Brenden-Colson Center for
PANCREATIC CARE

OHSU

Norton Fellowship in the Pancreatic Translational Sciences

Pancreatic Surgeon Research Training Fellowship

The Norton Fellowship in the Pancreatic Translational Sciences is offered by the Brenden-Colson Center for Pancreatic Care (BCCPC) at OHSU. The purpose of this two-year research fellowship is to train general surgery residents in translational research focusing on diseases that involve the pancreas. We envision this opportunity to be most advantageous for general surgery residents as their dedicated research experience after completion of their second or third year of clinical training. We will also consider qualified applicants later in their residency or career trajectory. We anticipate a goal-oriented basic and translational training experience focused on pancreatic disease biology and treatment that results in the trainee producing at least one first-author laboratory-based publication while participating in robust didactic and scientific training.

This fellowship was established to honor Jeff Norton, MD, and his legacy as a mentor and surgical scientist.

For surgeon-scientists, the path to establishing an independent research effort and acquiring funding remains precarious. The goal of this program is to assist in the career maturation of surgeon-scientists by facilitating success at the inflection point of their scientific career. Frequently surgery residents interested in a career as a surgeon-scientist are required to design an individual *ad hoc* research experience, complicating an already challenging and competitive training pipeline.

By providing a structured training framework that recognizes the needs and challenges of the developing surgeon-scientist we aim to put them in a position that is poised for success and funding as an independent investigator. The research fellow will select one of the participating Principal Investigators (PIs) at OHSU that focuses on pancreatic diseases. The PI will guide the research fellow into developing their own project at the outset with the goal of their mentored relationship continuing through the completion of clinical training and beyond.

FY24 Award Opportunities:

- Up to one, 2-year fellowship will be awarded each year providing salary equivalent to the matched resident year with addition of fringe benefits.
- BCCPC will also provide relocation cost support up to $10,000 or 10% of salary whichever is lower.
- Fellowship period will begin August 1st, 2027.
- These funds are made possible through philanthropic support to the Brenden-Colson Center for Pancreatic Care.

Eligibility:

- This award is intended to foster the growth of surgeon scientists in the field of pancreatic translational research.
- Applicants must have a medical doctoral degree (MD or DO).
- Eligibility is limited to medical trainees who are enrolled in an accredited general surgery residency position in the United States and will have completed at least two years of clinical training by the proposed start date.
- Candidates who have accepted another concurrent research fellowship or position are not eligible.

Mentorship:

- The applicant will be mentored by an OHSU faculty member who is established in pancreatic biology, pathology, cancer or its treatment.
- Available mentors and a brief description of their research programs are below:
- **Rosalie Sears, PhD**: Dr. Sears leads a program dedicated to understanding how oncogenic stress pathways can be exploited to improve therapeutic response. Trainees gain deep exposure to translational signal-target discovery, including how to move molecular insights toward actionable interventions. Her group provides a high-level environment for learning how to translate complex tumor biology into therapeutic strategy.
- **Jonathan Brody, PhD**: Dr. Brody focuses on identifying vulnerabilities in treatment-resistant solid tumors and developing strategies to overcome them. Fellows engage directly with functional genomics, therapeutic-response modeling, and approaches to bridge laboratory findings with future clinical application. The training emphasizes how to design rigorously translatable research aimed at improving patient outcomes.

- **Robert Eil, MD**: Dr. Eil's program centers on advancing next-generation cellular, immunologic, and metabolic therapies for solid tumors. Trainees learn how to design and evaluate therapeutic engineering strategies, integrate in vivo models with mechanistic readouts, and build concepts that can mature into future clinical trials. The environment is tailored for residents aspiring to develop independence in translational immunotherapy research.
- **Aaron Grossberg, MD, PhD**: Dr. Grossberg investigates how whole-body physiology and tumor–host interactions shape therapeutic efficacy. Fellows gain experience in metabolic phenotyping, imaging-based assessment, and developing intervention strategies that account for systemic biology. The training emphasizes how to frame translational questions that consider not only the tumor but the patient as an integrated biological system.
- **Katelyn Byrne, PhD**: Dr. Byrne's research focuses on dissecting immune barriers to effective therapy and identifying points of leverage to enhance antitumor responses. Trainees work with advanced immune-profiling platforms and mechanistic models that inform rational combination therapies. Her group provides a strong foundation in translating immune insights into therapeutic designs.
- **Teresa Zimmer, PhD**: Dr. Zimmer studies how neural circuits influence tumor behavior, treatment response, and symptom biology. Fellows gain exposure to cutting-edge neuro–tumor interaction models and approaches that link mechanistic discovery with therapeutic innovation. Her lab offers a unique vantage point on how understudied physiologic systems can be harnessed for new treatment strategies.
- The mentor is responsible for aiding in the development of the applicant's knowledge of pancreatic biology and disease and assisting with the design/development of the applicant's research project.

