

The overall goal of this training program is the development of scientific leaders in areas from basic science to translational investigation relevant to infectious diseases and microbiology. This is accomplished by broad training and a closely supervised research experience to postdoctoral infectious disease physician scientists, as well as to Ph.D. postdoctoral scientists in clinically relevant areas of infectious diseases, at early stages in their careers. The training program focuses on those physician scientist trainees interested in non-HIV-related research; other training programs at Harvard University focus on training in HIV-related research. We aim to prepare these young investigators to conduct high quality independent investigative research of direct relevance to critical problems in infectious diseases and microbiology, including those of significant public health importance.

This training program will enable young investigators to conduct cutting-edge research of direct relevance to infectious diseases and microbiology and will prepare them for the next phase of career development as independent investigators with an emphasis on individual research awards that support transition to junior faculty positions K01 and K08 mechanisms, as well as F32 and individual foundation fellowships. The training program's specific aims are the following:

**1. To acquire sufficient training in basic laboratory or translational approaches to conduct effective cutting-edge research on relevant infectious disease problems.** This aim will be accomplished by ensuring that trainees are supported in direct research experiences for at least two years, during which they participate in hands-on in-laboratory or on-site translational training and appropriate advanced non-degree-granting post-graduate coursework.

**2. To foster the creation of impactful scientific contributions by means of strong and longitudinal mentorship by program faculty.** This aim will be accomplished through engagement of trainees with outstanding mentors and trainee participation at regular meetings and seminars of direct relevance to infectious disease and microbiology research. In addition to the annual program retreat, these include weekly departmental seminars in the Department of Microbiology, Harvard Medical School, and weekly departmental seminars in the Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, each of which is a series of invited talks by scientists from outside the institution; the periodic seminars offered by the NIH-sponsored Harvard Digestive Diseases Center; the weekly "Monday Talks" research-in-progress meetings in the Department of Microbiology and the monthly research-in-progress meetings in the Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases; and the weekly Harvard-wide Joint Infectious Disease Conferences. Participation is available in-person or via Zoom.

**3. To develop a primary research focus and a broad understanding of infectious diseases and microbiology, so as to both enable novel interdisciplinary research and foster independence.** This will be accomplished by at least two years of direct research experience under the close supervision of one or more program faculty mentors. Each mentor will be responsible for ensuring scientific productivity. Progress will be monitored by regular mentor meetings with Dr. Goldberg, formal annual evaluation by the PI and the program Executive Committee, and with Individual Development Plans.

To see a list of mentors, [click here](#).