# Intramural Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (iCURE) Application Webinar

iCURE Team
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Center To Reduce Cancer Health Disparities

NIH NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

January 22, 2026

# Housekeeping

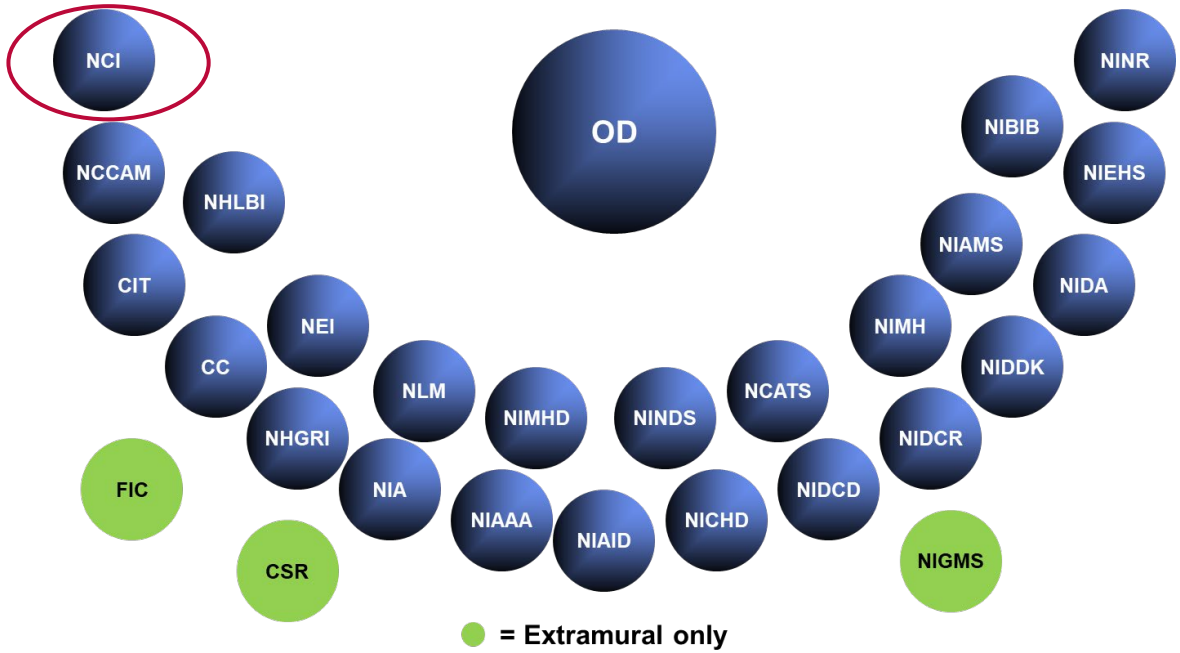
1. Webinar will be recorded and posted
2. Submit questions in chat
3. Closed captioning available
4. For audio/visual support:
    - Direct message Joshua Herrera

# Goals

1. Become oriented with NCI and iCURE
2. Understand iCURE Program Expectations and Experiences
3. Learn how to apply to iCU*RE* through Train at NCI

National Institutes of Health
*Turning Discovery Into Health*

# National Institutes of Health Has 27 Institutes and Centers



# National Cancer Institute (NCI)

**Mission**: NCI leads, conducts, and supports cancer research across the nation to advance scientific knowledge and help all people live longer, healthier lives. https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci

**Organization**:

- **Intramural:** conduct research at NCI
- Extramural: support research across the nation

**Priorities**:

- Research: cancer health disparities; data science; immunotherapy; clinical trials; etc.
- Training

# NCI Supports Funding for Training in All Areas of Cancer Research

NCI at Shady Grove Campus

# Center To Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (CRCHD)

CRCHD works to help reduce the unequal burden of cancer in our society by:

- Strengthening NCI's cancer research portfolio in basic, clinical, translational, and population-based research.
- Building regional networks to foster collaboration, enhance capacity in disparities research and career development, and disseminate culturally appropriate, evidence-based cancer information to underserved communities.
- Providing technical expertise, information, and advice to NCI leadership on strategic priorities, program direction, and scientific policy to strengthen cancer health disparities research.

