

# Why do a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Transplantation Biology at the University of Pittsburgh?

1. The Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute (STI) (<http://www.stiresearch.health.pitt.edu>) and affiliated Departments of Surgery and Immunology (<http://www.immunology.pitt.edu>) are led by internationally recognized clinician and basic scientists that are building on a legacy of excellence in biomedical research and leadership in academic medicine. Member laboratories are cutting edge, well-funded, and influential in their respective areas.
2. The City of Pittsburgh offers an ideal academic environment, reasonable cost of living, and has an exceptional array of cultural amenities. These factors make it one of the most livable cities in the US for both young professionals and families. See <http://www.coolpgh.pitt.edu>
3. There are numerous internal funding opportunities available at the STI to support Postdoctoral training and launch a career in Transplant Research and Medicine. <http://www.stiresearch.health.pitt.edu/resources/fellowshipgrants>

## **Interdisciplinary NIH Training Program in Transplantation Biology**

The purpose of this NIH-supported interdisciplinary training program is to train future leaders in transplantation research. Training positions for pre-doctoral graduate students (PhD or MD/PhD candidates) and for post-doctoral fellows (PhDs, MDs, MD/PhDs and VDMs) are available. Candidates for support from the institutional NIH T32 training grant must be US citizens or permanent residents.

## **Thomas E. Starzl Postdoctoral Fellowship in Transplantation Biology**

Mentored award providing funding for postdoctoral fellows who have a clear commitment to transplantation research. The purpose of this two-year fellowship is (1) to foster the training of research fellows with the potential to develop into successful independent investigators and (2) to foster, through training research fellows, transplant-related research that is of high merit. The fellowship provides a stipend that is commensurate with NIH-recommended stipends based on the fellow's years of postdoctoral experience plus fringe benefits.

## **Joseph A. Patrick Research Fellowship in Transplantation**

Mentored award to provide funding for junior faculty (instructors and assistant professors) performing research in transplantation and related disciplines, including diabetes. Senior postdoctoral fellows who are assured a junior faculty position at the University of Pittsburgh that will begin by the start date of the award are eligible to apply. The award (1) fosters transplant-related research that is of high merit, (2) helps develop preliminary data for the submission of highly competitive grant applications to national funding agencies, and (3) promotes the career development.

## **Clinical and Human Translational Research Fellowship in Transplantation**

Mentored award to provide funding for postdoctoral fellows and instructor-level faculty performing clinical or human translational research in transplantation. This two-year fellowship will be offered to one candidate every other year. The purpose of this fellowship is (1) to foster the training of research fellows with the potential to develop into successful independent investigators and (2) to foster, through training research fellows, transplant-related clinical and human translational research that is of high merit. The fellowship provides a stipend that is commensurate with NIH-recommended stipends based on the fellow's years of postdoctoral experience plus fringe benefits.

4. University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Graduate Programm in Immunology also has three current additional Transplant-related, NIH-funded T32 training grants available for post-doctoral trainees.



- \*Training in Cellular & Molecular Mechanisms of Tumor Rejection
- \*Immunology of Infectious Disease
- \*Autoimmunity and Immunopathology Training Program

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## Postdoctoral Fellow in Cellular and Molecular Immunology, Full Time Position

### Opportunity:

There are opportunities available for individuals with a PhD and/or MD to receive research and career training as they contribute to three NIH-funded projects in the laboratory of Dr. Hēth R. Turnquist (<http://www.stiresearch.health.pitt.edu/person/heth-r-turnquist>) and (Twitter: @Turnquist\_Lab).

The Turnquist lab works to decipher how damaged tissue instructs the function of immune cells after injury and transplantation. The majority of our efforts rely on transgenic and knockout mice in pre-clinical models of solid organ and bone marrow transplantation, as well as tissue injury and systemic trauma. In collaborative efforts, we are also working to translate our basic discoveries into novel biologics and cell therapies designed to resolve immune-mediated pathology, as well as identify effective biomarkers of disease state in transplantation.

### Representative Publications:

- Matta BM et al. Peri-alloHCT IL-33 administration expands recipient T regulatory cells that protect mice against acute GVHD. 2016. *Blood* 128(3):427-439.
- Xu J et al. IL-33 mediated ILC2 activation and neutrophil IL5 production in the lung response after severe trauma: A reverse translation study from a human cohort to a mouse trauma model. 2017. *PLoS Medicine* 14(7):e1002365.
- Hussey GH et al. Matrix bound nanovesicle-associated IL-33 activates a pro-remodeling macrophage phenotype via a non-canonical, ST2-independent pathway. 2019. *Journal of Immunology and Regenerative Medicine* 3: 26-35.
- Liu Q et al. IL-33-mediated IL-13 secretion by ST2<sup>+</sup> T regulatory cell controls inflammation after lung injury. 2019 *JCI Insight* 4(6):e123919.

### Environment:

The Departments of Surgery and Immunology (<http://www.immunology.pitt.edu>) and the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute (<http://www.stiresearch.health.pitt.edu>) are led by internationally respected clinician scientists that are building on a legacy of excellence in biomedical research and leadership in academic medicine.

The city of Pittsburgh offers an ideal academic environment, reasonable cost of living, and has an exceptional array of cultural amenities. These factors make it one of the most livable cities in the US for both young professionals and families. See (<http://www.coolpgh.pitt.edu>)

### Requirements:

Curious nature and enjoyment of discovery are a must. Experience with animal research, contemporary molecular and immunological techniques, and primary cell culture are desired. Ambitions in Bioinformatics and "Big Data" are a plus. Preference will be given to applicants with evidence of scientific productivity and commitment to development of an independent research program.

### Actions:

Send CV, names and contact information for 3 references, and a cover letter describing your research interests directly to Ms. Carla Forsythe at: [forsythecj@upmc.edu](mailto:forsythecj@upmc.edu).

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## **Postdoctoral Fellow in Transplantation Tolerance, Full Time Position**

Dr. Angus Thomson's research group at the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute and the Department of Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh is seeking a postdoctoral fellow to work in the area of transplantation tolerance. Our laboratory focuses on cellular and molecular immunology, and uses cutting-edge molecular and cell biological techniques to evaluate the roles of dendritic cells and T lymphocytes in regulation of alloimmune responses in organ transplantation. These studies include translational studies of tolerance induction in clinically-relevant transplant models and first-in-human testing of regulatory immune cell therapy in patients. The successful applicant will work closely with other investigators skilled in T cell and dendritic cell biology.

Applicants are required to have an MD or a PhD degree in immunology, molecular biology, or a related field, obtained within the past five years. Experience and skills with cellular immunology and molecular biology techniques are required. Experimental skills working with small or large animal models would be an advantage. The successful applicant is expected to be a team player, but also to work independently, and to have strong oral and written communication skills. The position is supported by NIH funding. The salary will be commensurate with the candidate's research experience and skills. The University of Pittsburgh is an equal opportunity employer in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Send CV, names and contact information for 3 references, and a cover letter describing your research interests directly to Mrs. Miriam Freeman: [freemanm@upmc.edu](mailto:freemanm@upmc.edu).