

VUMC Limited Submission Opportunity

NIH Neuroscience Development for Advancing the Careers of a Diverse Research Workforce (R25)

Applications due June 25, 2024

VUMC: These instructions are for VUMC investigators. VU investigators should apply through [InfoReady](#) and address any questions to VU-LSO@vanderbilt.edu.

VUMC may submit only **one application** to the [NIH Neuroscience Development for Advancing the Careers of a Diverse Research Workforce](#) program. The NIH Research Education Program (R25) supports research education activities in the mission areas of the NIH. The over-arching goal of the R25 program is to support educational activities that encourage individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups underrepresented in the biomedical and behavioral sciences, to pursue further studies or careers in research.

To accomplish the stated over-arching goal, this NOFO will support creative educational activities with a primary focus on three types of activities (all three must be included):

- ***Courses for Skills Development***
- ***Research Experiences***
- ***Mentoring Activities***

This Neuroscience Diversity R25 initiative will focus on factors that have been shown to affect retention of underrepresented postbaccalaureate, graduate students, postdoctoral trainees, and junior faculty in neuroscience research, such as mentoring, scientific networks, professional development, and attention to the structural and institutional environment regarding inclusion.

Undergraduate students are not considered eligible for support from this funding announcement. This NOFO seeks to encourage the participation of individuals from underrepresented groups identified by NSF in Diversity and STEM: Women, Minorities and Persons with Disabilities.

Proposed programs are expected to lead to an improvement in the professional development, mentoring and technical expertise of individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups that are nationally underrepresented in neuroscience research. Programs that target transitions and/or more than one career stage for neuroscience career advancement and progression are encouraged. This initiative will support the development of collaborative research education partnerships that will increase participants' awareness and interest in the neurosciences, develop participants' scientific knowledge and research skills that will allow them to progress and transition to more advanced neuroscience-related research education and training activities. Proposed program interventions to enhance workforce diversity in response to this NOFO should also focus on ***asset models and leadership opportunities, rather than solely deficit models and remediation***.

The proposed educational experiences should be distinct from those training programs receiving federal support (e.g. T32s). In many cases, it is anticipated that the proposed research education program will complement ongoing research training occurring at the applicant institution.

See the [NOFO](#) for full program details.

Internal Application Process:

Anyone interested in being considered to submit one of VUMC's proposals must submit the following (in a single PDF) to LSO@vanderbilt.edu by **5 p.m. on June 25, 2024:**

1. Brief (2 page maximum) project description including summary budget
2. Brief statement of support from department chair/center director
3. NIH Biosketch

Any questions about this opportunity may be directed to LSO@vanderbilt.edu.