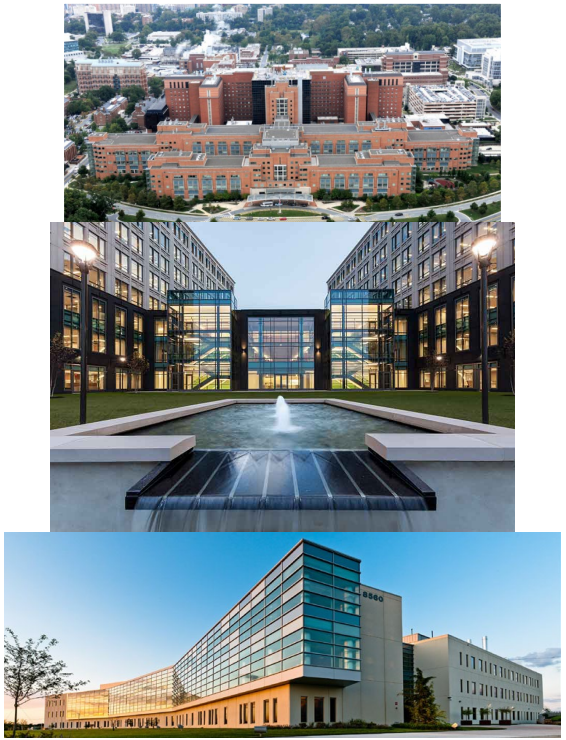
# Intramural Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (iCURE)

iCURE Goals:

- Enhance research workforce competitiveness at NCI
- Promote career advancement of scholars
- Foster a supportive environment in the NCI intramural community

# iCURE Supports Research Experiences at All Three Campuses of NCI in Maryland

- Mentored research experiences on **NCI campuses** in Bethesda, Shady Grove (Rockville) and Frederick, Maryland
- Supports **postbacs** (up to 2 years), **graduate students** (2 years) *(Note* will not be accepting applications this year)* and **postdocs** (3 years)
- Centralized review and program-facilitated matches for scholars to NCI PIs; **applicants do not need to pre-identify a PI to apply**



# iCURE Supports Scholars to Conduct Research Across the NCI

- **Center for Cancer Research (CCR)**
  - Basic and clinical cancer research
- **Center for Global Health (CGH)**
  - Global cancer research, implementation science, clinical research, and clinical trials
- **Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics (DCEG)**
  - Cancer epidemiology and genetic research
- **Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS)**
  - Reduce cancer risk, incidence and death and enhance quality of life for cancer survivors

# iCURE Support Benefits Package for Research Experiences

- Stipend paid monthly based on education level and relevant experience
- Health Insurance by FAES through OITE
- Participation in NIH Transhare Program
- Support for training opportunities such as supplies, courses and conference attendance
- Relocation Allowance

# Career Advancement Goals for iCURE Scholars

PB

**Postbac/Post Masters**: up to 2 yrs of support

*Acceptance into a graduate programs, PhD, MD/PhD, MD, PharmD, etc., professional programs*

PD

**Postdoctoral Fellows**: up to 3 yrs of support

*Publish, apply for grants, acquire skills for independence, transition to industry or investigator*

# iCURE Program Experience

## Support from iCURE Program Staff

- Individual/group check-ins
- Resource Guidance
- Mock interviews, CV review, etc. (Career Guidance)
- Training Navigation

