



Arizona Center for the  
Biology of Complex Diseases

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## **Request for Applications**

### ***ABCD Advanced Graduate Fellowship in Complex Diseases***

The Arizona Center for the Biology of Complex Diseases (ABCD) invites applications for a 1-year Advanced Graduate Fellowship in line with its mission of fostering trans-disciplinary research on complex diseases at The University of Arizona (UA).

**BACKGROUND** Human complex diseases (e.g., asthma, cancer, cardiovascular and metabolic disorders, neurodegenerative and neurodevelopmental diseases) are major biomedical challenges, because they are common but difficult to decipher. The complexity of these diseases likely reflects intricate interactions among genetic, environmental and developmental factors that modify disease susceptibility and severity.

Understanding complex diseases is urgent, because these conditions impose a burden on society. Yet, this goal cannot be achieved by isolated research disciplines. Rather, it requires a novel paradigm that successfully integrates research across multiple fields. The ABCD was launched to implement such a paradigm and support the creation of a UA community of basic and translational scientists interested in complex diseases.

**GOAL** The ABCD Advanced Graduate Fellowship in Complex Diseases will provide one year of stipend (\$25,000) and tuition for one UA graduate student to perform cutting-edge, trans-disciplinary research on complex disease-related themes. The awardee will be designated as the ABCD Fellow for the year of the award.

**ELIGIBILITY** Eligible applicants should:

- be enrolled in an interdisciplinary or departmental Graduate Program at The University of Arizona
- have completed their coursework and doctoral comprehensive exams
- propose a project relevant to human complex diseases that is envisioned to be the subject of the applicants' dissertation

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE** Applications should include:

- A two-page description of the project, including one paragraph explicitly describing how it relates to complex diseases
- Curriculum vitae of the applicant and her/his mentor (NIH or NSF format)
- Three letters of reference, including one from the applicant's mentor and a second one from the co-mentor (if applicable)

**APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA** Proposals will be ranked by the ABCD Executive Committee based on:

- Significance, innovation, originality and relevance to the complex disease theme

- Trans-disciplinary nature of the project. Priority will be given to co-mentored projects.
- Record of accomplishment of the applicant
- Quality of the research environment
- Finalists will be selected for an interview with the ABCD Executive Committee.

**DEADLINE AND AWARD NOTIFICATION** Proposals should be submitted as a single pdf file through the ABCD website ([abcd.arl.arizona.edu](http://abcd.arl.arizona.edu)) by 9/15/12. Applicants will be notified by the end of December 2012.

**POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS**

- At the end of the fellowship period, ABCD Fellows will present their results to the ABCD faculty.
- ABCD Fellows will participate in the yearly colloquium *Problems in Complex Disease Biology*.
- Mentors of ABCD Fellows will be or become members of the ABCD.
- ABCD will be acknowledged on all publications supported by the ABCD Fellowship.

For questions about this initiative, please contact Donata Vercelli, M.D. ([donata@email.arizona.edu](mailto:donata@email.arizona.edu)).