2022 Grillo-Marxuach Family Fellowship at Moores Cancer Center (MCC)
UC San Diego (UC San Diego Health)

APPLICATION WINDOW:
Open date: January 14, 2022
Final date: March 1, 2022 at 5:00pm (Pacific Time)
Applications will continue to be accepted until this date. Those received after the review date will only be considered if the position has not yet been filled.

BACKGROUND:
The Grillo-Marxuach Family has established a Family Fellowship Fund to be awarded for a translational cancer research postdoctoral fellowship – named the Grillo-Marxuach Family Fellowship – at Moores Cancer Center at UC San Diego Health every three years. This opportunity is contingent on available funds, availability of qualified candidates, and other considerations as described below. Ideal candidates will show a strong desire and commitment to conduct translational cancer research and to complete a body of work to be documented (ideally as first author) in one or more publications in scientific journals.

The Grillo-Marxuach Family has been awarding Fellowships/Scholarships for over 25 years. The Family currently funds 32 scholarships, including at UC Berkeley, Harvard, UC San Diego, University of Southern California, University of San Diego, Preuss School UCSD, Sacred Heart University in Puerto Rico, University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine, Carnegie Mellon, Cornell University, and other institutions. Graduates retain the title “Grillo-Marxuach Family Fellow/Scholar” in perpetuity. The Family believes that, as stated by Nelson Mandela, “Education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world.”

PURPOSE:
The purpose of the Grillo-Marxuach Family Fellowship at UC San Diego Moores Cancer is to attract and further the potential of talented individuals who hold either a PhD or MD degree (granted within the past 1 year) to advance translational cancer research, ideally leading to new therapeutic endpoints to benefit patients.

Qualified candidates will hold a PhD or MD degree (granted within the past 1 year), meet all requirements to work at UC San Diego Health, and show a desire and commitment to conduct translational cancer research and to complete a body of work ideally to be documented (as first author) in one or more publications in scientific journals. The Grillo-Marxuach Family Fellowship awards are intended for full-time research. The Fellows must devote their time and effort for research activities and fellows are not allowed to pursue additional degrees over the course of their fellowship. Applications for the Fellowship will be submitted through and processed via the mechanism established at Moores Cancer Center.

Priority will be given to applicants who show a desire and commitment to conduct translational cancer research and who exhibit a high likelihood of producing work that will lead to extramural research funding, provide new approaches to important scientific, clinical or population/community challenges, or offer a clear route to therapeutic endpoints based on translation of scientific discoveries (i.e., the degree to which the studies will have a positive therapeutic impact on the detection, treatment or prevention of cancer or pre-cancer).
ELIGIBILITY RULES:
- Currently residing in the continental U.S. or Puerto Rico
- U.S. citizen
- Proof of Graduation from an MD or PhD accredited degree-granting institution within the past 1 year
- Meet the requirements to work at UC San Diego Health

FELLOWSHIP STIPEND AND STIPULATIONS:
- Activate the fellowship between May 2, 2022 and June 2, 2022.
- The Fellow will be awarded a stipend of $55,000.00 that will be renewable annually (see requirements for renewal) for a total of three years.
- The stipend will be used solely for the salary of the Fellow. No deductions are allowed for benefits, departmental or institutional overhead.
- Supplementation of the Fellow’s stipend is allowed from either the institution or sponsor’s grants, but not by any other named fellowship award.
- Fellows cannot concurrently hold a fellowship from another source or a federally funded career development award. Other income will not preclude favorable consideration.
- The Fellow’s total compensation, including the Fellowship Stipend, should not exceed the level of support for other professionals at the same level of training in the institution, using NIH post-doctoral salary scales.
- Grillo-Marxuach Family Fellowship awards are intended for full-time research. The Fellows must devote their time and effort to cancer research activities. Any other activities should be disclosed to the Grillo-Marxuach Family Fellowship Committee for consideration and non-objection.
- Fellows are not allowed to pursue additional degrees during the course of their fellowship.
- It is intended for the Fellow to participate in the program for the full three-year term. At a minimum, the fellow must complete at least the first year of the fellowship before terminating.
- If the Fellowship is terminated during its annual funding cycle, MCC and the Grillo-Marxuach Family Fellowship Committee must be notified immediately. A final progress report must be submitted at this time including a statement as to whether or not an invention disclosure and/or a patent application has been filed. Payment of the stipend will cease immediately.
- Should the Fellow, voluntarily or involuntarily, leave the institution for any reason whatsoever payment of the stipend will cease immediately.

*** If you have any questions about your eligibility or the rules of this Fellowship, please contact Amy Spilkin, PhD at aspilkin@health.ucsd.edu ***

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:
A. Application Form in which complete contact and eligibility information is provided.
B. Current CV that includes the following sections: EDUCATION, ADDITIONAL TRAINING EXPERIENCE, HONORS, EMPLOYMENT HISTORY, MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL AND/OR MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS, PUBLICATIONS, SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS
C. Personal Statement / Proposal – an open-ended document (not to exceed 3 pages; minimum of 11pt font and ½ inch margins) in the form of an essay which may take any form/style that you choose, but it MUST cover each of the following elements:
   1. Your interests in cancer research, and a description of all current and past research and clinical activities related to cancer research, research experiences that have been impactful and why
   2. For those who have previously conducted research, the name of your mentor for that work and how your area of interest/expertise relates to your mentor’s work
   3. A description of your proposed aims, hypotheses, and a brief overview of proposed methods for your research if you receive this award. If you do not have a developed
research plan, describe the research questions you are interested in answering during the fellowship and how you plan to pursue these with the mentor you have identified.

