

## CMIID Professional Development Award Application Example 1

Name: XXX

Degree: 5<sup>th</sup> yr in Pathobiology, PhD

PI: XXX

### Training Plan

My research is focused on the effects of host vitamin A status on enteric infections. My project has generated interesting data and a manuscript is under revision. As a 5<sup>th</sup> year graduate student, I am towards the end of my PhD and it is time to start looking for employment. I am planning on defending my thesis in the fall of 2015 and I want to make the transition from graduate student to post-graduate school as seamless as possible.

I am applying for funds to travel to the American Association of Immunologists (AAI) in New Orleans, LA. I have been a member of this organization for two years and this will be my second year attending this conference. This is one the largest conferences for the immunology field and is attended by many of the top immunologists and industrial leaders. Last year, I was able to network with multiple people that I have been in contact with for the last year. I want to attend AAI to look for job opportunities, either a postdoctoral position or in industry. AAI is a great opportunity to meet 100s of companies and investigators that are looking to fill job openings. Various leaders in muscoal immunology such as Dr. Belkaid and Dr. Stappenbeck will be attending AAI as well as people from NCI, NIH, AAI and other organizations. Meeting with these people would be invaluable. Attending this conference again with additional experience I have gained over the last year would be incredibly beneficial in finding postgraduate school employment.

## CMIID Professional Development Award Application Example 2

Name: XXX

Degree: 5<sup>th</sup> yr in Pathobiology, PhD

PI: XXX

My thesis research focuses on the connection between the gut microbiome, vitamin D metabolism, and host immune function. Our lab has evidence that the microbiome is altered in vitamin D deficient mice, but we have new evidence that the microbiota may also affect host metabolism of vitamin D. Vitamin D is an immunoregulatory molecule that directly and indirectly regulates both innate and adaptive immune cells to promote anti-inflammatory responses.

Attending the annual meeting of the American Association of Immunologists would be beneficial for this project, and for my future career prospects. The abstract I submitted has been accepted for a poster presentation. This meeting will be attended by many skilled immunologists who could potentially provide constructive feedback to help develop the immunological link between vitamin D metabolism and the microbiome. There are major sessions and block symposia devoted to mucosal immunology, and host-microbe interactions that are applicable to my thesis research such as “The Microbiota in Immunity and Inflammation” and “Microbes, Microbiota, and Mucosal Immunity.” I look forward to hearing from speakers in these sessions, such as Dr. Pamers and Dr. Bhatt, whose new results and ideas may inform questions in my research and inspire new avenues to pursue in my projects. Furthermore, as a 4<sup>th</sup> year PhD student, I am very interested in networking with other investigators at this meeting. I am considering post-doctoral positions in both academia and industry, and this meeting is very well represented by bio-tech and pharmaceutical companies. In particular, Dr. Kanneganti, currently at St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital in Memphis, TN, is attending AAI 2015. She gave a Bortree lecture that piqued my interest in attempting to secure a post-doctoral position in her lab. Additionally, other relevant researchers in the field of mucosal immunology, including those listed above, will be attending and I plan on networking with them in hopes of securing a position after my PhD.