

Call for Application for the CPRIT BIG-TCR Predoctoral Fellowship in Cancer Research

Dear predoctoral trainees and colleagues:

The UTHealth Houston program, “Biomedical Informatics, Genomics and Translational Cancer Research Training Program (BIG-TCR)”, is a CPRIT funded training program directed by Dr. Zhongming Zhao of McWilliams School of Biomedical Informatics. Please visit our website <https://www.uth.edu/big-tcr/index.htm> for more information about our BIG-TCR training program. The predoctoral fellowship application is now open for calendar year 2026. Our mission is to provide a highly interactive, innovative, and interdisciplinary training environment to train the next-generation researchers and leaders in the field of cancer research, by leveraging UTHealth’s top research programs in cancer biology, stem cell biology, pharmacology and drug discovery, genomics and other omics, data science and artificial intelligence, clinical informatics, and translational medicine.

Eligibility:

To apply to this fellowship, applicants must:

- be citizens or permanent residents of the United States, or international trainees holding a valid visa for the duration of the fellowship in the UTHealth Houston;
- be full-time enrolled in one of the six UTHealth Houston schools;
- live and work in Texas during the fellowship period;
- have already completed the first-year rotation and joined a UTHealth Houston affiliated laboratory, and have a research program related to cancer.

Program benefits and duration:

- \$32,000 stipend plus tuition and student health insurance;
- \$1,000 travel expenses for presentations at national meetings;
- BIG-TCR predoctoral fellows will be appointed for one year with the possibility of renewal, pending evaluation of academic and research progress, and active engagement in the BIG-TCR Training Program.

BIG-TCR Mentorship:

- To meet the interdisciplinary competency of BIG-TCR training program, applicants supervised by a current primary mentor must find another mentor from their complementary fields (e.g., trainees in the TCR area needs to find a co-mentor in the BIG area, and *vice versa*);
- Primary mentors must be tenured/tenure-track faculty affiliated with UTHealth Houston;
- Primary mentorship is limited to one predoctoral trainee per faculty for each funding announcement cycle. Faculty can be co-mentors for more than one trainee.

Application forms can be found at the BIG-TCR [Predoctoral Fellowship page](#) (“Application Information” section). **All application materials, including application form, *curriculum vitae*, academic transcripts, and letters of recommendation must be sent to**

BIG.TCR@uth.tmc.edu before 11:59 pm, October 16, 2026. The selected candidates will be notified of their interview schedule in **5 to 10 business days following the submission deadline**. A detailed interview procedure will be included in the letter of notification. Both the primary and co-mentors are welcome to participate in their trainees’ interview.

You may use Microsoft Word to prepare the application materials, but all materials sent to the BIG-TCR email must be in PDF format. Please share and spread this program announcement to your colleagues and potential candidates.