



Dear NCHC Member,

I am writing to tell you about a groundbreaking biomedical research doctoral program—the **National Institutes of Health-Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program**. This innovative program grew from the realization that the next generation of research scientists will increasingly need to adopt interdisciplinary approaches as they strive to produce high impact research outcomes whether basic or clinical.

This is an accelerated program, and students typically receive a doctoral degree in approximately four years. There is no standard curriculum or required coursework. Rather, each student pursues an individualized course of study in which thesis work is initiated at the beginning of the first year. The thesis project is carried out as a collaboration between two labs, with half the research undertaken at NIH and half at one of the UK universities and each student being mentored by a senior scientist at each location.

The program takes advantage of the superb resources and training environments at Oxford, Cambridge, and the NIH, the world's largest biomedical research facility, the main campus of which is located in Bethesda, Maryland where a diverse community of scientists conduct their research in over 1000 laboratories and the world's largest clinical research center conducts more than 1000 clinical research protocols.

From its first class that matriculated in 2001, NIH-Oxford-Cambridge Scholars have achieved at the highest levels of biomedical research, publishing first-author papers in journals such as *Nature*, *Nature Medicine*, *Nature Immunology*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, and *The Journal of Experimental Medicine*. Graduates have gone on to do post-doctoral training in top academic institutions and industry labs, and a few have gone directly to faculty positions.

All students are **fully funded** by the NIH for the duration of their doctoral work at both research sites and receive a stipend, health insurance, and travel assistance. Through the **NIH M.D./Ph.D Partnership Training Program**, we also offer funding for combined M.D./Ph.D. training in collaboration with over twenty U.S. medical schools participating in the Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP). This option may be of interest to those of you already enrolled in medical school point or applying to traditional MD/PhD programs this year. For details about the M.D./Ph.D. options and training tracks, please consult <http://gpp.nih.gov/Prospective/InstitutionalPartnerships/MSTPatNIH/>.

The application deadline for Ph.D. and M.D./Ph.D. candidates is January 4th, 2010. The free application is available online through the program website at <http://oxcam.gpp.nih.gov> via the "Apply Now" button. On our web site you will find additional program details, FAQs, student biographies, descriptions of some of the exciting research projects underway, and more. We would also like to invite prospective students to participate in a teleconference call to learn more about our programs. Please email us at oxcam@mail.nih.gov or mdphd@mail.nih.gov if you would like more information or would like to participate in a conference call. If you are a faculty member, staff member or counselor, we encourage you to forward this mailing to students who may be interested.

Please take a look at the flyers through the links below and feel free to contact me if you have any questions. We hope to hear from you soon!

<http://oxcam.gpp.nih.gov/prospectiveStudents/documents/OXCAM2010Flyerwdeadline.pdf>
<http://oxcam.gpp.nih.gov/prospectiveStudents/documents/MSTPflyer2010.pdf>

All the best,

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