Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to make you aware of a funding opportunity specifically designed to facilitate the training of surgical residents in basic immunobiology. The Advanced Immunobiology Training Program (AITP) at Duke University has been created and funded to bolster the pipeline of surgeon-scientists who are capable of participating in and leading surgically relevant areas of immunobiological research. As you know, immunobiology has become increasingly relevant to surgical practice, influencing diverse disciplines including oncology, inflammatory bowel disease, transplantation, trauma and critical care. Although the importance of immune manipulation has become an evident adjunct to surgical practice, surgical training neither includes advanced immunology nor prepares surgeon-scientists to participate in immune-related research.

This new T32 training program combines the substantial academic rigor of the Duke University School of Medicine with the Duke Department of Surgery’s longstanding and highly successful commitment to training the next generation of surgical researchers. The program is co-directed by Allan Kirk (an academic surgeon) and Kent Weinhold, PhD (a basic sciences researcher), each with expertise in immunology and experience in training surgical resident. Supplemented by mentors with expertise in basic, translational, and clinical research, this team is focused on merging basic and applied immunobiology with evolving surgical practice.

The program seeks potential participants who have completed medical school and already initiated surgical residency. **We have one position available beginning this summer.** Based on individual development plans, the trainee will choose to participate in either a two- or three-year training program, with opportunities to complete a Master of Health Sciences degree in Clinical Research, or pursue a PhD in Immunology. Trainees will select a primary mentor from a highly experienced and diverse group of 16 basic, translational or clinical immunobiological researchers. Guided by their mentor, they will follow a structured didactic curriculum that will transition to a mentored research experience. A robust research infrastructure and substantial departmental resources will support the students, facilitating their conduct and publication of original investigations with complete protection from clinical service. Specific instruction in immunological investigation will be provided, as will mentorship in scientific writing, publication, ethics and clinical time management.

If you have trainees who are seeking an in-depth emersion into immunobiological training, with the goal of an academic surgical career in transplantation, oncology, trauma, critical care or inflammatory bowel disease, or if you would like to learn more about this program, I would be happy to speak with you/them and provide more information.

Feel free to contact us for additional information:
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Sincerely,

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