

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

October 20, 2026

Housekeeping

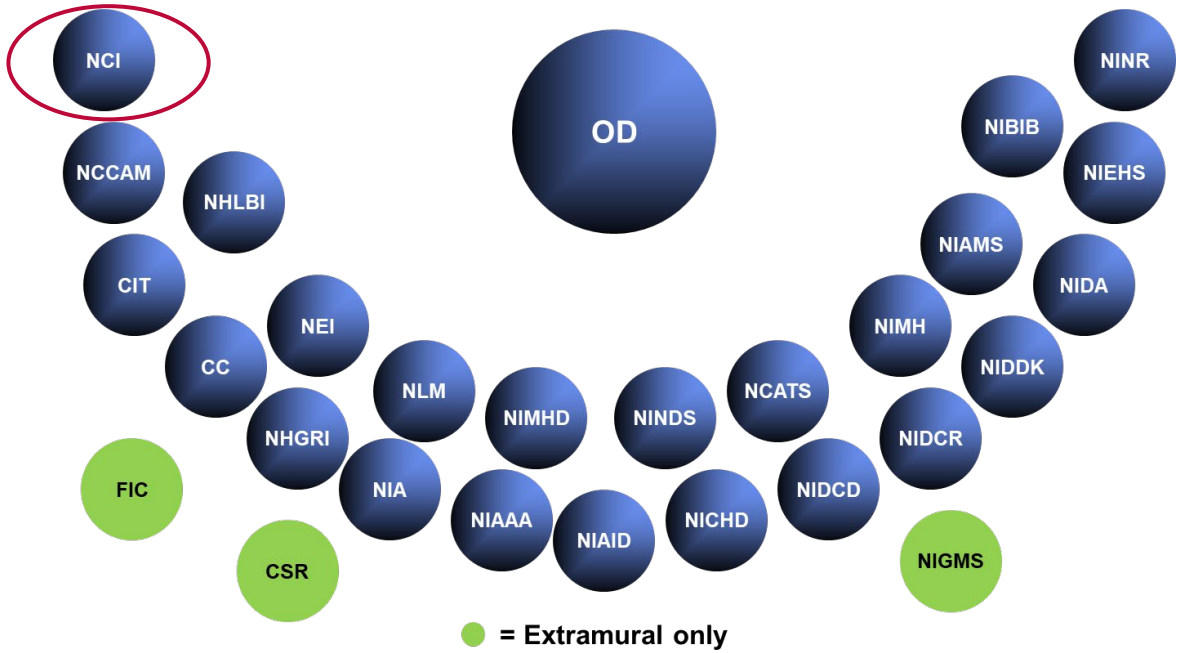
1. Webinar will be recorded and posted
2. Submit questions in chat
3. Closed captioning available
4. For audio/visual support:
    - Direct message Thomas Howe

Goals

1. Become oriented with NCI and iCURE
2. Understand iCURE Program Expectations and Experiences
3. Learn how to apply to iCURE 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

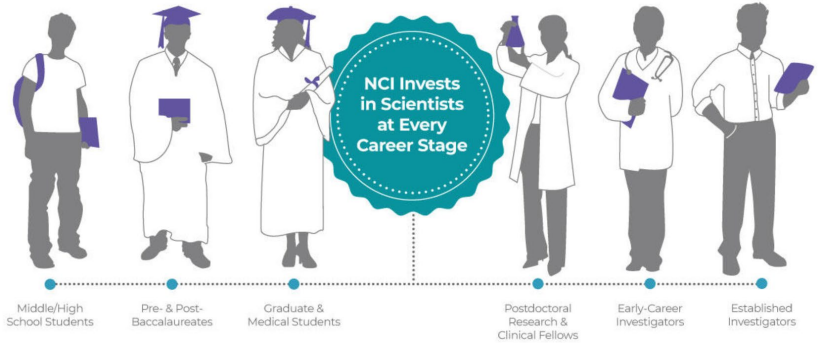
Organization:

- **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's Commitment to Training and iCURE

NIH NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

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Home › Grants & Training › NCI Bottom Line Blog › NCI Remains Committed to Cancer Research Training

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



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

NCI Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (CRCHD)

CRCHD was established in 2001 and has since led NCI efforts to address the unequal burden of cancer in the US. CRCHD works on reducing cancer health disparities by focusing on **cancer and health disparities research**, **community outreach and engagement**, and **workforce excellence and capacity building**.







