

The University of Michigan
Cellular Biotechnology Training Program
Department of Biomedical Engineering
Ann Arbor, MI 48109
cbtp.engin.umich.edu

Andrew Putnam, Director
phone: (734) 615-1398
e-mail: putnam@umich.edu

MEMO TO: All training grant eligible PhD students

FROM: Andrew Putnam, Program Director

DATE: April 19, 2017

RE: **REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

The Cellular Biotechnology Training Program (CBTP) is pleased to announce that it intends to support up to five new student members during the 2017-2018 academic year. Funding will include tuition and stipend support for one year, beginning September 1, 2017. A second year of support will be contingent on student progress in the program.

Eligibility: The Program will consider applications from predoctoral students who have elected graduate programs in Biological Chemistry, Biomedical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Microbiology and Immunology, Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology (MCDB), Cell and Developmental Biology (CDB), Chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry, and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Students from other programs interested in applying may also be eligible, but should contact the Program Director (Dr. Putnam) first for approval. Ideally, we solicit applications from students who are completing their first or second year in graduate school, but we do occasionally consider students with more senior standing. Students with other sources of funding (e.g., NSF fellowships) are eligible to fully participate in CBTP, without funding support from the T32, and have been selected in the past; such students interested in the program still must formally apply.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents to be supported by an NIH T32. Individuals from underrepresented backgrounds and individuals with disabilities are valued members of our institution and graduate training programs, and CBTP strongly encourages them to apply.

Please note: *We are awaiting final notice from the NIGMS of our competitive renewal application, so any new trainee appointments are contingent on receipt of a formal notice of award. We expect to receive such notice in mid-to-late June.*

Nomination process: All application/nomination packages should be sent directly to the CBTP. Application instructions are provided at the end of this memo.

The CBTP Program Committee will review applications in late May/early June in order to select next year's class. In selecting students, the Program Committee attempts to maintain a balanced representation of student backgrounds, scientific disciplines, and departments. In addition to outstanding academic credentials, we are especially interested in trainees with strong interests in the biotechnology industry.

Experience in industry: One of the goals of CBTP is for all students in the Program to gain experience in an industrial research setting. Accordingly, all trainees supported by CBTP must participate in a 3-month industry internship (ideally June 1-August 31). It is expected that industry, rather than CBTP, will pay the student during the internship period. The applicant's advisor should indicate a willingness to help arrange the internship during the first year in the program. Any financial support for a second year in the program will be contingent on completion of the industry internship or

on the formulation of a specific internship plan. The Program can provide some guidance in arranging the internship.

Choice of laboratories: If a student applicant plans to perform his or her thesis work in the lab of a faculty member who is not currently part of the Program, the Program Committee will consider the training environment of that faculty member's group as part of the student's application.

Thesis committees: Students in the Program must have at least one CBTP faculty member other than their thesis advisor on their dissertation committees.

Course requirements: Students must take the program's flagship course, Cellular Biotechnology 504, which is typically offered every Winter term, as well as the medical school course in Research Responsibility and Ethics (PIBS 503).

Monthly student meetings: Students are required to attend monthly dinner meetings. At these meetings, students have an opportunity to present their own research and learn about the research of their peers outside their area of immediate interest.

Additional Program activities: The CBTP also sponsors an Annual Symposium (typically in April or May), in which all trainees are expected to participate via a poster or oral presentation. In addition, trainees will have opportunities to learn about the biotechnology industry through Mentoring Lunches with Industry Experts, activities in the Center for Entrepreneurship, and an Office of Technology Transfer Shadowing Program.

Certificate program: The Rackham Graduate School awards a Certificate in Biotechnology to trainees upon completion of their Ph.D., providing they fulfill the requirements of their department, Rackham Graduate School, and the CBTP.

Faculty responsibilities: In addition to making sure that students supported by CBTP fulfill their obligations, mentors with students supported by CBTP are expected to participate in Program administration and events, including mentoring lunches, the annual symposium, and as a guest lecturer in Cellular Biotechnology 504.

Please direct further questions to Andrew Putnam or the CBTP administrator Nancy Paskievitch (5-7207; nmpaskie@umich.edu).

Applications should include the following:

1. A cover letter from the faculty advisor indicating why the student is appropriate for the CBTP. Faculty sponsors should describe their level of past participation in CBTP training activities and their commitment to support the training activities of the program, including the industry internship. Faculty sponsors who are not yet members of CBTP should also include a NIH-style biosketch, with a short description of the training environment in their lab in Section A.
2. Copy of the student's complete Rackham application, including:
 - Transcripts
 - GRE scores
 - Statement of purpose (from the student's application to graduate school)
 - Letters of recommendation (from the student's application to graduate school)
3. A transcript showing grades for courses taken at the University of Michigan.
4. A statement from the student applicant explaining why he/she should be considered for membership in the training program. The Program Committee will seek to identify applicants with demonstrable interests in interdisciplinary study and the biotechnology industry. To that end,

applicants are requested to describe in their statement a biotechnological product idea related to their research or to another area of interest to the student. The statement should be limited to one page.

Please forward the complete application in pdf format (as a single document via email) to Nancy Paskievitch (nmpaskie@umich.edu), Department of Biomedical Engineering, 2178 LBME, Box 2110. **The deadline for receipt of applications is 12:00 PM (noon) on May 26, 2017.**