**To be updated following the latest NIH PA-15-322 FOA. Please review the [FOA](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-15-322.html) for the latest instructions. Contact Allison.Gottlieb@mssm.edu for additional info.**

**Diversity Supplement Step 9: Template for Candidate’s Biosketch: Personal Statement**

A statement from the candidate outlining her/his research objectives and career goals.

* Position/level at ISMMS
* What are your interest/focus
* How will this project enhance/prepare you in your career of research?
	+ What expertise, skills, and techniques will you bring to the project?
	+ Explain how this project will increase your knowledge and skills?
* How will your project enhance the parent grant?
	+ Show that it will be mutually beneficial
* Future goals – next 5 yr/10 yr plans, if applicable
	+ What do you hope to have accomplished with this project and in 5 or 10 years
	+ How will this project help you reach your ultimate goals?
	+ How will your interaction with the PI/mentors help you reach your goal?

**Sample 1**

I am currently a [insert position] at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai interested in colorectal surgery and in pursuing a career in academic medicine. In light of the above, I am motivated to take dedicated time during my residency training to focus on research so that I can be equipped with the foundation necessary to make it an integral part of my future practice. Advances in medical knowledge are largely dependent on information garnered from research and evidence based medicine is used to determine standards of care. It has become apparent to me that in order to be relevant and considered a true academic surgeon it is important to be trained both clinically and in research. I think I would be remiss to complete my graduate medical education without taking the opportunity to complement my clinical knowledge with research.

Throughout my medical training (4 years of medical school at ISMMS and my residency at [name]), I have developed a strong interest in inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and plan to specialize in colorectal surgery. The Mount Sinai Medical Center is a major referral center for IBD and treats up to 7,000 IBD patients annually. Under the leadership of [PI’s name] and colleagues, the IBD Basic Research Program at Mount Sinai has grown and has demonstrated significant success and I am delighted to join the team. I believe this experience will be mutually beneficial. I will bring my clinical background and surgical skills to expand the knowledge base of the team and further extend the scope of the research program. I plan to be an active team member able to aid in highlighting potential clinical applications. I hope to increase my fund of knowledge and acquire the skill set necessary to develop an idea into a meaningful study that could possibly influence patient care. In addition, I believe that this experience will make me a better physician and a more competitive candidate for fellowship and faculty appointment.

In 10 years, I hope to have completed my general surgery residency/colorectal surgery fellowship and be a junior faculty member at a major academic medical center. I plan to have a clinical practice likely specializing in IBD and to conduct basic science/translational research in hopes of increasing the current body of medical knowledge. I would like my practice to be a true blend of the art and science of medicine.

**Sample 2**

I endeavor to gain a better understanding of the molecular mechanisms underlying the pathogenesis of Ebola virus. With a better understanding of the pathogenesis, my goal will then be to develop therapeutic options that can be used to aid those who become infected by these viruses.

For my doctoral studies in the laboratory of Dr. [Name], I was able to gain a tremendous amount of knowledge on Ebola virus molecular biology. Specifically, the work centered around two viral proteins, VP35 and VP24. We were able to demonstrate that these proteins were able to counteract the interferon system, a key component of the innate immune response to infection. The ability of these proteins to counteract the interferon system likely contributes greatly to the highly pathogenic nature of Ebola virus. Mutagenesis studies of these proteins in the context of the whole virus must now be done in order to fully determine the contribution of these individual proteins to pathogenesis.

Working with the whole virus, as opposed to individual viral proteins will be a critical next step towards reaching my goal. With Dr. Jim Jones I will have this opportunity, as his laboratory has access to a bio-safety level 4 facility, which is required for work with Ebola virus. In addition to providing the facility, Dr. Jim Jones is one of the world’s foremost experts on Ebola virus; therefore, in addition to gaining valuable experience working with the virus, I will also further my knowledge on viral pathogenesis under his tutelage.

Training under the guidance of Drs. [Name] and Jim Jones will be an invaluable experience. It will no doubt draw me closer towards my goal of using the knowledge I have gained on Ebola virus pathogenesis to develop therapeutic options. I expect to use this experience to build an academic research career studying emerging viruses.