## iCURE Cohort Activities

- Journal Club
- Scholar of the Month
- Outreach and other Gatherings

Research

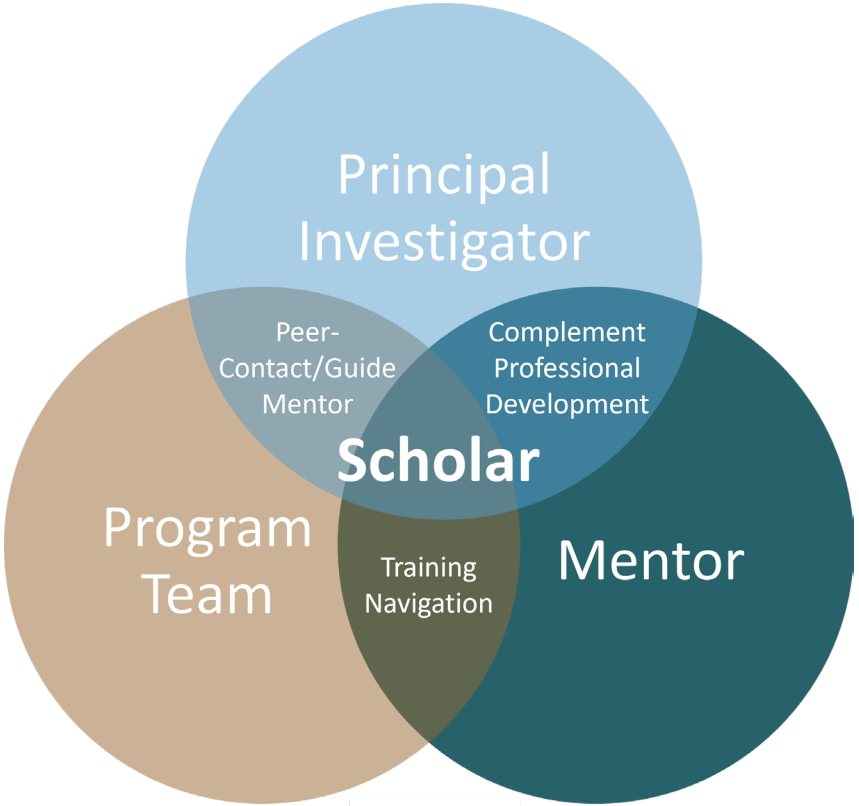
## Professional Development Activities

- iCURE Lunch and Learns
- Support for Conferences and Trainings
- Collaborations with other NCI/NIH Trainees

## iCURE Mentor – Scholar Network

- Mutual Matching of Outside Mentor
- Complements Research Experience
- Career and professional guidance
- Cultural and social support
- Peer mentorship

# Mentorship Through the iCURE Mentor – Scholar Network



# NIH Office of Intramural Training & Education (OITE)

*Helping trainees and fellows develop scientific, professional, well-being and resilience skills.*

- Responsible for all NIH intramural trainees
- Professional development
- Job fairs and other opportunities
- Individual and small group meetings
- Wellness and resilience
  - Becoming a Resilient Scientist
  - Mindfulness Meditation

https://www.training.nih.gov/

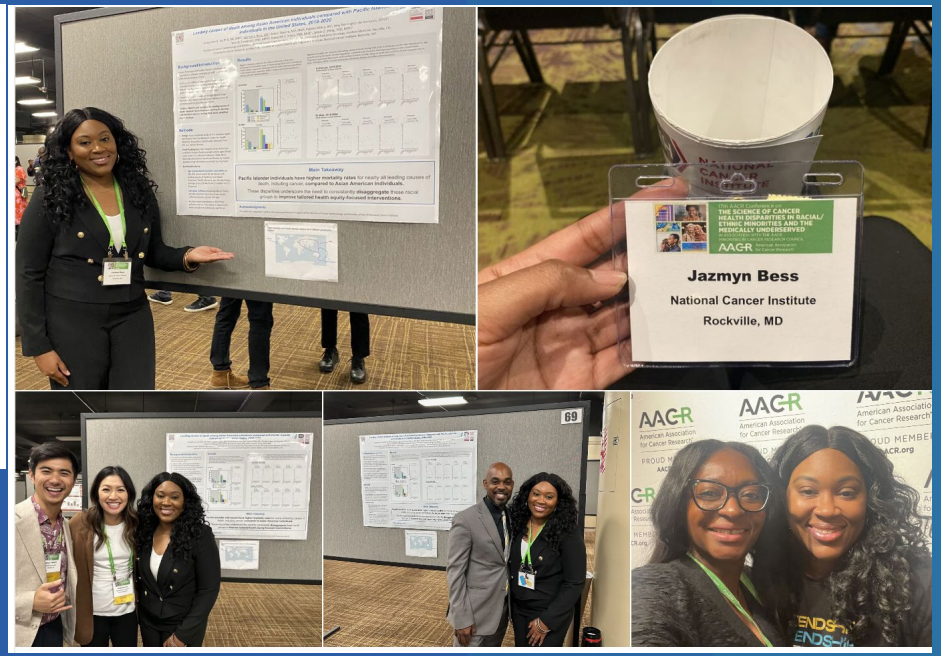
*But don’t take my word for it...*

**Jazmyn Bess**
Postbaccalaureate CRTA Fellow/iCURE Scholar
3d

So gateful for the opportunity to attend and present at the American Association for Cancer Research 17th Annual Health Disparities Conference in Los Angeles, CA this past week. Thank you Jacqueline Bui Vo Jaimie Shing, PhD, MPH for the opportunity and Paloma Mitra for constant support!

Had a amazing time connecting, learning, and growing! Thank you to the Intramural Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (iCURE) program for making this experience possible! Gregory Adams, Jr. MS PhD and Adana A.M. Llanos, PhD, MPH thank you for your constant support!