Intramural Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (iCURE)

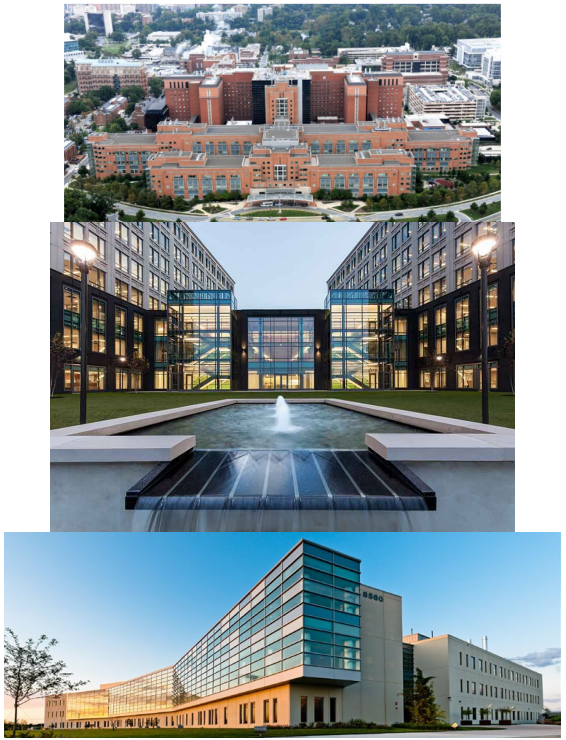
iCURE Goals:

- 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 any of the 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) 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

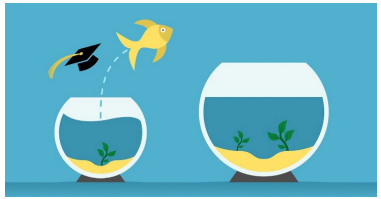
iCURE Support Benefits Package for Research Experiences

- 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

*Note: Relocation allowance will be reimbursed in first stipend



Career Advancement Goals for iCURE Scholars



Graduate Students: up to 2 yrs of support

Acquire PhD, publish, transition to postdoc, industry or investigator



PB

GS

PD

Postbac/Post Masters: up to 2 yrs of support

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



Postdoctoral Fellows: up to 3 yrs of support

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

*Note: Continuous opportunities, after the one year, as an iCURE scholar are contingent on various factors

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
- Outreach and Community Gatherings

