



## **The Joseph E. Wagstaff Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant Request for Proposals**

**Submission Deadline: October 14, 2016 11:59 p.m. CST**

Dr. Joseph E. Wagstaff was a consummate pediatrician, medical geneticist and researcher. As much as anyone in the world, he advanced our scientific understanding of the Angelman syndrome (AS). He also diagnosed and treated scores of children and adults with AS and selflessly gave of his time to provide much needed counsel to their families. Dr. Wagstaff was also an invaluable contributor to the Angelman Syndrome Foundation (ASF) and his work on the Scientific Advisory Committee was instrumental in soliciting and evaluating the high caliber of scientific proposals that ASF is proud to fund.

Dr. Wagstaff dedicated his life to the benefit and compassionate care of his patients and support of their families. Through the Joseph E. Wagstaff Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant the ASF seeks to honor Dr. Wagstaff's legacy by supporting clinical and basic science research on the Angelman syndrome.

This is an award funded by the Angelman Syndrome Foundation (ASF).

The ASF strives to improve the lives of those with Angelman syndrome and their families by supporting research on the clinical and basic science aspects of the Angelman syndrome. ASF seeks applications for postdoctoral fellowships in the preclinical, translational and clinical research areas that investigate all aspects of Angelman syndrome. The purpose of this award is to:

- Promote Angelman syndrome-related research in a young investigator
- Support novel or innovative research initiatives
- Further support and encourage existing Angelman-related research projects

### **Eligibility of Applicants**

Eligible applicants must have a PhD, M.D., M.D./PhD, DDS or an equivalent degree and anticipate employment as a full-time postdoctoral position at an academic or research institute in the United States or Canada. Applicants from programs having a history of

research on Angelman syndrome, imprinting or UBE3A, are strongly encouraged to apply.

Applicants must be working in a program that strongly supports the type of research the applicant will be conducting. There should be a strong input from a senior research mentor who sponsors and oversees the applicant's research work. The mentor must be tenured, on the tenure track or have an equivalent position. The applicant must devote a minimum of 80% of his/her time to this project and must not have funding from any other postdoctoral fellowship. Only one fellowship application will be accepted from a sponsoring mentor. Proposals that are direct extensions of graduate work will not be funded and candidates who are pursuing a degree are not eligible. Candidates from outside the USA may apply to do their research only in the United States or in Canada.

### **Application Guidelines**

Applicants are invited to submit a proposal using the ASF Fellowship Research Proposal Application using not less than 11-point Calibri font. The proposal should include:

- Title
  - Abstract of proposed research project
  - Hypothesis
  - Background and rationale
  - Specific aims
  - Brief overview of methods
  - Preliminary data if available
  - Expected results, potential pitfalls
  - Bibliography of cited references
  - NIH-style biographical sketch
  - Budget
- (Please see application for specific section size limits)

Additional supporting information should include:

- Letter of support on institutional letterhead from their fellowship mentor
- Letters from two other individuals attesting to the applicant's scientific ability and potential.

All fellowship awards are approved by the ASF Board of Directors upon the recommendations from the ASF Scientific Advisory Committee.

### **Funding**

The amount of the award equals \$55,000 per year for two years contingent on an adequate progress report during the first year. Of this amount, \$4,000 is available for the fellow's educational and scientific expenses. Of this \$4,000 expense amount, funds

must be available to enable the fellow to attend the *ASF annual Scientific Symposium* in order to present a progress report of the research. Institutions may not automatically deduct any fees from this allowance without the fellow's approval. These funds are not an allowance for institutional overhead, postdoctoral registration fees or postdoctoral fellowship taxes.

Full proposals must include an institutional fiscal officer's approved budget. The award requires that funds will not be used for the support of institutional indirect or overhead costs.

## **Reporting**

At the end of the 11th month of funding the fellow must submit:

- A progress report, not to exceed three (3) pages, that includes a technical summary of the work suitable for understanding by a general scientific audience. The report must be signed by the fellow and the mentor.
- A lay abstract, not to exceed one (1) page, of the research indicating how it is relevant to Angelman syndrome. This abstract is intended to be disseminated among the community of families and others associated with the ASF and should be understandable to the general public.
- A bibliography of publications or of any presentations presented by the fellow during the award year.
- A brief one-page summary from the mentor assessing the fellow's scientific progress and professional development.

At the completion of the two-year fellowship the fellow must submit:

- A detailed overview of their work during this period of funding that includes a one-page scientific and a one-page lay oriented abstract of the work. This final report will include any publications or presentations related to the fellowship.
- A statement by the fellow as to how the ASF fellowship grant has made a difference in their research and career development, and a statement should be offered regarding future plans of the fellow.
- Up-to-date curriculum vitae should be submitted along with a brief summary by the mentor assessing the fellowship award.

## **Financial**

The institution's financial officer must maintain a separate account including receipts that is available for audit by representatives of the ASF. Any unexpended expense allowance may be carried over to the next award year but any unexpended salary dollars must be returned to ASF at the end of each fellowship year. A one-year financial summary should be submitted to the ASF at the end of the first fellowship year. Within 60 days of the termination of the fellowship a final report of expenditures, with refund of any unexpended balance, must be submitted to ASF.