The fight to eradicate cancer disparities is far from over, let's keep pushing!



My experience in the iCURE program has been nothing short of spectacular. Very few programs take the holistic and hands-on approach embraced by the iCURE program. The iCURE team is tirelessly and relentlessly invested in the success of trainees. I appreciate the mission of the iCURE program, which provides its scholars with a truly immersive experience. By being an iCURE scholar you not only receive all that NIH offers trainees, but also the additional support of the iCURE leadership. This extra support is absolutely invaluable. It's really helpful knowing that there are so many people in your corner and rooting for you.

Sheryse Taylor, PhD
-ICURE alumni

# NCI's Commitment to Training and iCURE

https://www.cancer.gov/grants-training/nci-bottom-line-blog/2026/commitment-to-cancer-research-training

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## NCI Remains Committed to Cancer Research Training

Subscribe

January 13, 2026, by Sanya Springfield, Ph.D., Nastaran Zahir, Ph.D., Douglas Lowy, M.D., Nelson Aguila, D.V.M.

At NCI, we recognize that the discoveries that will redefine cancer research are already taking shape in the hands of today's trainees and early-stage investigators. By continuing to invest in their growth, we are cultivating the leaders and innovators who will chart the future of cancer research.

We are eager to start a new year. In 2026, NCI is strengthening our commitment to train the next generation of researchers and support a robust and skilled cancer research workforce. The future of cancer discovery is being shaped now, and it is our responsibility to ensure emerging talent is ready to lead it.

Cancer research training that supports everyone, from middle school students to established, independent scientists, is a fundamental pillar of

- NCI's Intramural Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (iCURE) program is for individual students and fellows to gain research experience at NCI. Now in its eighth year, a cohort of approximately 10 iCURE scholars, including postbaccalaureate fellows, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows selected through a competitive application process, spend a year conducting research alongside NCI experts at three NIH campuses in Maryland: Bethesda, Frederick, and Rockville.

# This could be you next year

# iCURE Application Cycle

# &

# How to Apply

# Applications must be submitted by February 16, 2026

Contact the team by emailing: *iCURE@nih.gov*
*Train at NCI: https://trainatnci.cancer.gov/*

# iCURE Eligibility

Must be a United States citizen, permanent resident, or non-citizen national*
*Non-citizen national describes individuals that are native to an American territorial possession and have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States. Please refer to the US Department of State for additional clarification.

**Post-baccalaureate (Incl. Post Master's)**

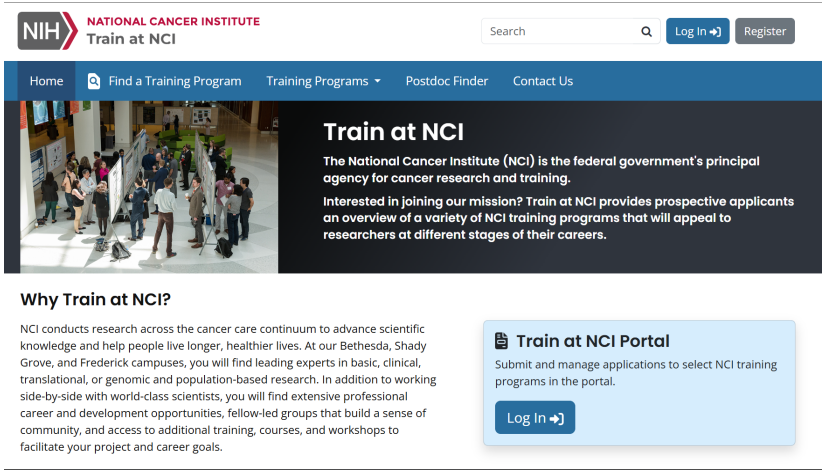
- College Grad within 3 yrs of beginning of program
- Or master's degree within six months of beginning of program
- Must be available for a 1-2 yr fellowship

**Postdoctoral Fellows**

- Must have a PhD, MD, or equivalent by proposed iCURE start time
- No more than 5 yrs of relevant research experience
- Must be available for a 3 yr fellowship

# Apply to iCURE – Application Process

- Check out iCURE on Train at NCI
- Review eligibility criteria
- Review Guidelines and *How to Apply*

