



Date: 8/7/2025
To: Diabetes and Obesity Research Faculty and Trainees
From: Barb Nikolajczyk and Simon Fisher on behalf of the Department of Medicine, the Barnstable Brown Diabetes and Obesity Center, and the Diabetes and Obesity Research Priority Area
Subject: **Pre-doctoral Training Grant (T32) positions**

The Department of Internal Medicine's Division of Endocrinology, in partnership with the Barnstable Brown Diabetes and Obesity Center (BBD OC) and the Diabetes and Obesity Research Priority Area is calling for applications for pre-doctoral trainees (ie, PhD students) to be funded by the recently received ***Diabetes and Obesity research training in Kentucky (DOYEN) grant (NIH T32DK138894; MPI Fisher and Nikolajczyk)***. Funding is for a period of up to two years contingent on satisfactory progress in Year 1.

Application Deadline: September 5, 2025
Earliest Start Date: October 1, 2025

Applicant Eligibility:

- Predoctoral applicants must be in good standing in a PhD program at University of Kentucky and have passed their qualifying exam in their home Department. Pre-qualifying exam students may apply but funds will not be released until completion of qualifying exam.
- All applicants and their mentors must be members of the Barnstable Brown Diabetes and Obesity Center or submit for membership prior to award of funds.
- Two pre-doctoral students will be awarded, and each will include \$5,180/year in tuition/fees, \$1000/year for travel, up to \$1500/year for childcare expenses, and health insurance.
- Applicants must be residents of the State of Kentucky and eligible for in-state tuition.
- NIH requires that trainees be U.S. citizens, U.S. noncitizen nationals or a permanent residents of the U.S.

Application Requirements:

- **Cover Page** to include name of candidate, mentor, and the title of the project.
- **Research Plan** (2 pages maximum including sections below and figures). References are not included in this page limit.
 - Specific Aims—statement of your objectives for the project.
 - Hypothesis—what statement will your project challenge?
 - Background and Clinical Significance – Explain the importance of the proposed work. Including major findings by you (preliminary results if available) and/or others in the field. Explain why you have chosen this problem.
 - Research Design and Methods. Describe, in detail, your hypothesis, rationale for the chosen approach, methodology, experimental models/subjects, controls, innovations, expected results, potential pitfalls, and alternative approaches. Indicate your scope of work, timeline, and deliverables. Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, fill a critical gap, and/or impact clinical practice in the field of diabetes/obesity research.
- **Career Goals Summary** (1 page maximum) of how the research project relates to the candidate's career goals and to the likelihood of advancing Diabetes/Obesity research.
- **Biosketches** of applicant and mentor, including the mentor's previous success with pre-doctoral

trainees (NIH format).

- **Copies of your academic transcripts;** both undergraduate and graduate.
- **Letter of support and recommendation from the primary mentor** confirming 1) their intent to mentor the trainee, 2) that they are able to support the proposed trainee research activities, 3) their plans for the trainee's career development.
- **1-2 additional letters of recommendation** from UK faculty who know the applicant well through research interactions.
- **Letter of financial support:** A letter from the trainee's Department identifying funds to supplement trainee stipend support in excess of the amount provided by this T32 grant award (\$28,788 for 2025). The T32 will cover 60% tuition, thus this letter must also include support for the remaining tuition needs. Note that NIH funds (like R01s, U01s, etc.) cannot be used to supplement T32 funds. (Alternatives such as start-up funds, non-NIH research awards, or Department funds can be used.)

Application Procedure and Program Expectations:

- All materials should be combined into a single PDF document. Margins should be at least 1/2 inch and all narrative font should be 11-point Arial. Applications with figure legends/tables <7pt font will be returned administratively.
- Please email application materials as a single pdf named "Lastname_T32_application" to Jessica Pennington, jessica.pennington@uky.edu . Questions may be directed to Jessica at the above email.
- The primary criteria for judging applications will be 1) scientific excellence, 2) relevance of the proposed research to the fields of Diabetes or Obesity research and 3) potential for development of the trainee into an independent scientific scholar.
- Successful applicants will be strongly encouraged to submit proposals for extramural funding.
- All trainees will be required to 1) attend career development activities, 2) present their research at the Annual Diabetes Research Day, 3) provide an annual report of their research progress, and 4) acknowledge support from the Barnstable Brown Diabetes and Obesity Center and the NIH (T32DK138894) in all presentations and publications.