

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR CCB FELLOWSHIPS 2024

The Center on Compulsive Behavior (CCB) will fund outstanding candidates, both clinical or basic science researchers, who are interested in studying topics aligned with the mission of the CCB and with a strong desire for interactions and collaboration with the labs in the IRP.

Eligibility: Applications are open for postdoctoral IRTA fellows in the IRP within their first 2 years, or incoming postdoctoral fellows joining an IRP laboratory before September 30, 2024.

Examples of fundable projects include studies of the brain circuitry involved in the generation of compulsive behaviors (both anatomically or functionally); development of new tools or animal models to study these circuits and behaviors; and development of behavioral tests in research animals or humans to trigger, measure, and/or manipulate compulsive behaviors. Although collaborative projects are not mandatory, inter-institute and intra-institute (in that order) collaborative projects will be given funding priority. Priority will be given to translational collaborative projects that include laboratory animals and human subjects, and clinical projects related to compulsive behaviors. Priority will also be given to underrepresented minority (URM) postdoctoral fellows and to postdoctoral fellows from participant institutes who are currently underrepresented in the CCB.

NEW APPLICATION DOCUMENTS:

1. Research proposal: Modeled after the “Specific Aims” section of NIH applications, this section should include the rationale of the study and identify the gap of knowledge and/or main unanswered question. Description of the Aims with the hypothesis to be tested and techniques to be used in the experiments (3 pages and 2 Aims maximum).
2. NIH biographical sketch (non-fellowship format) of the applicant and the mentors (5 pages maximum for each).
3. Description of the inter- or intra-institute collaborative aspects of the proposal. The role of each principal investigator and collaborator must be clearly defined (1 page maximum)¹.

RENEWAL APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

1. Your research proposal should include a progress report of research conducted during the last year, including publications, presentations at meetings and awards (1–2 pages, see separate template). In addition, you need to complete and sign the renewal agreement (will be distributed directly to the current fellows).

Submission format: (new applications) please use one of the font types of *Arial*, *Helvetica*, *Georgia* or *Palatino Linotype* with a font size no smaller than *11 points*. Provide a minimum of 1 inch margins on all sides (top, bottom, left and right), and have a line separating each paragraph. (renewals) please use the supplied template file and complete the different sections. As font types use one of *Arial*, *Helvetica*, *Georgia* or *Palatino Linotype* no smaller than *11 points*, with *1 inch margins* on all sides.

Important: Combine all documents into one single file, to be submitted as a pdf file. Each individual section must have a designated heading. Please add a cover page that list the title of your proposal and clearly identifies you and your mentors with their affiliation – this page does not count towards the page limit of your proposal.

Submission deadline: Application submission opens on **November 30th** and closes by **6 pm** on Monday, **January 15th, 2024**. Submit documents as one pdf file via email to Roland Bock at roland.bock@nih.gov.

Selection and decision: Applications are reviewed by CCB Investigators and funding decisions will be made by March 30th, 2024. Funds will be allocated soon after. Fellows are expected to join by September 30th, 2024 the latest.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

1. Qualification of the applicant:	30 %	(scale 1–9)*
2. Qualification of the mentors (minimum of 2 mentors):	20 %	(scale 1–9)
3. Scientific quality of the proposal and its relevance to compulsive behaviors:	30 %	(scale 1–9)
4. Collaborative nature (inter- and/or intra-institute):	20 %	(scale 1–9)

* On this scale, please use 1 as the highest classification and 9 as the lowest.

FUNDING:

The award consists of up to \$30,000 to support the CCB Fellow's stipend. If funds are available and based on scientific progress, the fellowship might be renewed yearly, for up to 3 years. Mentors and/or their Institutes are responsible for supplementing the remainder of the Fellow's stipend during his/her postdoctoral training at the NIH.

TRAINING AND SEMINARS:

CCB Fellows will have access to specific professional development activities, including oral presentations, and leadership skills. Additional activities will include monthly journal clubs and a seasonal seminar series designed by CCB Fellows featuring presentations from both Fellows and Fellow-invited outside speakers.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND REQUIREMENTS:

CCB Fellows are required to:

- Participate in the training and professional development activities hosted by the CCB
- Present their projects to CCB members and provide yearly progress reports
- Participate in monthly journal clubs and lead at least one journal club a year

CCB Fellows and their mentors are expected to:

- Attend CCB Seminars and Retreats

¹ Example of a description of the collaborative aspects of the proposal:

This is a collaborative project between the laboratories of <mentor 1> and <mentor 2> (<mentors institution>) and <collaborator> (<collaborators institution>). <mentor 1> will be responsible for funding and space of the project, will supervise the project described in Aims 1–2, and will be the main mentor of <applicant>. <mentor 2> will teach <applicant> in vivo electrophysiology and Matlab data analysis, will provide the electrophysiology equipment, and will oversee, together with <mentor 1>, the research performed in Aim 2. <collaborator> will provide custom-made shRNA constructs that are critical to the completion of Aim 1.