

**Request for Applications (RFA)**  
**O'Neal NextGen Postdoctoral Scholar Awards**

**RFA Announced:** November 15, 2024

**Letter of Intent:** December 16, 2024 (5:00pm)

**Application due date:** February 3, 2025 (5:00pm)

**Peer-review:** April 2025

**Award start date:** September 1, 2025

**Purpose:** To support promising postdoctoral trainees at UAB during their mentored training under the guidance of UAB faculty sponsors. The integrated program of research and training should enhance the individual's potential to develop into a productive, independent researcher.

**Letter of Intent:** A Letter of Intent must be sent to Mr. Bolack ([pbolack@uab.edu](mailto:pbolack@uab.edu)) no later than 5:00 pm December 16, 2024. The Letter should include: The name of the mentor, the name of the trainee and the title of the project. If applicable, please include the names of other investigators involved in the project.

**Eligibility:** Current full-time Postdoctoral trainees at UAB (Ph.D./M.D.; Ph.D., or M.D.) predominantly engaged in basic laboratory, population sciences and/or translational cancer research. Fellows should have received their terminal degrees on or after September 1, 2023.

If you have received an NIH F32 award or any postdoctoral award from another funding agency you are **NOT eligible**. If you are included in a T32 and are selected for funding, you will need to forfeit one or the other.

**Award details:** \$25,000 per year for two years.

- From these funds, \$22,500 will be provided to the mentor to offset the trainee's fellowship and research expenses.
- \$2500 will be available to the trainee to attend scientific meetings or workshops.
- All funds remaining at the end of Year 2 will not carry over to a third year and must be returned to the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center.

**Application:** This includes the following components -

- Title page including postdoctoral scholar's name, title and mentor. On the same page, include a list of collaborators.
- Abstract (limit 300 words), Specific Aims (1 page), Research strategy (3 pages), and a Research Training Plan (up to 1 page).
- Use same font and margin limits as for NIH grants (Arial 11 and 0.5 margins).
- The trainee's current NIH Biosketch (please list if you are currently part of a T32 training grant).
- A letter of recommendation from the trainee's advisor that describes the roles and responsibilities of each, including contributions to the research plan, and detailing the portion of the research ideas, and plan that originated with the applicant as well as commitment to mentoring the preparation of an extramural grant application (see below).
- Mentor Biosketch including previous trainees, funding they have received (internal and external), and current position.
- Files should be compiled into one PDF in the order above and sent to Patrick Bolack, M.S. Ed, at [pbolack@uab.edu](mailto:pbolack@uab.edu) prior to the deadline.

**Obligations of Postdoctoral doctoral awardee and the associated mentor:**

- The awardee shall list in their UAB email signature that they are an O'Neal NextGen Postdoctoral Scholar
- The trainee and the advisor will ensure that the award is stated in the Acknowledgements section of any manuscript or article that is co-authored by the postdoctoral trainee.
- An annual report will be due to Mr. Bolack on or before August 1, 2026. Award for Year 2 will be contingent upon demonstration of satisfactory progress that is endorsed by the advisor.
- The awardee will present their research at the O'Neal Trainee Symposium in 2026 and 2027.
- The awardee will submit a first-author research paper in a peer-reviewed scientific journal by the end of Year 2

- The awardee will submit a Research Career Development Award application (K99-R00, K01, K08, K22 or similar grant) before the end of the second year of the O'Neal award.

**Additional considerations:**

- If the trainee should receive an award equivalent to or greater than the O'Neal award amount, it is the advisor's responsibility to inform the O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center and relinquish the O'Neal funds.
- This RFA is designed specifically for research that does not involve leading an independent clinical trial, a clinical trial feasibility study, or an ancillary study to a clinical trial, but does allow applicants to propose research experience in a clinical trial led by a sponsor or co-sponsor.

**Peer-Review:** Applications will be reviewed by a committee comprised of O'Neal Cancer Center faculty. Reviewers will score the application for originality of the project idea, scientific merit, and applicant's academic record and research training plan to develop into an independent and productive researcher. They also will judge the prospect of the fellowship to enhance the applicant's potential for and commitment to a productive independent scientific cancer research career.