Frequently Asked Questions

Update log:
May 21, 2018 – Released
May 30, 2018 – Updated Mentor List
May 31, 2018 – Question 15 added to the FAQ

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Partnerships and Collaborations

Prospective mentors may apply directly with their postdoctoral candidate without being listed here. This list is for prospective mentors who have not yet identified a postdoctoral candidate for this opportunity. **BEING LISTED HERE IS NOT A REQUIREMENT FOR RESPONDING TO THE SOLICITATION. THIS LIST IS SOLELY TO ADVERTISE PROSPECTIVE MENTORS WITHOUT POSTDOCTORAL CANDIDATES.**

Prospective Mentors that are interested in partnering or collaborating with a Postdoctoral Fellow on a specific research topic can contact TRISH@nasaprs.com to be listed here. Potential Mentors should ensure that their proposals are focused on mitigating specific risks and closing discrete knowledge or technology gaps, as defined in the Human Research Roadmap (HRR; https://humanresearchroadmap.nasa.gov/). Additional listings will not be accepted any later than June 29, 2018.

Prospective Mentors should make sure their institution is registered in NSPIRES and include the following information in any emailed request to be listed here:

- A one sentence project title (to be listed here)
- One email address as point of contact (to be listed here)
- Name of PI
- Indicate current funding (or provide assurance that the mentor has the framework in place to accommodate a postdoctoral fellow)
- One paragraph about the research (to be listed here)
Prospective Mentors

1. Finite element analysis of the proximal femur and the effect of long-duration spaceflight at the University of California-Irvine. Dr. Joyce Keyak: jhkeyak@uci.edu
   Project summary provided by the PI: Dr. Keyak and collaborators affiliated with NASA have previously evaluated proximal femur fracture load in astronauts exposed to long-duration spaceflight. Astronauts were CT scanned pre-flight, post-flight and 1 year post-flight and patient-specific finite element models of the astronauts’ proximal femora were generated using a technique developed by Dr. Keyak. Fracture load was computed at each of these time points and changes in fracture load were computed. Although these data are informative, considerable other data are available from the finite element model analyses, e.g. stress and strain fields throughout the proximal femur. More thorough examination of these data could provide additional insight into the structural changes of the proximal femur during and after long duration spaceflight. The postdoctoral fellow involved in this project would investigate those structural changes in order to better understand and predict an astronauts bone response to spaceflight and return to Earth.

2. The retrospective analysis of brain MRI scans of NASA astronauts at the Medical University of South Carolina. Dr. Donna Roberts: robertdr@musc.edu
   Project summary provided by the PI: We are analyzing brain MRI scans of NASA astronauts obtained before and following spaceflight to evaluate for any changes in brain structure that may occur during spaceflight and to determine whether these structural changes affect cognitive and motor function. We have previously documented an upward shift in the brain globally following spaceflight and enlargement of the ventricles which correlates with mission duration (Roberts, et al., NEJM, Nov 2, 2017). We are now investigating whether return to Earth remediates the changes in astronaut brain structure and if there is any correlation between structural changes and the development of spaceflight associated neuro-ocular syndrome (SANS).

3.

Process Questions
Q15: What is the stipend amount for the TRISH postdoctoral fellowship?
A15: The stipend amounts for the TRISH postdoctoral fellowship are $48,432 for year one and 48,804 for year two. Please note that these stipend levels differ from the amounts stated in the solicitation as the NIH guidelines for postdoctoral fellow stipends for 2018 were released during the preparation of this solicitation.

Q14: Will TRI adjust award recipient’s salaries based on location and/or cost of living?
A14: The Translational Research Institute for Space Health will not be adjusting the salaries stipulated in the solicitation due to location and cost of living expenses. It is the responsibility of the award recipient’s institution to augment salaries and/or benefits in accordance with applicable policies and regulations.

Q13: Should the application contain letters of support from key personnel that will be providing technical advice, or is it sufficient to describe their input as a collaborator within the research plan?
A13: Key personnel should be included on the cover page as team members and may signal their involvement through NSPIRES or may provide letters of support in the appendices/reprints section. Keep in mind that funds are to pay for the postdoctoral fellow only and that letters of support may not be used to provide recommendation for the candidate (i.e. may not duplicate the function of letters of recommendation).

Q12: Some of my team members do not yet have NSPIRES accounts, what do I do?
A12: In order to list your team members on the cover page, they must have NSPIRES accounts. You can complete most of your cover page creation and proposal document upload while the individuals are being registered. If an individual has still not created an account when the proposal needs to be submitted, this person should be named in the Proposal upload and an account should be created as soon as possible. Please contact the NSPIRES help desk, NSPIRES-help@nasaprs.com, for any difficulties during registration.

