
  - Required courses
  - Representative elective courses
  - Workshops
  - Training activities
- **For MSTP programs, do not include** courses or activities required to fulfill the clinical program
- Attachment provides **additional details only**
- **Not a substitute** for clear descriptions in the Program Plan
- **File name:** Training_Activities.pdf

Training Data Tables

- **General Updates** have been made to Institutional Training data tables to **reduce burden** and **promote consistency** across programs.
- **Key Changes:**
  - **Tables 1 & 2:** Include predoctoral outcomes only; exclude postdoctoral outcomes
  - **Table 5:**
    - Reorganized with trainees in first column
    - May include interim research products (e.g., preprints) when final publication unavailable
  - **Table 6a: Required** for predoctoral BBM and MSTP applications
  - Table 7: Renewals only
  - **Table 8:**
    - Section "Part II. Those Clearly Associated with the Training Grant" removed (can describe program impact on non-appointed individuals in program plan)

NIGMS Resource page for NRSA Tables

Peer Review Overview

Review

- All applications will be reviewed at the Center for Scientific Review (CSR).
- CSR has created review homes for institutional training project applications and established recurring special emphasis panels to review them. These panels will cluster applications with similar review criteria and in similar scientific areas to ensure that the applications are evaluated appropriately.
- Questions about review should be directed to the Scientific Review Officer (SRO) assigned to your application.

Scored Review Criteria
(Section V of NOFO)

- Training Program and Environment
- Training Program Director(s)/Principal Investigator(s)
- Preceptors/Mentors
- Trainees
- Training Record

Additional Review Criteria

Contribute to the overall impact score but do not get separate scores.

- **Training in Methods for Enhancing Reproducibility**
- **Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research**
- **For renewal applications:**
  - Implementation of Proposed activities
  - Results and Discussion from Program Evaluations
  - Impact and Dissemination
- **Resubmissions** (only allowed for renewal applications)
- *Criteria generally not applicable:*
  - Protection of Human Subject
  - Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Individuals Across the Lifespan
  - Vertebrate Animals
  - Biohazards
  - Revisions

Additional Review Considerations

- Not given individual scores and not considered in the overall impact score.
  - **Budget and Period of Support (# of slots)**
    - The number of slots awarded may be modified based on reviewer recommendation and as NIGMS budget allows.
  - *Select Agents (Generally not applicable)*

Budget Overview

Stipends, Tuition and Fees

- Kirschstein-NRSA awards provide stipends as a subsistence allowance to help defray living expenses during the research training experience.
- NIH will contribute to the combined cost of tuition and fees at the rate in place at the time of award.
- Stipend levels and Tuition/Fees funding amounts announced annually in *NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts and* on the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) webpage.

Trainee Travel

- NIGMS will provide **up to $300** per trainee for travel to scientific meetings and workshops.
- Trainees must be appointed to the training grant at the time of the actual travel for this to be an allowable cost.
- Plans for trainee travel should be well justified.

Training Related Expenses (TRE)

- NIH provides funds to help defray other research training expenses, such as health insurance, staff salaries, consultant costs, equipment, research supplies, and faculty/staff travel directly related to the research training program.
- The most recent levels of training related expenses are announced annually in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts, and are also posted on the NRSA webpage, with the following exceptions:
  - For applicants to the **TBB & AHeAD program areas**, NIGMS will provide TRE at a rate of **$12,500/trainee/year** (NOT-GM-25-025, NOT-GM-25-024)
- Expect organizations to prioritize trainee benefits (such as health insurance).
- Training related expenses should be well justified.

Budget Justification

- State the number of requested funded trainee slots per year. Provide a justification for the number of requested funded slots per year in the context of the following:
  - Number of training grant eligible candidates provided in the trainee pool baseline data across all departments participating in the training program.
  - Number of participating faculty.
  - Other training grants at the organization that relate to the goals of this training program.
- Encouraged to describe the total effort for personnel in the budget justification (delineate effort charged to the grant and effort compensated by other sources).

Contacts

NIGMS BBM T32 Mailbox: NIGMSPredocT32@mail.nih.gov

NIGMS MSTP T32 Mailbox: NIGMSMSTPT32@nigms.nih.gov

Q & A

Program, Review, Grants Management