Cancer Research

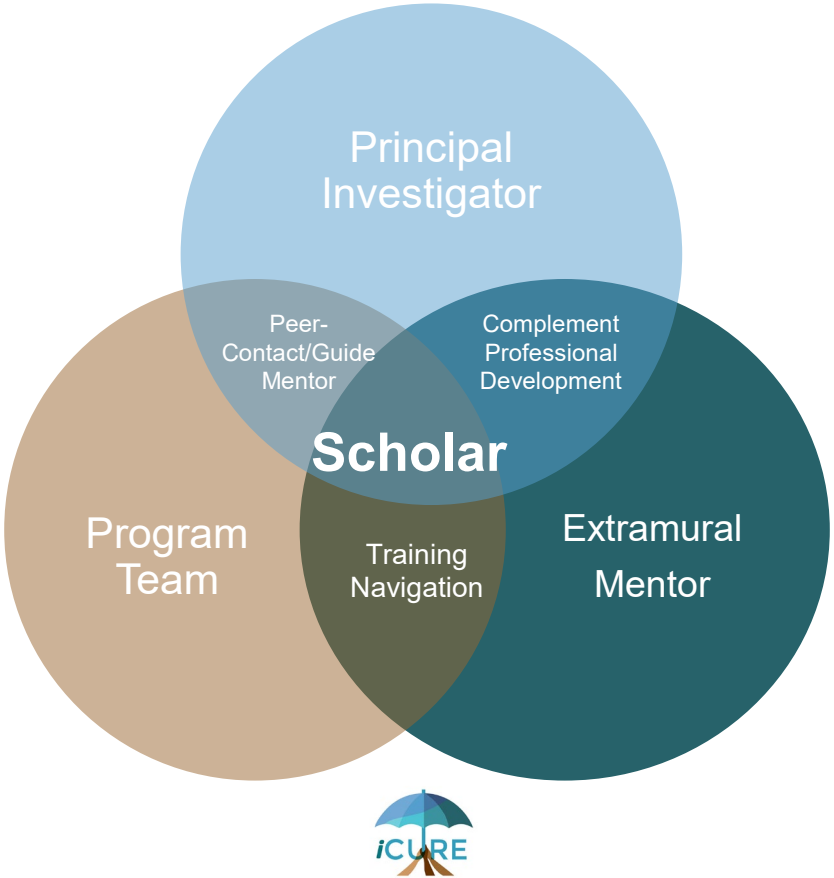
Professional Development Activities

- Lunch and Learns
- Networking and Professional Presence
- Career Exploration
- Scientific Communication

iCURE Mentor – Scholar Partnership Network

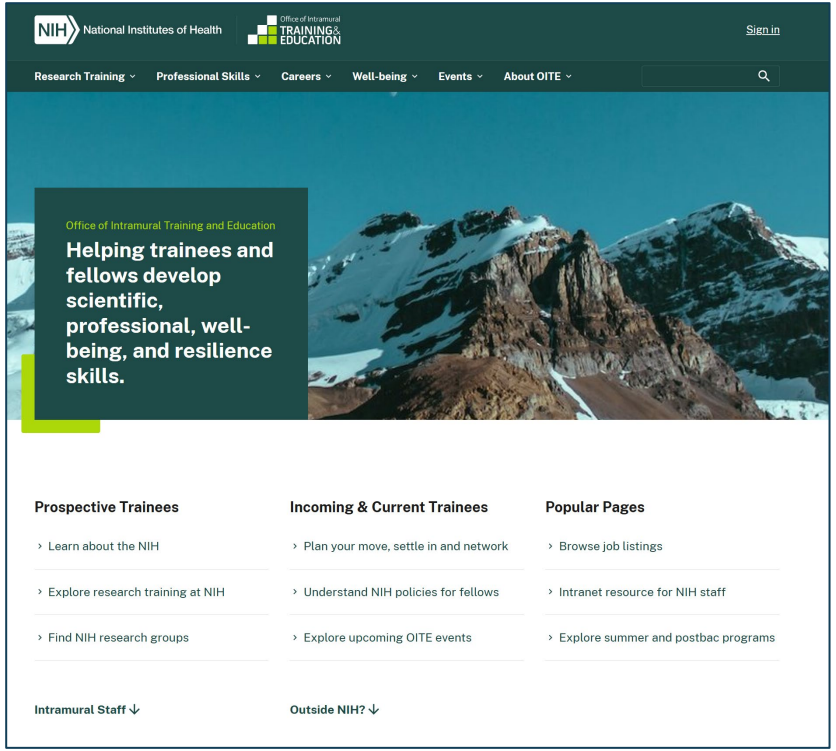
- Mutual Matching of Extramural Mentor
- Complement Research Experience
- Career and professional guidance
- Cultural and social support
- Peer mentorship

Mentorship Through the iCURE Mentor – Scholar Network



NIH Office of Intramural Training & Education (OITE)

- Responsible for all NIH intramural trainees
- Professional development
- Wellness and resilience
- Job fairs and other opportunities
- Individual and small group meetings
- https://www.training.nih.gov/



But don’t take my word for it...