4. Strengths and limitations of your training to date and how you will address the gaps during your fellowship training; include new technical and conceptual approaches the training will offer.

5. A brief mentor-mentee training plan (developed with your proposed mentor); also include attendance at any lab/group meetings, career development activities, and the frequency of planned mentor-mentee meetings.

6. Career goals in cancer research and how the proposed training and research plans align with these goals; a specific description of how this fellowship will facilitate your transition to becoming an independent investigator with a future career in cancer research or academic medicine.

D. Letters of Reference – Two to three letters of reference. One of these individuals must be the program director of your current (or most recent) training program. The letters should address character, motivation, maturity, general knowledge, ability to use research techniques, originality, specialized experience, training, and applicant’s demonstration of social responsibility and a high level of integrity. Please request a letter from each of your references using the template provided in the application. For Section D of your application, for administrative purposes, please provide a list of contact information (name, academic title, mailing address, email, telephone) for these individuals who will be providing a reference.

E. Letter of Mentorship Commitment – The proposed mentor must provide a Letter of Commitment including the below points. The Mentor Letter is to be uploaded with your application.

1. A willingness to provide mentorship as described in the mentor-mentee training plan in the Personal Statement/Proposal.
2. Source of any additional funding for the proposed research.
3. Adequacy of your training plan to address any gaps in prior training and further suggestions to address these, as necessary.

All applications must be submitted (in single pdf format) electronically via the MCC web-based application system called WebGAAS: http://moores.ucsd.edu/Admin/grants-in-aid.asp. The Application Form is located in this portal and MUST be used. Once an application is submitted electronically via WebGAAS, it cannot be changed. The deadline is 5:00pm (Pacific Time), TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022. The earliest fellowship starting date is May 2, 2022. Should you have any questions about the application process, please contact Amy Spilkin, PhD at aspilkin@health.ucsd.edu

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

- The originality and the scientific and medical importance of the proposed research.
- The relevance of the research for the treatment, prevention and/or cure for human cancers.
- The quality of the proposed Training Plan.
- The accomplishments of the candidate as demonstrated in peer-reviewed publications and letters of recommendation.
- The commitment of the candidate to a career in cancer research.
- The mentoring plan and commitment of the mentor to provide a strong and positive mentorship experience to the Fellow and support their career development; the accomplishments of the mentor in the candidate’s field of inquiry.

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCEDURE:
Applications for the postdoctoral fellowship will be processed via the review mechanism established by the UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center (MCC). The MCC will review, rank, and determine the top three applicants and provide certain de-identified, unranked information about the top three applicants’
research proposals to the Grillo-Marxuach Family (Family). The Family may review and provide input on the applications to the Director of MCC. The Family acknowledges and agrees that, in providing the application information to the Family, MCC must adhere to applicable law as well as any and all University of California and UC San Diego policies and procedures regarding the privacy of current and prospective UC San Diego employees. The Family further acknowledges and agrees that the MCC Director, in conjunction with MCC’s Executive Committee, will render the final decision on the fellow to be funded in accordance with applicable UC San Diego employment and academic standards.

PROGRESS REPORTING AND CITATION REQUIREMENTS:
The funded Grillo-Marxuach Family Fellow is expected to:

- Submit a written interim six-month progress report, a yearly progress report and a comprehensive report on all research completed before the end of the third year, along with a complete listing of all presentations, abstracts, posters, publications or submissions (provide pdf copy); a listing of all awards and recognitions; all intellectual property disclosures filed with the institution’s technology transfer office, if any patents have been filed or granted.
- Provide, upon completion of the third year, a statement indicating how the Grillo-Marxuach Family Fellowship made a difference to the Fellow.
- Provide, upon completion of the final year (3 years max), a statement of future professional plans and goals.
- Give credit to the Grillo-Marxuach Family Fellowship in all professional situations including: presentations (lectures, panels), abstracts, posters, publications, news items, interviews, public appearances, personal website and blog, and elsewhere as appropriate. Example: “[Funded Applicant’s name] is a recipient of a “Grillo-Marxuach Family Fellowship at Moores Cancer Center at UC San Diego Health.”” Fellows are also expected to identify themselves as a “Grillo-Marxuach Family Fellow at Moores Cancer Center at UC San Diego Health” when presenting their work at professional conferences.
- Use the title “Grillo-Marxuach Family Fellow” in all professional situations and elsewhere, in perpetuity, as appropriate.

For any questions, please contact Amy Spilkin, PhD (aspi@health.ucsd.edu) at Moores Cancer.

_Institutional training programs are required to demonstrate successful efforts to recruit and retain an outstanding and diverse trainee population, including students from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups and students with disabilities._