Postdoctoral Fellowship in Preterm Birth & Microbiome Medicine

Call for Applications

UCSF California Preterm Birth Initiative

The Opportunity

The UCSF Preterm Birth Initiative (PTBi) is recruiting a postdoctoral scholar to join a NIH-funded project that examines adverse outcomes among preterm infants. The fellow will study microbiome functional development and metabolic productivity in early life and its relationship with immune development. We expect that s/he will characterize the gut, skin, oral, and nasal microbiome of babies born before 32 weeks gestation and will assist in identifying microbial traits and mechanisms related to maturity, mortality, or morbidity.

The stark reality of premature birth in California is one of health inequity. While 1 in 12 babies are born too soon, the rate of preterm birth among Black women is 47 percent higher than the rate among all other women. PTBi asserts that structural and interpersonal racism along with other key social determinants are important drivers of an epidemic that disproportionately affects women of color in our state, and nationally.

Program Components

The fellow will be part of the PTBi Postdoctoral Fellowship Program and the Benioff Center for Microbiome Medicine (BCMM) and receive research and career guidance from highly regarded UCSF investigators.

- As part of the PTBi program, the fellow will join a transdisciplinary and multi-sector research effort dedicated to reducing disparities in preterm birth and improving maternal and neonatal outcomes. S/he will participate in PTBi fellowship activities, including works-in-progress meetings, Collaboratories, academic seminars, professional development workshops, and workshops focused on understanding and addressing systemic racism in medicine and academia. The fellow will join an existing cohort of early career investigators who represent a wide range of professional and scientific disciplines, all of whom are committed to collaborative and community-partnered research that is focused on racial equity and reproductive justice.
- As part of the BCMM, the fellow will work in the laboratory of Dr. Susan Lynch and develop laboratory proficiencies, such as shotgun metagenomics, transcriptomics and mass spectrometry, immune assays, and experiments involving isolated microbial species and/or mouse models. S/he will leverage training within BCMM through Collaborative Incubators (CoLabs), which offer embedded, experiential training opportunities in next-generation technologies, data generation and analyses related to gnotobiotic mouse models, microbial genomics, and quantitative metabolomics.

The fellowship offers a competitive salary ($72,000) and additional funds for supplies, conference travel, and educational coursework.

Eligibility

This two-year appointment is funded by the PTBi, a NICHD T32 training grant entitled, *"Transdisciplinary Research Training to Reduce Disparities in Preterm Birth and Improve Maternal and Neonatal Outcomes,"* and the Burroughs Wellcome Fund. Per funder criteria, candidates are eligible if they:

- have completed either a PhD in basic science or a MD with or without residency training
- are a US citizen or permanent resident
- identify as an under-represented minority (URM). Please see NIH's definition of URM.

Application Procedure

Applications are due September 15, 2021. Competitive applicants will be invited to interview and a final decision will be made no later than December 15, 2021. The selected fellow is expected to start by January 2022.

- Current NIH-style biosketch
- 1 page summarizing your research interests and how they relate to preterm birth and microbiome medicine
- A recent writing sample, e.g. first-author publication
- Proof of US citizenship or residency
- 2-3 letters of reference (sent separately)