



Francis S. Collins Scholars Program in Neurofibromatosis Clinical and Translational Research
sponsored by
The Neurofibromatosis Therapeutic Acceleration Program at
Johns Hopkins University

The Francis S. Collins Scholars Program in Neurofibromatosis Clinical and Translational Research will create a community of exceptionally well-trained clinician scientists who will be leaders in neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1) research and clinical care.

Explicitly designed to attract talent of the highest order to the field of NF1 and to foster life-long commitment to this syndrome, the Program will invest in its Scholars by providing formal training in the discipline of clinical translational science, the protected time to develop the skills appropriate for their research, exposure to translational research programs in government, academic, and industry environments and training in the care of patients with NF1.

Collins Scholars, who will be in the last stages of their post-doctoral training or in the first seven years of a faculty appointment, will be selected based on their past accomplishments, their ability to explore new ideas, their commitment to patient-centered research and their potential to be leaders in the field of NF1. Applicants must demonstrate a strong prior interest in NF1 or be able to clearly explain why they would like to work in this field moving forward.

The Program will provide salary support for the Collins Scholars, stipends for research costs, tuition for relevant coursework, travel costs for scientific meetings and mentor stipends. The Program period is two years (with an option for a third year in select situations) in order to allow sufficient time to develop both clinical experience in NF1 as well as the skill set required for clinical-translational research. People around the world who are interested in NF1 are encouraged to apply. The only requirements are those listed above and that the applicant choose to work at sites that have the necessary clinical and research resources, including appropriate mentorship for clinical and research training in NF1. Mentors will receive coaching to maximize their effectiveness as educators and role models for the Collins Scholars.

The Scholars Program is named in honor of Dr. Francis S. Collins, who as an exemplary physician-scientist led the team that discovered the *NF1* gene in 1990. This discovery has informed virtually all subsequent clinical-translational NF1 research. In addition to this work, Dr. Collins, as Director of the National Institutes of Health and former Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute, has been at the forefront of advancing translational science. His leadership helped to establish the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) and Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN). This award is named to honor Dr. Collins's contribution of to NF1 in particular and to clinical-translational science in general. It is our hope and belief that the Francis S. Collins Scholars Program in Neurofibromatosis Clinical and Translational Research will create a group of outstanding clinician-scientists who, motivated by their work with patients who have NF1, mentored by today's leaders in the field, and taught how to conduct rigorous clinical-translational research, will revolutionize the field of NF1.