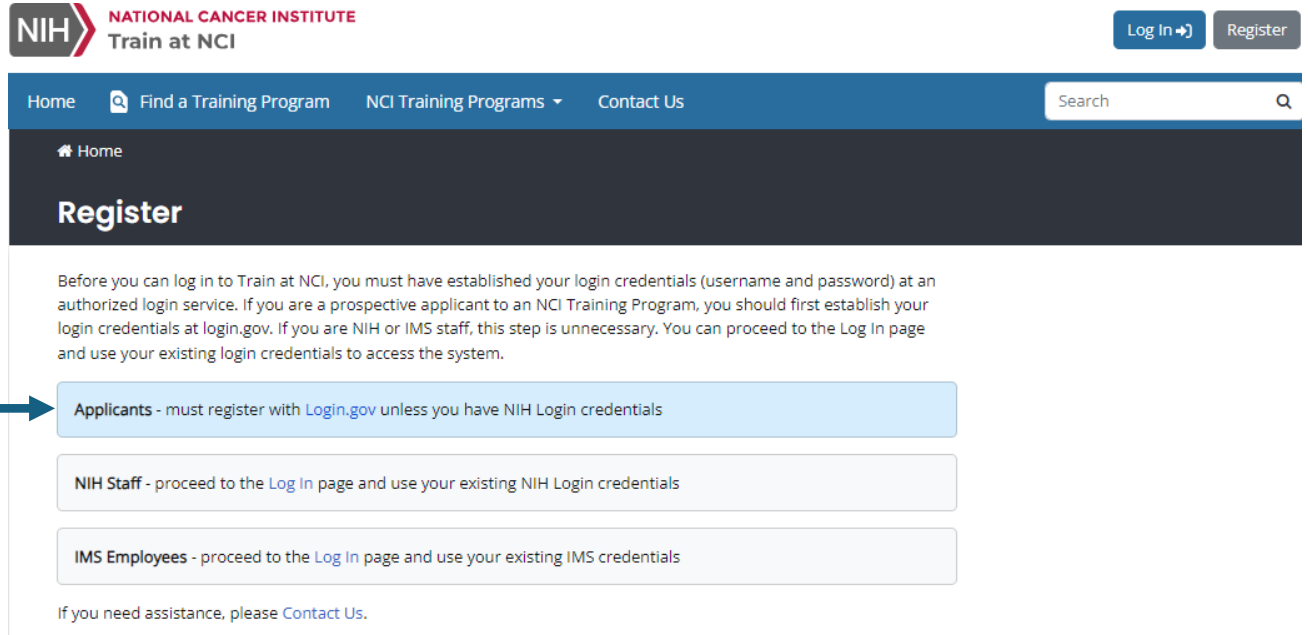


# How to Log into the System

# Applicant: Register

**A prospective applicant can begin by registering with Login.gov to obtain a username and password.**

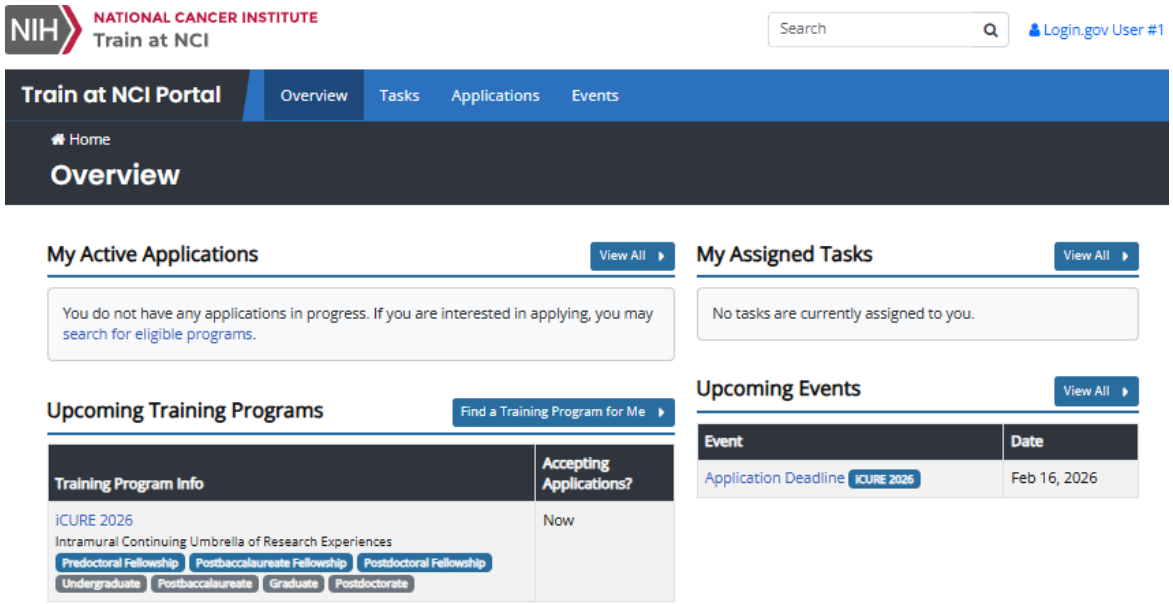
**CLICK HERE**



# Applicant: Choose training program

**After logging in, the prospective applicant can find an upcoming training program that is accepting applications.**

**CLICK on iCURE**



# Apply to iCURE – Application Information

- **Contact Information**: Name, Address, Contact information
- **Citizenship**
- **Demographics*:** Race, Ethnicity details. (Voluntary)

*This information **IS NOT** used to make funding decisions or assess applicant eligibility; all fields are voluntary

- **Education**: Degrees awarded or expected, including GPA information
- **Research Interests:** Must select at least 2, but no more than 5 research interests. These will be used to help investigators find your application.

# Apply to iCURE – Application Information

- **Application Type:** Post-Baccalaureate (including Post-Master's) or Postdoctoral Fellow
- **Are you currently funded by NCI or other NIH IRP funding?**
- **Do you have a family member employed at NCI/NIH?**
- **NIH Training:** Did you receive or are you receiving training at the NIH?
- **Do you want your application released to NCI Investigators?**
- **How did you hear about this opportunity?**

# Apply to iCURE – Supplemental Documents

- **Transcript**: A copy of your most recent (unofficial) transcript is required
- **Assurance Letter**: For postdoctoral applicants in an accredited doctoral program who have not fulfilled degree requirements. To assure that applicant will receive their degree by start of fellowship
- **Three Reference Letters** (Next Slide)
- **Curriculum Vitae or NIH Biosketch** (Details in following slides)

# Apply to iCURE – References

- Contact information for **three** references:
  - The program will email your references once you submit your application.
  - Important reminder – it's always a good idea to communicate with your references before listing them (ask if they will be able to provide a positive reference for you)