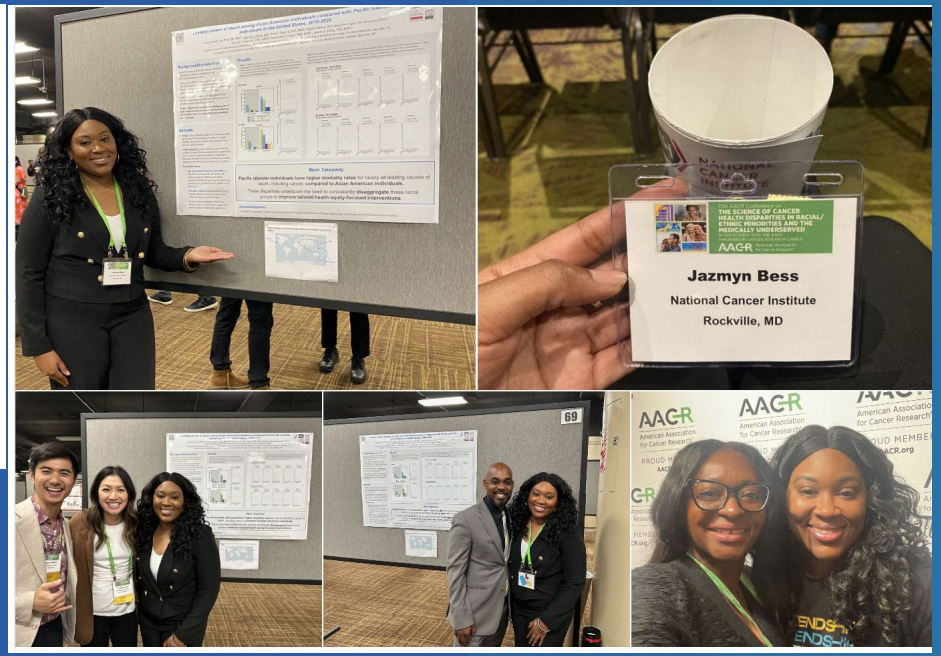
"One of my favorite things about the iCURE program is their sense of community. From directors, assistants, secretaries, and the whole iCURE is very involved in your journey from professionally to personally. "- Valeria A. Gerena González, iCURE Alumni

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

This could be you next year

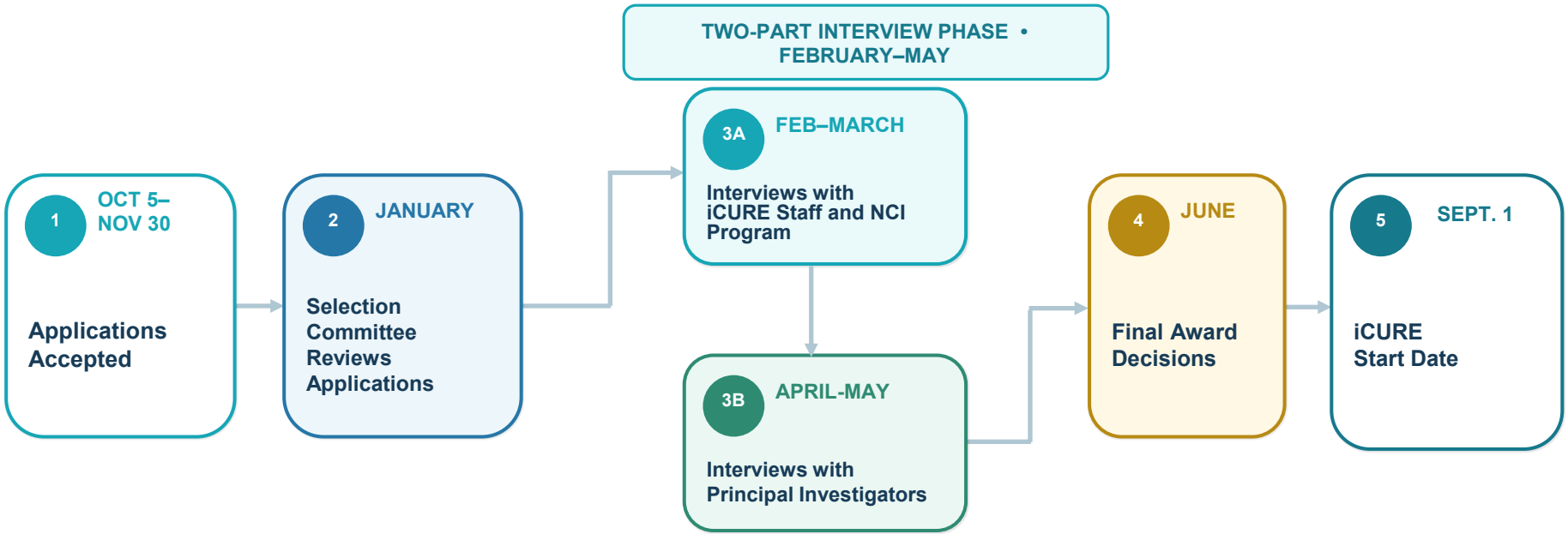


iCURE Application Cycle

&

How to Apply

iCURE Program Timeline



Candidates complete both interview types before final award decisions.

