

Wilmot Cancer Institute

Wilmot Predoctoral Research Fellowship Request for Applications 2024



Program Overview

The Wilmot Cancer Institute Research Fellowship Program at the University of Rochester Medical Center is supported by the Wilmot Foundation, named in honor of Rochester businessman and philanthropist James P. Wilmot. The program provides support for cancer research training for emerging scientists, with the goal of enabling them to build an independent career in the investigation of the causes, diagnosis, treatment, prevention or management of cancer or its side effects. Wilmot predoctoral fellowships, open to PhD or MD/PhD students under the mentorship of a Wilmot Cancer Institute member, provide two years of support.

Important Dates

RFA release date: October 23, 2023

Application due date: February 12, 2024

Anticipated award notification: May, 2024

Anticipated start date: July 1, 2024

Eligibility

Applicants must be UR PhD or MD/PhD students. The applicant's mentor must be a [member](#) of the Wilmot Cancer Institute. Applicants must have successfully completed their qualifying or comprehensive examination. International students (i.e., those that are not U.S. citizens) are eligible to apply.

Budget

Awardees receive a contribution of \$15,000 per year toward their graduate stipend. In addition, awardees receive \$5,000 per year for other research expenses, including travel to relevant scientific conferences.

Application Process

Applicants must submit applications via the online application questionnaire available at this link:

<https://redcap.link/urilh850>.

Download application instructions and formatting details here: <https://rochester.box.com/v/WilmotPreDocInstructions>.

Application Review Information

After administrative review, a scientific review committee made up of cancer research scientists from outside the University of Rochester will rank applications and submit award recommendations to the Board of Trustees of the James P. Wilmot Foundation. The Wilmot Cancer Institute will notify applicants of the Board's decisions in May, 2024.

Application Review Criteria

- Applicant
 - Does the applicant demonstrate a commitment to a research career relevant to cancer?
 - Does the applicant demonstrate a successful academic record?
 - Has the applicant described high quality research experiences?
 - Does the applicant have the potential to develop into an independent and productive researcher?
- Mentor
 - Is the mentor involved in cancer-relevant research?
 - Does the mentor demonstrate an understanding of the applicant's training needs?
 - Does the mentor demonstrate the ability and commitment to meet the applicant's needs?
 - Are the mentor's research qualifications appropriate to meet the applicant's needs?
 - Does the mentor demonstrate a successful track record of mentoring individuals at a similar career stage?
- Research Training Plan

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- Is the proposed research project of high scientific quality, consistent with the applicant's stage of career development, and well integrated with the proposed research training plan?
- Is the proposed time frame feasible to accomplish the proposed training?
- Does the training plan provide adequate opportunities to present and publish research findings, and interact with cancer scientists at national meetings?
- Does the training plan adequately support the applicant's transition to the next stage of their research career?
- Does the training plan take advantage of the applicant's strengths, and address gaps in needed skills?

Award Information

- The term of the award is two years, beginning July 1, 2024.
- Fellows must be engaged in a research project that primarily involves the causes, diagnosis, treatment, prevention or management of cancer or its side effects.
- The Wilmot Cancer Institute Predoctoral Research Fellowship does not support clinical training. Predoctoral awardees must be engaged in full-time graduate research training throughout the award period.
- Wilmot strongly encourages fellows to apply for an individual F31, F99/K00, or other appropriate extramural fellowship award, and to plan such an application as a training goal to be addressed during the Wilmot Fellowship award period.
- Fellows who are appointed to an NIH T32 award or hold an individual NIH F award are not eligible for stipend support from the Wilmot Fellowship Program. If a fellow is appointed to a T32 or acquires an individual F award during the term of the fellowship, their department must inform Wilmot administration immediately.
- Each fellow is required to attend the Wilmot Seminar Series, held on a weekly basis during the academic year.
- Each fellow is required to attend monthly meetings of one of the three [Wilmot research programs](#) with their mentor.

Contacts

Please contact [Thom Fogg](#) with questions about the program or application process.