Q11: Is a separate registration required for the organization itself which includes a designation of the person who will act as the EBPOC?
A11: As explained during the organization registration steps: "Such registration must be performed by an organization’s electronic business point-of-contact (EBPOC) identified in the Federal Government’s System for Award Management (SAM; www.sam.gov). Note that registration in SAM may take several weeks for new organizations and is required for registering an organization in NSPIRES.”
The organization must be registered with NSPIRES for a PI to be able to affiliate with it. Please contact the NSPIRES help desk (NSPIRES-help@nasaprs.com) or read the NSPIRES tutorials for additional information.

Q10: Can one principal investigator submit more than one proposal?
A10: Yes, there is no limit to the number of proposals that a single individual (i.e. either a single prospective Postdoctoral Fellow or a single prospective Mentor) or institution may submit.

Q9: Is there a limit to the number of applications that a single institution can propose?
A9: There is no limit to the number of applications from any organization.

Q8: When will the funding decisions, regarding proposals, be made?
A8: Announcement of awards will be made prior to November 1, 2018.

Q7: Can I request an extension for submitting my proposal?
A7: Extensions will not be given. It is strongly suggested that you begin your proposal preparation early, familiarize yourself with the solicitation and the proposer's guidebook, and ensure that your authorized organization representative (AOR) is registered with NSPIRES and will be available to submit your proposal by the deadline.

Q6: How can I verify that my proposal has been submitted?
A6: Once a proposal has been submitted, it no longer appears on the “Current proposals/NOIs” screen. Select the “Submitted proposals/NOIs” link to the left of the screen. Submitted proposals are displayed here. It is your responsibility, and not TRISH’s, to verify that your proposal has been officially submitted by the proposal due date.

Q5: What do the various “proposal status” types in NSPIRES mean?
A5: There are six different proposal status types.

**Pending** is a proposal cover page that is in process, but not yet linked to an organization. Only the PI (and any team member who has been granted privileges) can edit the cover page or upload documents in this status.

**Linked** is a proposal cover page that is in process, and linked to the organization that is going to submit it. Once a proposal is linked, appropriately privileged
personnel in the office who will be submitting the proposal (typically the AOR) will have access to the proposal and can, if necessary, lock the proposal.

A **locked** proposal cannot be edited. A proposal becomes locked when the PI clicks the “Release to Org” button. A proposal can also be locked by the AOR, who can also unlock a proposal if further editing by the PI is needed.

A **rejected** proposal is returned by the organization to the PI. It can be edited by the PI and re-released to the organization.

A **submitted** proposal has been submitted to NSPIRES by the AOR. Submitted proposals no longer appear on the “Active Proposals/NOIs” page of a PI’s proposals page. Submitted proposals are shown on the “Submitted Proposals/NOIs” page.

A **withdrawn** proposal is pulled back from NSPIRES by the organization. If this is done prior to the proposal due date, the proposal could be re-submitted (it will be given a new proposal number). After the proposal due date, the proposal cannot be re-submitted.

Q4: I receive “checks” that I am missing proposal components when I submit my proposal. What does this mean?  
A4: As a courtesy, the NSPIRES system performs a “check” of the proposal components upon submission. NSPIRES is used by multiple programs for proposal submission and only the components outlined in this solicitation are required for compliance. Checks referring to proposal components not mentioned in the solicitation or requesting proposal components be uploaded separately (such as budget justification) can be ignored. A completed proposal cover page elements and single PDF proposal document as outlined in the solicitation are the only required components for this solicitation.

Q3: I’ve started the proposal creation/submission process. How do I find what I started and see where it is in the process?  
A3: In order to see proposals that you have in process, login to your account and select the “Proposals” link. Below the Active Proposals heading is a list of all proposals that you have started to create as a PI or on which you have been identified as a team member, but which have not yet been submitted. The title of the proposal is a link that will take you to the screen that allows you to edit the various components (note that if you are a team member, you may or may not have editing privileges, depending on if the PI granted them to you or not). The organization to which you have linked your proposal (if any) is shown, as is the PI name, the proposal due date, and the proposal status (see below).
Q2: Can a foreign citizen who is part of the faculty of a U.S. institution propose to the call for proposals?
A2: Yes. The eligibility requirements of the solicitation apply to the proposing organization and not the individual.

Q1: I cannot find the answers to my questions in the solicitation documents, the guidebook, or this FAQ. Who can I ask for assistance?
A1: Please ensure that you read both the TRISH Postdoctoral Fellowship Request For Applications (TRISH-RFA-18-02), and this FAQ in their entirety before contacting TRISH with questions.

For NSPIRES-related questions and the online preparation and submission of your proposals, e-mail nspires-help@nasaprs.com or by telephone to (202) 479-9376 Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM Eastern Time. There is also a Proposal Online Help site at http://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/help.do. Tutorials for NSPIRES are available at http://nspires.nasaprs.com/tutorials/index.html.

Additional technical information and contact information can be found in both solicitation research appendices. Please reference the solicitation documents. You may contact Dr. Dorit Donoviel (donoviel@bcm.edu), TRI Interim Director, for programmatic questions.