

NIH Director's Independent Fellows Program

- **Issues:**

- ↑ Increasing length of scientific training period
- ↑ Increasing age of scientific independence

- **Opportunity:**

- ↓ Reducing the length of the training period for **EXCEPTIONAL**, early career scientists by providing a mechanism to “skip the post-doc”
- ↓ Reducing age of scientific independence

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■ Learning from Successful Academic Models:

- Carnegie Institution Staff Associate Program
- Whitehead Fellows Program
- Lewis-Sigler Fellows at Princeton
- UCSF Fellows Program
- McKnight Fellowships in Biomedical Research
- Janelia Farm Fellows

■ Extramural Input: May 3, 2010 Workshop

- Administrators of existing academic programs
- Senior Investigators from other academic institutions
- Current and Past Fellows of Existing Programs

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■ Proposal:

- Establish NIH Director's Independent Fellows Program
- **Institutional** Awards to support Independent Fellows
 - Each institution to recruit its own fellows
 - The institution is expected to provide significant support for its fellows, with NIH funds off-setting the costs
- Each Fellow to be provided
 - A local scientific culture committed to their success
 - Dedicated laboratory space
 - 1-2 technical support staff
 - Lab supplies, necessary equipment, and other costs
 - Protected time.