hai·kuh | HOUSTON AREA INCUBATOR FOR KIDNEY, UROLOGIC & HEMATOLOGIC RESEARCH TRAINING

PREDOCTORAL STUDENT AND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW TRAINING GRANT SLOTS OPEN

We are requesting applications for predoctoral student and postdoctoral fellow (MD, MD/PhD, or PhD) **appointments** on our training grant in non-malignant kidney, urologic, and hematologic research sponsored by the NIH NIDDK.

The application deadline is **5:00 P.M. DECEMBER 4, 2026**. See application instructions below.

Trainees will be selected based on their application, and if needed, an interview with the selection committee. Trainees will have their stipend covered at the NIH rate and will be appointed for a period of 1 year, with the possibility of at least 1 additional year. All trainees will be eligible for up to $3,000 in childcare costs within their training support period. The primary mentor of the trainee must be a member of the HAI-KUH training faculty (Appendix A), and appointed trainees are required to engage in research within the mission of the NIDDK, which includes:

Kidney
chronic kidney disease
end-stage renal disease
diabetic nephropathy
polycystic kidney disease
hypertensive nephrosclerosis
acute kidney injury
kidney donation
congenital kidney disorders
IgA nephropathy
hemolytic uremic syndrome
fluid and electrolyte disorders
kidney repair and regeneration
normal and abnormal kidney development and physiology

Urologic
urinary incontinence
urinary tract infections
stones
urologic chronic pelvic pain syndromes
repair and regeneration of lower urinary tract organs
congenital urologic disorders
benign prostatic hyperplasia
erectile dysfunction
normal and abnormal lower urinary tract development and physiology

Hematologic
blood and blood-forming organs
hematopoiesis
hemoglobin disorders
iron metabolism
sickle cell disease
bone marrow failure
iron deficiency
Cooley's anemia (thalassemia)
hemochromatosis

Eligibility
At the time of appointment to the award, the trainee must be a citizen or a non-citizen national of the United States or has been lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

Predoctoral students should have completed their qualifying exams or be admitted to candidacy.

Postdoctoral fellows (including those with an MD degree who do not have a US board certification) **should be within their first three years** of postdoctoral experience. Applicants who are unsure of whether they meet eligibility criteria are encouraged to reach out (email HAI-KUH@bcm.edu).

Clinical postdoctoral fellows at the time of the award must pursue their research training on a full-time basis, generally defined as 40 hours per week or as specified by the sponsoring institution in accordance with its own policies.

All postdoctoral appointees will be required to sign a payback agreement, ensuring they will remain in research for at least one additional year following the completion of their training grant support.

Stipends and additional support
The award will provide appointed trainees with stipends at the current NIH NRSA level for postdoctoral fellows as indicated. It will also include funds towards partial support of tuition/fees, health insurance premiums and travel. Refer to NOT-OD-26-044: Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Stipends, Tuition/Fees and Other Budgetary Levels Effective for Fiscal Year 2026 for further information.

Training Faculty and Mentoring
This invitation has been extended to training faculty currently participating in HAI-KUH (Appendix A). Additional faculty with research programs in areas of interest are welcome to contact the program (HAI-KUH@bcm.edu) to determine eligibility. Faculty are from any of the following institutions: Baylor College of Medicine, The Methodist Hospital Research Institute, Rice University, MD Anderson Cancer Center, UT Health Sciences Center, Texas A&M (Houston), and the University of Houston.

Mentors must have received research mentor training within the past 3 years or commit to participating in mentor training within 6 months of the trainee's appointment. Training can be through their institution or the Gulf Coast Consortia (https://www.gulfcoastconsortia.org/home/training/research-mentor-training/).

Training Program Description and Participation Expectations
The pillars of the training program include (1) formal scientific training, including mentored research experience and individualized supplemental instruction through workshops or courses; (2) strategies to enhance cross-mentoring, (3) skills and career development training, and (4) enrichment activities to enhance trainee preparation for their career pathway choice and successful and sustained careers in KUH mission areas.

The trainees will engage in mentored research training, including 1-on-1 mentor meetings, participation in research group meetings and journal clubs, and attendance at their departmental seminars. Postdoctoral trainees will have an advising committee of 3 principal investigators, including their mentor, with whom they will meet during their year of support. Clinical Fellows will also be assigned a member of HAI-KUH's Clinical Advisory Council to supplement career planning needs specific to this population.

In addition to their mentored research, each trainee will be assigned a TL1 Advisor who will assist in the development of their Individualized Development Plan through periodic meetings and foster interdisciplinary and interinstitutional cross-mentoring at career development and networking activities. These include Career Advancement Skills in HAI-KUH seminars, Networking, Engagement, and Social Media Training sessions, Career Tracks Seminar Series, and Community Outreach events. Trainees will be expected to attend a minimum of ~60% of the events held over lunch (on average, once every three to four weeks). The program will host an Annual Symposium, and trainees will have an opportunity to attend the NIDDK-sponsored KUH Research Training Network's Annual Symposium.

