

Date: January 2017

FROM: Duke University, Division of Cardiology

RE: AHA-Duke Strategically Focused Heart Failure Research Network Research Fellow Application

Dear Colleagues,

Duke Cardiology was recently awarded one of the American Heart Association's Strategically Focused Research Network Heart Failure (AHA SFRN) grants. A key component of the AHA SFRN program is development of the next generation of scientists who will focus their careers on enhancing our understanding of heart and vascular disease and reducing its global burden. This grant mechanism provides funding for selected trainees with exceptional talent to spend at least one dedicated year of research embedded in the component projects of the Center's grant. Three thematically linked projects form the foundation of the Duke Center for Heart Failure and Diabetes Research – a basic/discovery project, a clinical trial and a population-based study. It is expected that each Center integrates its projects to demonstrate the bench-to-bedside approach to scientific discovery but also collaborates with other AHA SFRN sites in hopes of creating a broader scientific and educational synergy.

The Duke AHA SFRN program is studying the overlap between diabetes and heart failure in a multidisciplinary research environment. Specifically, our discovery project is being led by Dr. Svati Shah and is focused on developing a higher level of evidence around the importance of branch chain amino acids and other metabolic pathways that are key drivers of diabetes and heart failure. The clinical project is being directed by Dr. Mike Felker and is studying the role of behavioral interventions and improving compliance on outcomes in patients with heart failure and diabetes. Our population study is being led by Dr. Adrian Hernandez and is evaluating existing national datasets and clinical trial information to define and optimize the pharmacological approaches to diabetes care in a heart failure population.

We are currently soliciting applications for a 1-2 year funded fellowship position in the Duke Center for Heart Failure and Diabetes Research to start in July, 2017. Competitive applicants should be in a course of study leading to a degree in science or healthcare (RN, MD, PhD) or have completed this degree and be engaged in post-doctoral research training. The Center's Fellowship training experience has been designed to develop the skills required for a successful career in academic medicine. It is anticipated that the selected applicant will identify a specific project/mentor and focus 70% of their time on the AHA grant project. It is also expected that within 6 months, the selected awardee will develop and implement his/her own research project. The remainder of the awardee's time will be focused on understanding the principles of team-based research and accessing other educational opportunities available at Duke including institutional course work focused on data analysis and preparation, research integrity, professional writing and grant development, academic life, and presentation skills.

Interested applicants should send a letter of interest and their curriculum vitae to

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