**Position Posting:**
**Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program in Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy**
2007-2008

**University of Minnesota**
Revised 05/03/2006

**General Description:** This research fellowship is a directed, highly individualized postgraduate training program designed to prepare the participant to become a clinical scientist. This training will prepare successful candidates to qualify for faculty positions in academic settings, research positions in the private sector as well as numerous other opportunities which utilize the scientific and critical thinking skills obtained through this experience. The program is offered within the Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology Department at the University Of Minnesota College Of Pharmacy and can be taken in conjunction with the Ph.D. program track in Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology.

Over a 2 year period, fellows generally devote a minimum of 75% of fellowship training effort to scholarly activities – predominantly research and relevant coursework, and the remainder to a mixture of clinical, teaching and administrative responsibilities.

**Goals of this Program:** This experience is intended to be a two-year fellowship program with the goals of further developing the candidate’s knowledge base of cardiovascular pharmacotherapy and the skills necessary to become a clinical scientist. These skills include scientific and grant writing skills, data collection, analysis, and interpretation skills and data presentation skills. The program focuses on clinical experimental and cardiovascular pharmacotherapy research with an emphasis on the pharmcodynamics of cardiovascular agents including metabolic and pharmacogenetic basis of their response. Exposure to analytical and pharmacogenetic (molecular biology) techniques along with didactic coursework relevant to the research projects should be expected in this training program. To a limited degree, the candidate will be afforded the opportunity to provide didactic and clinical instruction to Pharm.D. Candidates in the U of MN program.

**Applicant Qualifications:** An ideal candidate would have completed one year of a residency and would be willing to commit to a two-year fellowship training experience. For specific candidates with exceptional clinical training or previous scientific training, a two-year fellowship may be entertained without the pre-requisite of a clinical residency.

**Faculty Involved:**
Cooperation between members of the Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology Department, Division of Cardiology and School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota is key to the success of this program and excellent opportunity for the applicant. The primary advisor for the fellow applicant is Robert J. Straka, Pharm.D. FCCP, however depending on the projects undertaken, a co-advisor from another appropriate medical area may also be appointed.

**Program Overview:**
Although highly individualized, a typical program may include the following activities over a two-year period:
Section A – Research Activities:

The candidate will actively participate in each and every aspect of conducting clinical research. The nature of the projects range from clinical oriented studies such as Phase II, III and IV studies to more basic research related projects depending on the candidate’s interest and opportunities at the time of application. Opportunities exists for interested students to develop laboratory based analytical skills (primary HPLC) and basic molecular biology techniques such as RFLP, PCR etc. based on the projects being conducted at that time. Dr. Straka’s laboratory is located within the Department’s core Lab facility and works in cooperation with the Core Lab Director, lab technicians other labs across the U of MN campus.

Responsibilities will include:

1. Assisting in the development of scientific hypothesis and experimental methods to test hypothesis.
2. Conducting clinical research, preparation and submission of grant proposals to appropriate agencies.
3. Submission for IRB (Human Subjects Committee) approval.
4. Laboratory training related to the field of specialization and nature of the projects undertaken (instrumentation, lab safety, Responsible conduct of Research, HIPPA training etc.)
5. Experience in pharmacometrics and statistical analysis. (Done within the Department’s Drug Forecasting Center)
6. Preparation and submission of abstracts and manuscripts for publication.
7. Formal presentation of research at peer-reviewed scientific meetings.

Section B – Didactic Coursework Opportunities:

The candidate will also be able to take coursework at the University of Minnesota in such subject areas as experimental pharmacotherapeutics, advanced pharmacokinetics (pharmacometrics), pharmacokinetic modeling, biostatistics and clinical study design etc.. This coursework is supported through the candidate’s appointment to the University of Minnesota, at no cost to the fellow. Graduate level courses offered by the Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology department may also be offered. With appropriate preparation, interested candidates may simultaneously apply to the graduate school to pursue a graduate degree such as a Masters of Science or Ph.D.

Section C – Teaching Opportunities:

The candidate will prepare and present at least 2 lecture hours on a topic (mutually agreed to by the course coordinator, Dr. Robert Straka) to be presented to the Pharm.D. class Pharmacotherapy II (Phar6122, or other relevant courses) taught at the University of Minnesota. The candidate will also participate in at least one recitation session with students of the same course and is often a T.A. for the course. The level of course work the candidate participates in will be based on the teaching load of the preceptor and consistent with the goals of the fellowship/residency training program.

Section D – Clinical Responsibilities:

The candidate would be expected to be available to actively participate in...

1. current independent and collaborative research projects involving patients of normal volunteers exposed to pharmaceutical agents.
2. consultation/advising on cardiovascular pharmacotherapy related issues for ongoing clinical studies which we may be involved in.

Funding for the Program:
Funding for the fellowship has been based on dollars generated through funded research projects. Recently, the research fellow was funded by the NIH (GOLDN Study, http://www.biostat.wustl.edu/goldn/). Historically, funding has come from sources including a competitive pharmacogenetics fellowship Award from the ACCP Research Institute as well as funding from private sources relating to other grants or research projects. Application for training grants through the NIH is strongly encouraged.

Research fellows are appointed as “Pharmacy Associates” through the College of Pharmacy at the University of Minnesota. This enables them to derive University benefits (healthcare, tuition waivers, etc.). Fellows are also supported to a modest degree out of funding from other sources (TA support etc.), national pharmacy organizations such as the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) and American Society of Hospital Pharmacists (ASHP, etc.) which have competitive funding grants available for qualified applicants.

Stipends vary by experience level but are generally approximately $33,000 per year with tuition, vacation and healthcare benefits.

**Application Information:**

Generally, the earlier completed applications are received, the better off all parties are. This makes the interviewing schedule and decision process most efficient. I would generally expect completed applications to be received by mid-February 2007. Although exceptions are considered on a case-by-case basis, this goal date permits timely evaluations and considerations by all parties concerned. Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to notify intent to apply as early as possible.

**Current Research Areas:**

- Pharmacogenetics of Triglycerides (The NIH GOLDN Study, http://www.biostat.wustl.edu/goldn/)
- Interethnic variability in drug metabolism and response.
- Aspects of drug metabolism related to clinical outcome such as pharmacogenetics and polymorphic drug metabolism within specialty patient populations.
- Investigator initiated research projects in the areas of optimization of clinical outcomes regarding cardiovascular pharmacotherapy (hyperlipidemia, hypertension, congestive heart failure)
- Clinical drug Studies of cardiovascular agents (phase III studies)

**Application Procedure:**

Candidates should provide:
1. A letter of intent to apply.
2. Three reference letters from individuals who provide commentary on your qualifications for such a program.
3. A copy of your most recent transcripts.
4. A copy of your most recent curriculum vitae.

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