

ADVANCED POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

Description

The Advanced Postdoctoral Fellowship program is designed to attract qualified and promising health scientists, to provide an opportunity to receive full time research training, and to assist these promising individuals in transitioning from a fellowship to an independent (faculty-level) position. JDRF envisions the 3-year award term as a period in which fellows will receive critical research training that will position them to work at the leading edge of their chosen field. An additional, optional 1-year “transition” award will further assist fellows to proceed to independent faculty or research appointments and will serve as a bridge between the fellowship and independent competitive research funding. During the fellowship phase, the applicant is required to work with a sponsor who can provide a training environment conducive to beginning a career in diabetes-relevant research. At the time of activating the award, the applicant must have a doctoral degree (PhD, MD, DMD, DVM, or equivalent) from an accredited institution and must not be simultaneously serving an internship or residency.

Eligibility

Applicant

The fellowships are intended for those in a relatively early stage of their career. Generally, their first degree (PhD, MD, DMD, DVM, or equivalent) will have been received no more than 5 years before the fellowship. Applicants who have completed 1-3 years of postdoctoral training and now show extraordinary promise may wish to apply for this “advanced” award. Alternatively, exceptionally qualified and talented individuals are encouraged to apply at the beginning of their careers. This program is targeted to those who would benefit from postdoctoral research training in preparation for later faculty appointments (therefore, applicants may not have faculty appointments). There are no citizenship requirements for this program. To assure continued excellence and diversity among applicants and awardees, JDRF welcomes applications from all qualified individuals and encourages applications from persons with disabilities women and members of minority groups underrepresented in the sciences.

Sponsor

The applicant must be sponsored by an investigator who is affiliated full-time with an accredited institution and who agrees to supervise the applicant’s training. The sponsor does not necessarily need to have a background in diabetes, but the research project must be diabetes-related.

Location

Fellowship research may be conducted at foreign and domestic, for-profit and nonprofit, and public and private organizations—such as universities, colleges, hospitals, laboratories, units of state and local governments, and eligible agencies of the federal government.

Proposal

All applications must be completed using the templates provided on the [proposalCENTRAL website](#). See the [proposalCENTRAL templates](#) and the [Applicant Guidelines](#) sections for specific requirements.

Research Plan

The advanced postdoctoral fellowship research plan may not exceed 7 pages, including figures and tables. Please note that the 7-page limit includes narrative items a through f, as described below. The research plan must be organized as follows: a) Specific Aims, b) Background and Significance of this work to Type 1 diabetes (provide a brief historical background of your proposed research, including major findings by you and/or others in the relevant field. Explain why you have chosen this problem), c) Preliminary Results (if available), d) Research Designs and Methods. Describe, in detail, plans for solving problems, hypothesis, methodology, expected results, experimental subjects, controls,

potential pitfalls and the rationale for the chosen approach), e) Other aspects (formal and informal) of the program that will continue to the total training environment (examples include, but are not limited to, clinical experience with diabetic patients, interaction with senior professional with expertise in diabetes, participation in staff conferences, teaching, consultation, etc.), f) List any planned coursework, g) List pertinent literature references (no page limit). **All information in items a through f must be incorporated in the 7-page limit without exception. Applications with research plans exceeding the page limit will not be reviewed.**

In addition, a Future Career Plans statement and a Training Plan statement must be included at the end of the Research Plan section (see below).

Future Career Plans Statement

The applicant must include a statement of career goals and indicate the relevance of these goals to type 1 diabetes-related research. The future career plans statement should detail the applicant's plan for career development as an independent investigator. Topics to be discussed by the applicant may include: how much of the applicant's time will be protected for research; how the proposed research will contribute to the applicant's independent career; an expected timeline for obtaining an independent position, if the applicant is not already at that stage; how the JDRF award will contribute to the applicant's future career plans; and any other planned formal or informal activities that will aid the applicant in establishing an independent research career. If the research proposed in the application is part of a larger research program or trial, the applicant should clearly define his/her role in the project and explain how their efforts on the project will lead to independence.

Sponsor Application Requirements

The sponsor must provide a biographical sketch, list of previous trainees, and a statement of the plan for training the applicant. This statement must outline a detailed training program for the applicant as well as confirm the availability of facilities to conduct the research project. The sponsor's statement should address plans for supervision, guidance, counseling, or other formal or informal training of the applicant. The sponsor must also include accurate and complete information regarding all other sources of grant support (current and pending), including title, abstract, annual and total amount of grant, inclusive funding period, and percentage effort of the applicant.

Recommendation References

Three (3) recommendation references assessing the scientific abilities and potential of the applicant must be submitted. Please note that the recommendation references are confidential and will not be released to the applicant. *The recommendation references must be submitted directly to proposalCENTRAL by the referee. **Please note applications will not be validated until all references are submitted.*** Sponsors cannot be references, but should complete the Training Plans section of the Research Plan.

Evaluation

Fellowships will be awarded on the basis of the applicant's previous experience, academic record, the caliber of the proposed research, the quality of the mentor, training program, and environment, and the applicant's potential to obtain an independent research position in the future. The relevance of the proposal to the cause, cure, treatment, and/or prevention of diabetes and its complications will also be considered.

The applicant's professional ability and promise for a research career in type 1 diabetes will hold the highest priority in selection and will be assessed on the basis of the letters of recommendation, career plans, prior clinical and research training, academic transcripts, and the mentor's endorsement. Location in a department that will provide a stimulating research environment is an additional factor that will be considered in evaluating applicants.

Terms of Award & Stipend

Awards will be made for a duration of up to 3 years, assuming satisfactory progress. The fellowship term is 12 months for each fellowship year, and fellows must devote 100% of their effort to the project outlined in the application.

Budgets up to USD 90,000 per year for up to 3 years may be requested. The stipend request must be consistent with the amounts shown below (see Table 2) based on years of relevant postdoctoral experience. Salary support for additional staff is not allowable.

There are no indirect costs allowed for fellowships and JDRF will make no deductions for income tax, Social Security, etc. Funds in excess of the stipend, up to a total budget of USD 90,000 per year, can be used for travel to scientific meetings (up to USD 2,000/year), journal subscriptions, books, training courses, laboratory supplies, or equipment (in Year 1 only). The purchase of a personal computer is allowed (up to USD 2,000) only during Year 1 of the award. Health insurance costs are permissible. The award is renewable for up to two additional years pending submission and approval of a renewal application.

Table 2: Advanced Postdoctoral Fellowship Stipends

Years	Stipend
0	\$37,368
1	\$39,360
2	\$42,204
3	\$43,860
4	\$45,504
5	\$47,460
6	\$49,344
7+	\$51,552

Transition Award

To assist the awardee's advancement to a faculty position, the advanced postdoctoral fellowship carries an optional "transition" year in which the awardee may request funding support in their first year as a faculty member of an academic institution. To apply for the transition year, awardees must provide a letter of institutional commitment and faculty appointment along with a satisfactory progress report and abbreviated research plan for the transitional year. The Transition Award can be requested in an amount up to USD 110,000 total costs for 1 year. Indirect costs (excluding equipment) cannot exceed 10 percent. The Transition Award can be requested at any time during the 3-year fellowship period after a faculty appointment has been obtained.