

# CEIRS Cross-Network Training Program

The Centers for Excellence in Influenza Research and Surveillance (CEIRS) is soliciting applications for the CEIRS Cross-Network Training Program. Pre-doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows are invited to apply to the training program. The training activities supported by the Training Program will provide opportunities to establish collaborations within CEIRS by supporting short-term travel fellowships to conduct collaborative research. The objective of this training program are to produce trainees who are skillful and thoughtful scientists working in the areas of molecular epidemiology, genomics, molecular pathogenesis and immunology/host response of virus infections and who have the promise of making significant advances in the future. The overall goals of the program are to: i) provide trainees with a solid foundation in the interdisciplinary areas of molecular biology, genomics, virology, immunology, animal models of disease and epidemiology, with a special focus on influenza, and ii) to prepare trainees to quickly respond during an emergency situation, such as outbreaks of highly pathogenic influenza virus in domestic animals and a human influenza pandemic. CEIRS trainees will be exposed to an interdisciplinary approach to understand influenza virus biology, diversity, tropism, pathogenicity and immunogenicity. The specific aims of the proposed cross network training program are (i) to recruit and provide rigorous training to high caliber students and fellows, (ii) to provide an administrative structure which will support and coordinate influenza virus research training between the entities participating in the CEIRS, (iii) to facilitate the dissemination of techniques among all CEIRS research groups and institutions, and (iv) to provide an extramural training mechanism for students and fellows from institutions outside of the CEIRS network. This program will aid trainees in all phases of their development, including understanding scientific method, interpretation of results, presentation of data and conclusions, research ethics, and career guidance. These trainees will also be better prepared to respond to an emergency outbreak of influenza, and after their training, they will be ready to pursue a research career in modern microbiology/immunology.

The Training Program will encompass two training mechanisms. The Intramural CEIRS training mechanism will provide support for trainees conducting collaborative work in a CEIRS lab different from their own using a specific technique or research tool required for their project not available at their institution. For applicants of the Intramural training mechanism, the training program will give priority to applicants who will conduct collaborative research involving more than one CEIRS. The Extramural CEIRS training mechanism will provide support for trainees from institutions not associated with CEIRS in an effort to expand existing collaborations, research capacity, and infrastructure of the CEIRS network. For applicants of the Extramural Training mechanism, the training program will give priority to applicants who will conduct research on influenza that could potentially foster new collaborations, and infuse new expertise or experimental approaches to investigating the biology of influenza viruses. The CEIRS training program will support sixteen short-term travel grants per year to facilitate short periods of training (\$7,000 per grant to cover costs of research supplies, living expenses, and travel for a two-week training period). Training Program recipients will have the opportunity to present and discuss their research training activities at the annual CEIRS network symposium. There will be quarterly calls for proposals. The dates for submission and review of training program applications will be announced on the CEIRS website, via Listserv, and provided to each Program Coordinator. Please limit your responses on the CEIRS Training Program Application to the designated spaces within the 3-page application.

## **CEIRS Training Executive Committee**

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