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 Graduate 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

Graduate Students

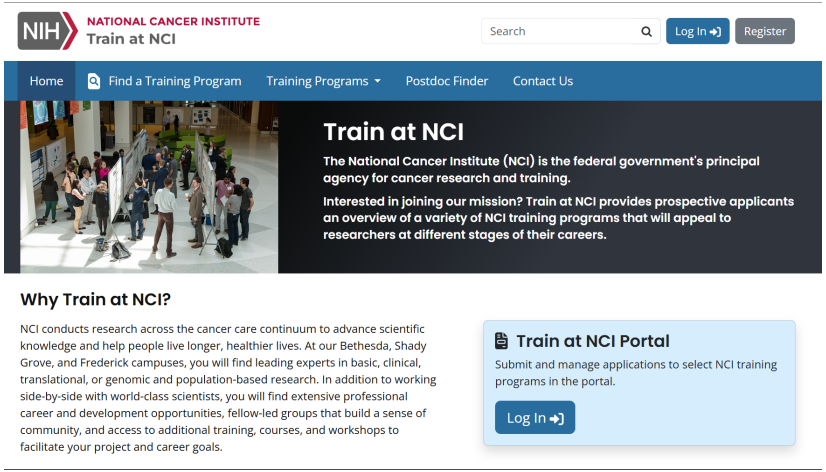
- Must currently be enrolled in a PhD or equivalent graduate program
- Must be a candidate for PhD or equivalent by proposed iCURE start time
- Must be available for a 2-yr fellowship

