



**Weill Cornell
Medicine**



Weill Cornell Medicine
Pediatrics



**Weill Cornell
Medicine**
Graduate School
of Medical Sciences

We write to announce the launch of the NIH funded **Advancing Success and Persistence in Research Education (ASPIRE)** postbaccalaureate program (R25 PREP). This program seeks to provide experiential research training, mentorship, and professional development to successfully prepare post-baccalaureate trainees from a variety of backgrounds, including those underrepresented backgrounds (for examples, see the [Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity](#)) to enter PhD or MD/PhD training and have productive- careers as scientists and physician-scientists. The program is co-led by Drs. Joy Howell (MD), Assistant Dean for Diversity and Student Life of the Medical School; Dr. Yazmin Carrasco (PhD), Assistant Dean for Diversity of the Graduate School; and Dr. Genevieve Fouda, (MD/PhD), Assistant Dean for Faculty Development. This R25 PREP program will add to the robust profile of pathway/capacity building programs at Weill Cornell Medicine by serving as the institution's first program designed for postbaccalaureate scholars.

The program offers:

- Funding for 1 year of mentored research training
- Coaching and advising in preparation for graduate school
- Professional development & networking opportunities at institutional and regional symposia
- Tiered near-peer and faculty mentorship
- Didactic research education
- Travel funds to attend a scientific conference

We seek to identify two scholars to enroll in August of 2025 who will complete the program (ASPIRE) in June of 2026.

This program is designed for individuals who:

- Received a Bachelor Degree in Sciences within the past 12 months (May 2024 or later)
- Have a clear intent to pursue graduate education (PhD or MD/PhD) in biomedical sciences
- Have limited prior research experience (less than 1 year of prior lab-based research experience)
- Have limited prior exposure to data analysis
- Have US citizenship or permanent residency, (per NIH guidelines)

We encourage the broad participation of individuals with varied perspectives, lived experiences, including those from underrepresented backgrounds needed to advance discovery ([Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity](#)). Individuals who are committed to promoting an environment of inclusive excellence, equity and belonging are highly encouraged to apply.

To apply candidates will be expected to complete / submit the following:

- Qualtrics application survey [ASPIRE Application](#)
- Personal statement of career goals, research experiences and scientific interests including applicant's timeline for transitioning to a PhD or MD/PhD program
- [Standardized Evaluation Form](#) from current primary investigator or direct supervisor

Applications should be completed using the Qualtrics link above. Referees will be asked to submit a [standardized evaluation](#) via Qualtrics. Please submit any inquiries via email to aspire@med.cornell.edu

You can visit the ASPIRE Webpage at : <https://pediatrics.weill.cornell.edu/education/aspire>

The application deadline **March 7th, 2025** for an August 2025 start date.