

MSU RESEARCH FOUNDATION POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR

Cancer Immunology and Viral Oncology | Pyeon Laboratory

Dept. of Microbiology, Genetics, and Immunology · Head and Neck Cancer Program, Henry Ford + MSU Health Sciences

The laboratory of **Dr. Dohun Pyeon** (www.pyeonlab.org) is recruiting a Postdoctoral Scholar supported by the **MSU Research Foundation (MSURF) Postdoctoral Scholars Program**. MSURF Scholars are funded appointments to attract top early-career scientists to MSU's strongest federally funded labs and support their independent research careers. Scholars join a university-wide cohort with programming from the MSU Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, including grant workshops, seminars, and the ORI Postdoc Research Symposium.

THE SCIENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The successful candidate will lead projects to understand immune evasion in cancer and develop immunotherapies targeting new immune regulators. Our recent work shows how oncogenic viruses reprogram antigen presentation and alter the tumor microenvironment to evade T-cell surveillance. Our group can perform basic and translational cancer research using patient specimens, mouse models, cell cultures, recombinant viruses, CRISPR screens, and single-cell analyses. Through the Henry Ford + MSU Head and Neck Cancer Program, the scholar will access patient specimens and collaborate with clinicians, enabling mechanistic discovery from screens to models and patient treatment.

MENTORSHIP AND THE PATH TO INDEPENDENCE

- A written Individual Development Plan completed within 60 days, revisited every six months, with research milestones, a publication timeline, and a pathway to funding.
- Mentored grant writing for **F32/K awards**, including mechanism choice, feasibility, and draft review.
- Co-authorship on primary research papers, first-author support, and conference presentations.
- Participation in NIH and ARPA-H grant development, and support for career exploration across academic, industry, government, and entrepreneurial pathways.

Dr. Pyeon has mentored more than 20 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who have gone on to independent faculty positions, industry research roles, and NIH-funded fellowships.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Ph.D. and/or M.D. in virology, immunology, cancer biology, molecular biology, or a related field
- No more than one year of prior postdoctoral training at the time of appointment, consistent with F32 and K award eligibility timelines
- At least one lead-author publication in a top-tier peer-reviewed journal on the related research topic
- Commitment to building an independent research program through NIH career development (K) awards
- Excellent communication and organizational skills, and the ability to work independently and as part of a collaborative research team
- Preferred: expertise in cancer immunology, viral oncology, drug development, mouse models of cancer, CRISPR screening, or single-cell and computational analysis

COMPENSATION AND ELIGIBILITY

Salary follows NIH NRSA stipend based on experience, with full MSU benefits including health, dental, and retirement. Research supplies, core access, and travel to meetings are covered by federal awards.

TO APPLY

Applicants must apply through the [MSU Careers portal](#) (posting number **#1148598**), including a cover letter, CV, and contact information of at least three referees. Review of applications begins immediately and continues until the position is filled.

Michigan State University is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. MSU is committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential.