

Tips for MSTP applicants to F30 or F31 fellowships

1. Ask for the maximum period of support allowed (5 years for most of you, see point 2). **BE AWARE THAT THE GRANT CAN COVER TRAINING IN THE THIRD AND FOURTH YEARS OF MEDICAL SCHOOL AS WELL AS THE PHD PHASE.** The MSTP provides

a bonus supplement to the stipend of students who obtain such funding during the phases that are supported by the MSTP (e.g. Med years 3 and 4). Your department may also pay such a supplement during the PhD phase.

2. Kathy Schultz will tell you how long you were supported on the MSTP T32 (usually one year or less). List this for question 24 on PHS form 416. To determine your period of eligibility for F30 (how many years you can ask for), subtract that number of months from 6 years, then round up to the next higher whole year. Request that period of support for question 21 on page 3 of PHS form 416. After the award, the grants management will work with you to restrict total funding on T32 and F30 grants to a maximum of 6 years (as an MD-PhD student, for straight PhD students the max is 5). Thus, post-award grants management will take care of adjusting for the partial years of potential excess time caused by rounding up on the initial application. This is the best way to do it, as the activities proposed by year on page 3 of PHS form 416 is not that detailed and not conducive to specifying part years or part months. Most students will have had one year on the MSTP T32 and will be able to ask for 5 years of F30 support.

***Unless the proposed training period becomes absurdly long (e.g. >6 years of PhD phase), don't ask for less than the maximum allowable by the formula I indicate, even if you think you will finish before then. You can always return unused portions of the grant.

3. Tuition and Fees budget numbers: Section D on Checklist for PHS form 416: Ask Kathy Schultz for tuition numbers that are anticipated for the period when your grant will become active. It is reasonable to assume 5% annual inflationary increase for the tuition. **PLEASE USE THE MEDICAL SCHOOL TUITION FIGURE FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS OF PROPOSED BUDGET. IT IS HIGHER THAN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL TUITION.**

4. Some of you have asked about how to specify research vs. clinical activities for the years of training (page 3 of PHS form 416). In general, the reviewers will want to see research training activity, so bring this out whenever possible, but you should ask for support for clinical training as well as research in the context of combined MD-PhD training, and the programs do allow that. Just don't miss the opportunity to include research in a year when it might be there. For example, if the budget year will include a mixture of clinical and research (e.g. the end of your PhD and

the beginning of Med year 3), then put down an appropriate mixture of research and clinical (you may need to figure out where the budget year will fall in calendar months). You can also include a small amount of clinical time (5-10%) during the PhD phase if you intend to do MSTP Clinical Tutorial. The reviewers may like to see that you have a well-developed plan for MD-PhD training that includes some clinical even while focusing on the research in the PhD phase.

**Remember, for med year 4 you might do research electives (I recommend that you propose this). I would write in your training plan that you intend to do some research electives that year (don't worry, you won't be locked into this plan). If you propose this, you might put Med year 4, the last year of your training, as something like 60-70% clinical, 30-40% research.

4. Indicate that the CWRU MSTP T32 does not provide financial support for all phases of MD-PhD training, and that you do not have current funding from the CWRU MSTP T32, so there is no question of overlap. This needs to be stated explicitly. I recommend that the mentor's letter of support clarify this issue of non-overlap.

5. Tell Cliff Harding and Kathy Schultz when the grant is awarded, since it will affect your period of eligibility for T32 support in Med years 3 and 4. We can accommodate paying you off of other sources for any parts not covered by the F30 itself, but we need to know in advance for planning purposes.