

Scholars in Oncologic Molecular Imaging (SOMI) Application Instructions

Tremendous advances have occurred in our understanding of cancer through research in the fields of structural biology, molecular biology, cell biology, regulation of gene expression, cancer biology/immunology, chemical, cellular and organismal pharmacology, directed manipulation of genome structure and resulting phenotypic consequences, and imaging of biological processes in real time in cells, organs, and organisms. The combination of all of these fields into one unified discipline is referred to by many as the new field of “molecular imaging.”

The Scholars in Oncologic Molecular Imaging program provides a unique opportunity for postdoctoral studies in a dynamic, multi-disciplinary environment. A diverse group of mentors participate, with expertise in molecular biology, cell biology, signal transduction, cancer biology, virology, gene discovery, high-throughput gene expression analysis, transgenic and knockout animal models, physiology, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, immunology, synthetic chemistry, radiochemistry, enzymology, instrumentation design, microscopy, small animal imaging and clinical imaging. SOMI postdoctoral fellows will conduct research under the supervision of two faculty mentors in complementary fields, participate in specialized coursework and seminars, attend a regular meeting of SOMI mentors and trainees, and prepare a practice grant application in the field of molecular imaging, as part of an integrated, three-year program.

Applications to SOMI will be reviewed by the SOMI training committee that includes faculty members across the disciplines listed above.

To apply to the SOMI program, please submit the following:

[Email application materials to Erika Corrin, ecorrin@mednet.ucla.edu, or send by mail to UCLA Crump Institute for Molecular Imaging, California NanoSystems Institute, 570 Westwood Plaza, Room 4327, Los Angeles, CA, 90095-1770 (campus mail code 177010). You may also contact Erika Corrin at the same email address for logistical guidance to complete your application, or to obtain assistance with seeking scientific guidance regarding your research proposal. Ms. Corrin can also be reached by Phone: (310) 825-4903.]

- ❖ **A completed SOMI application form.**
- ❖ **A 3-5 page research proposal.**
 - a. Briefly summarize your previous research experience, discuss your overall goals in pursuing training in oncologic molecular imaging, and your long term career plans.
 - b. Identify two potential faculty mentors (see SOMI website) and write a description of a research project. Introduce a specific cancer research question that can be addressed through molecular imaging. Describe the models/systems to be employed and outline an experimental approach. Discuss what new information or new methodologies would be generated. Consider the broader significance and impact of the proposed work. In particular, the proposal should reflect synergies expected by combining knowledge and approaches across disciplines.
- ❖ **3 Letters of Reference (1 from your current supervisor, and 1 from a proposed SOMI Mentor that you have contacted to prepare your Research Proposal - see Faculty webpage).** You may either solicit the letters or use the evaluation form provided, or both.