All trainees must participate in formal training in the responsible conduct of research and rigor and reproducibility (R&R), which can be through their participating institutions or, for R&R, through the Gulf Coast Consortia (https://www.gulfcoastconsortia.org/home/research/rigor-reproducibility-resource-page/).

Application Instructions

Applicants must provide the following items assembled as a single PDF with 1-inch margins and 11-point Arial, Georgia, or Helvetica font:

1. Cover page (complete attached form)
2. Project summary/abstract – 30 lines maximum (summary of research project, career goals, and development plan)
3. Applicant Career Goals and Plans for Career Development - 1 page max
4. Research Plan of a maximum of 4 pages with the following guidelines:
    A. Background and Significance ~ 1 page
    B. Specific Aims ~ 1/2 page
    C. Research Strategy ~ 2 pages
    D. References (not included in the 4-page limit)
5. Applicant's CV or NIH-style Biosketch (https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/forms-directory/fellowship-biographical-sketch-format)
6. Statement of Eligibility* (complete attached form)
7. Mentor Letter of Support, including Training Statement**
8. Mentor Current and Pending Support
9. Clinical Program Director Statement***, if applicable

Email the assembled application to HAI-KUH@bcm.edu by the application deadline, 5:00 P.M. DECEMBER 04, 2026.

* The eligibility form must be completed by the Graduate Program Director, Department Chair, or Clinical Program Director, as applicable.

** In the Training Statement, the mentors must attest to having received research mentor training within the past 3 years or commit to participating in mentor training within 6 months of the trainee's appointment. They must also confirm they will support the trainee's participation in HAI-KUH program activities as outlined above.

*** The Clinical Program Director Statement must describe the Clinical Fellow's clinical responsibilities and the expectation that the trainee will continue to participate in research for at least one year after completion of the program.

Appendix A

HAI-KUH Training Faculty, Updated 11/10/26

Training Faculty Name	Institution	KUH Area
Akcan Arikan, Ayse	BCM/TCH	K
Ballantyne, Christie Mitchell	BCM	H
Bertuch, Alison	BCM/TCH	H
Bouchier-Hayes, Lisa	BCM/TCH	H
Braun, Michael	BCM/TCH	K
Catic, Andre	BCM	H
Cheng, Jizhong	BCM	K
Dhindsa, Ryan	BCM	H
DiStefano, Bruno	BCM	H
Erickson, Kevin	BCM	K
Goodell, Margaret A. (Peggy)	BCM	H
Koh, Chester	BCM/TCH	U
Li, Ang	BCM	H
Luznik, Leo	BCM	H
Marshall, Kara	BCM	U
Nakada, Daisuke	BCM	H
Navaneethan, Sankar	BCM	K
Parker Gregg, Lucille	BCM	K
Patras, Katy	BCM	U
Reddy, Pavan	BCM	H
Rouce, Rayne	BCM/TCH	H
Scott, Daryl	BCM	U
Sheikh-Hamad, David	BCM	K
Thomas, Sandhya	BCM	K
Winkelmayer, Wolfgang	BCM	K
Gorelick, Daniel A.	BCM	H
Hodges, H. Courtney	BCM	H
Hu, Zhaoyong	BCM	K
King, Katherine Yudeh	BCM	H
Flanagan, Jonathan M.	TCH	H
Venee Tubman	TCH	H
Fang, Longhou	HMRI	H

Training Faculty Name	Institution	KUH Area
Khavari, Rose	HMRI	U
Kobashi, Kathleen	HMRI	U
Colla, Simona	MDACC	H
Danesh, Farhad	MDACC	K
DiNardo, Courtney	MDACC	H
DePinho, Ronald	MDACC	H
Melancon, Marites	MDACC	K
Takahashi, Koichi	MDACC	H
Bao, Gang	Rice	H
Hilton, Isaac	Rice	H
Huang, Yun Nancy	TAMU IBT	H
Akay, Metin	UH	U
Mohan, Chandra	UH	K
Orman, Mehmet	UH	U
Reddy, Rohith	UH	K
Rimer, Jeffrey	UH	U
Willson, Richard	UH	K
Wu, Tianfu	UH	K
Fornage, Myriam	UTHealth	K
Doris, Peter	UTHealth	K
Julio Francisco Cordero-Morales	UTHealth	K
Miller, Rachel	UTHealth	K
Pochynyuk, Oleh	UTHealth	K
Stampas, Argyrios	UTHealth	U
Vasquez, Valeria	UTHealth	K
Wenzel, Pamela	UTHealth	H