Key Dates: Application deadline: Application deadline: **September 1, 2026**; Award start: August 1, 2027

For questions please contact Dr. Dove Keith at (503) 346-4782. Applications should be submitted the BCCPC at brendencolsoninfo@ohsu.edu.

A. Application Requirements

- Title page **(1 page)**. Include applicant name and contact information, potential OHSU mentor if known, title of research project, and brief summaries of proposed project and training plans. Include the names of the three referees, see below.

- Research Goals, training plan, and personal statement (**3 pages**). Please fully address the following:
  - What research goals do you aim to accomplish?
  - How will these stated goals materially contribute to any of the three mission areas for pancreatic disease of the Brenden-Colson Center (Early Detection, Advanced Therapy, and Quality of Life)?
  - Explain how the Brenden-Colson Center and OHSU is an appropriate environment to help you realize your stated goals.
  - Describe how your background will enable you to accomplish these goals or how your background helped you develop these goals.
  - Include a detailed training plan. Describe the specific training or education that you plan to pursue during the fellowship. Explain how these new areas of training and exposure will complement your prior area(s) of expertise and how these new areas of training will enable you to reach your research goals and further your pancreatic translational research career. Should include basic science or population science research training.
  - Describe any portion of the research or training that will be performed at an outside university, hospital, or research institution.
  - Include a timeline with milestones (e.g., for training goals) and deliverables (e.g., for research project goals) (does not count against the 3-page limit).Literature Cited (does not count against the 3-page limit)
  - Lay summary with impact statement (½ page, does not count against the 3-page limit)

- Biographical Sketch for applicant

  If possible, use the most recent version of the NIH "Biographical Sketch Format Page" (non-fellowship version).

- References for Letters of Support

  Applicants should request three (3) letters of recommendation to be sent directly to brendencolsoninfo@ohsu.edu. These should be from previous mentors or others with the ability to comment on the applicant's background and potential to take advantage of the opportunities offered in this fellowship and to grow into an outstanding researcher in the field of pancreas biology. Applicants should include the name of the three referees on the application title page.

B. Format Specifications

- Use Arial 11-point font, single-spaced.
- Use 3/4-inch (0.5") margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages.
- Consecutively number pages.

Figures, Graphs, Diagrams, Charts, Tables, Figure Legends, and Footnotes

- You may use a smaller type size, but it must be in black ink and readily legible.
- Do not include figures or other materials that are not inserted directly into the body of the application.

C. Awardee Responsibilities

- Fellows are expected to commit 100% of their research effort, including topics of submitted grants, to studies of pancreatic disease.
- Fellows are expected to have submitted at least one research paper manuscript for publication in an appropriate journal by the end of the fellowship period.
- All fellows are expected to attend the following events: Knight Cancer Institute Basic & Translational Science seminar series (weekly on Monday), Brenden-Colson Center seminar series (monthly on 2nd Friday), and other BCC pancreas science meetings or conferences, and to participate in their mentor's lab meetings.
- An interim progress report briefly listing completed steps or milestones (must address initial proposed milestones), any roadblocks encountered, and work remaining. This report is due 6 months after award start date. You may be asked to present the interim progress report at a Brenden-Colson Center research meeting (e.g. monthly seminar, PancTank mini-retreat, etc.).
- A summary report describing project and training accomplishments (research project progress and training) must be submitted at the end of each fellowship year. This should include publications progress, grant

applications (applied and funded), INDs or IDEs resulting from the project, and plans to further develop the project.

- Results from funded studies must be presented at a Brenden-Colson Center research meeting.
- Any publications or presentations resulting from this support must acknowledge the BCCPC fellowship. If applicable, the Oregon Pancreas Tissue Registry must also be acknowledged if the project used data or specimens from the registry.
- IRB and/or IACUC approval, if applicable, are required prior to release of funds.
- Travel funds are not included as part of this fellowship, but awardees can apply for travel awards from BCCPC to present their work at a scientific conference.
- Fellows seeking a second year of funding will need to submit a full application for competitive renewal.