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*

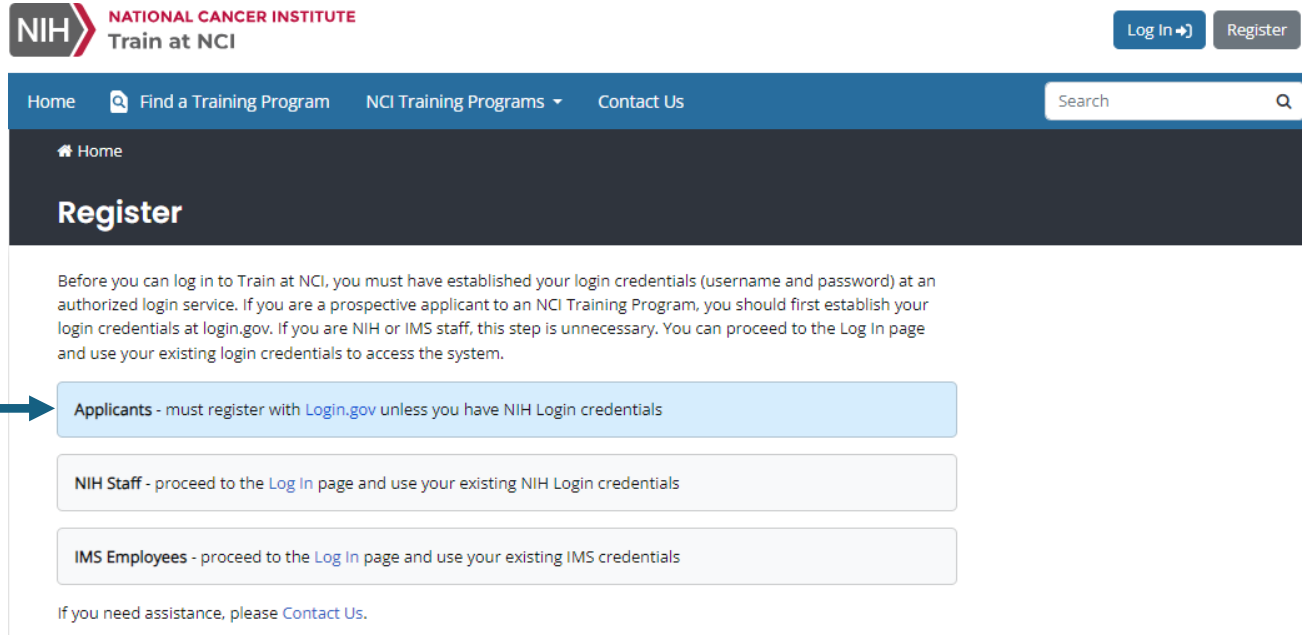


How to Log into the System

Applicant: Register

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

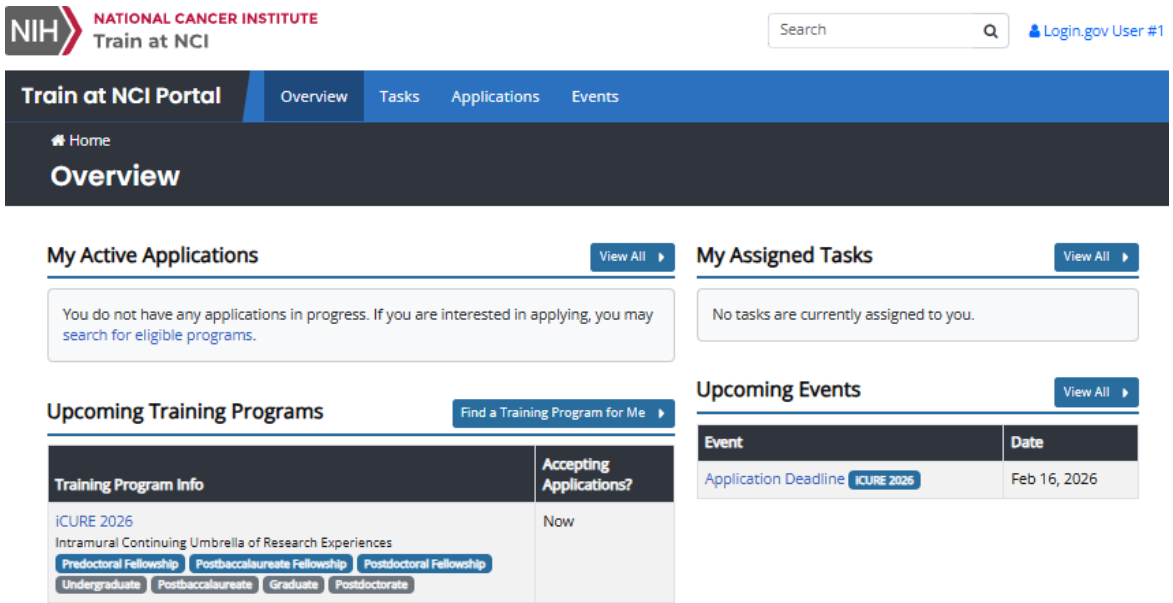
CLICK HERE



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), Graduate Student, Postdoctoral Fellow → *What are you applying to be…not what you currently are.*
- **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
  - *For graduate student applicants:* The letter should confirm that they are expected to complete all requirements for doctoral candidacy before the start of the program but not later than September 2027
- **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)
  - All reference letter are due by December 7th.

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)

Applications must be submitted by November 30, 2026



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

iCURE Program Team

iCURE@nih.gov



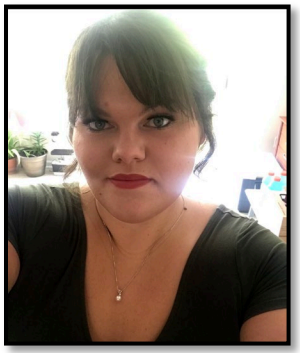
Dr. Jessica Calzola



Dr. Gregory Adams, Jr.



Dr. Shadab Hussain



Mrs. Katelyn Garfinkel

Thank You.
QUESTIONS?

Contact*: iCURE@nih.gov*



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