# Apply to iCURE – Curriculum Vitae (1/2)

- **Education**: Please list all colleges and universities attended and any other relevant training. Include dates attended, academic major, degree, year awarded/expected

- **Work Experience**: Please list current and past employment. Include position title, employer name, dates of employment and brief description of duties and accomplishments.

- **Bibliography**: Please list all publications and indicate whether they are "published", "in press", "submitted" or "in preparation". Please list full-length manuscripts and abstracts separately.

# Apply to iCURE – Curriculum Vitae (2/2)

Please note other items in CV as applicable:

- Board Certification
- Committee Memberships
- Grants Awarded or Pending
- Patents awarded or pending
- Peer-review service
- Professional licenses
- Professional society memberships
- Scientific presentations (separate oral and poster presentations)
- Teaching experience

NIH Biosketch format is also acceptable.

# Apply to iCURE – Personal Statement

- Answer **each** of the following questions.

1. **Research Interest:** Describe your interest in cancer research. Discuss how your experiences and background have influenced your research interests. Please include examples of your motivation, excitement, and drive for research. (250 words or less)

2. **Short Term Goals:** In the next 2-3 years what do you expect to accomplish; how will training at NCI help you with your immediate career goals? (250 words or less)

3. **Long Term Goals:** Where do you see your career in 5-10 years? How will being an iCURE scholar help you fulfill your goals? (250 words or less)

# 2026 Timeline and Contact Information

**Applications must be submitted by February 16, 2026**

Contact the team by emailing: *iCURE@nih.gov*
Webpage: https://trainatnci.cancer.gov/programs/icure/

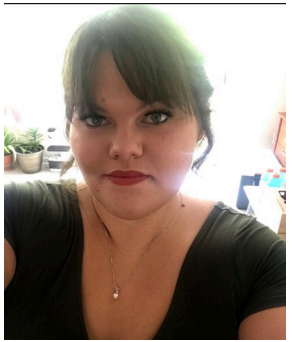
# iCURE Program Team

## iCURE@nih.gov

Dr. Jessica Calzola

Dr. Gregory Adams, Jr.

Dr. Shadab Hussain



Mrs. Katelyn Garfinkel

*Thank You.*
*QUESTIONS?*

Contact*: iCURE@nih.gov*

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