What is the T32 training grant and what is its purpose?
The training grant is a 5-year award from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) of the NIH. Its purpose is to provide state-of-the-art research training in stem cell biology to pre-doctoral graduate students.

How many positions are available on the training grant?
Four pre-doctoral positions are supported by this training grant.

Who is eligible to apply for a position on the training grant?
All individuals supported by this grant mechanism must be US citizens or noncitizen nationals (permanent residents). Students on temporary or student visas are not eligible. Pre-doctoral students must be enrolled in a graduate program at the University of Minnesota, currently work in the lab of an SCB T32 faculty member, and be in good academic standing.

What are the criteria for acceptance into the program?
Criteria include the following: 1) Academic credentials; 2) Strong interest in stem cell biology research and a desire for a research career; and 3) Desirable personal characteristics, including integrity, perseverance, and communication skills.

How do individuals apply to the program?
A complete application must include the following:
1. Application form.
2. A copy of their undergraduate and graduate school transcript.
3. A statement of career goals and how support from the Training Program will help to achieve those goals.
4. A one page description of their thesis research project that highlights the how this project will advance studies of Stem Cell Biology.
5. A list of publications completed or in press. This can also include Meeting abstracts and presentations.
6. A confidential letter of recommendation from the student's thesis advisor that specifically assesses the student's interest and potential in pursuing an independent research career in an area related to Stem Cell Biology.

These materials should be submitted to Barbara Porwit by e-mail at porw0001@umn.edu or surface mail to:
HOT Division
University of Minnesota
420 Delaware Street SE, MMC 480
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Office location: 100 Phillips Wangensteen Building

DEADLINE for receipt of application materials is typically late May – Early June. Trainees are selected in July for traineeships beginning at the end of August.
What is the level of stipend support for trainees supported by this grant?
Pre-doctoral stipends are set by the student's graduate program. NIH provides a set amount; any amount over the NIH funded level to match graduate program level must be funded by the faculty mentor's non-sponsored funds.

The training grant can supplement tuition/fees, health insurance, travel, and trainee-related expenses. Exact amounts for each item are available upon request.

What are the expectations of the trainees?
Trainees are expected to be committed to full-time research training. Trainees will be expected to regularly attend Stem Cell Institute seminars and journal clubs. They will also be required to present one journal club or one research seminar each year. There are three required courses in stem cell biology and one elective that can be chosen from a variety of areas. Responsible Conduct of Research will be covered in the training program, and trainees in the 3rd year or beyond in their graduate program will be expected to attend and present research at a national scientific meeting.

Who are the faculty mentors that are listed on the grant?
Dan Kaufman, MD, PhD is Director of the training program. Additional training faculty are listed on the training grant website.

Can additional faculty members participate?
Additional mentors may be added, based on the research interests of trainees (e.g. trainee has a research interest outside of the current mentor research expertise and identifies an individual he/she wishes to work with). These individuals must meet the criteria outlined in application, including an extramurally funded, independent research program and a strong interest in providing stem cell biology research training. Interested faculty members may apply by submitting a completed application form, letter of interest and CV to Dr. Dan Kaufman. New faculty must be approved by the training program steering committee as well as at the NIH program level.

Questions? Contact the Program Administrator:
Barbara Porwit
HOT Division, University of Minnesota
420 Delaware St SE, MMC 480
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Porw0001@umn.edu
(612) 624-5620