AACR
CLINICAL ONCOLOGY RESEARCH (CORE) TRAINING FELLOWSHIPS

AACR American Association for Cancer Research

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

AACR Clinical Oncology Research (CORE) Training Fellowships

1. What experience will I get from this fellowship?

During the research year at the industry site, the fellows will be paired with at least one industry scientist or clinical team member who will serve as their mentor. Research conducted during this fellowship will provide the fellows with the opportunity to gain experience in drug development and understand challenges in early-stage and/or late-stage clinical oncology research. Opportunities for publication and presentation of the research will be also provided.

Time to be spent at the industry site over this one-year period can be flexible and is determined upon mutual agreement between the selected fellow, the fellow's institution, and the industry partner. Any additional questions regarding the time spent at the industry facility should be directed to AACR's Scientific Review and Grants Administration (AACR's SRGA) department.

2. Does my research project qualify for application to this grant?

Please note that these grants are not intended to support the fellow's current research. Rather they are designed to support the fellow while they conduct research onsite at the industry facility.

3. I am currently conducting a fellowship outside of the U.S. Can I apply?

Individuals enrolled in a fellowship program or practicing medicine outside the United States are currently not eligible to apply. At the time of application, applicants must have enrolled in an accredited hematology/oncology or radiation oncology fellowship program at an academic, medical, or research institution within the United States.

4. I received my medical degree outside of the U.S., and I am currently doing research in the U.S. I am not licensed to practice in the U.S. Can I apply?

Applicants who received their medical degrees from foreign institutions, but reside in the U.S. and have extensive background in cancer research may be eligible to apply. Please contact AACR's SRGA **before** submitting an application.

5. I must attend a continuity outpatient clinic to fulfill my medical education requirements. Can I apply? Can arrangements be made to complete my clinical work while I am on site at the pharmaceutical company?

Applicants who will require special arrangements to complete their clinical duties during the course of the grant term should contact AACR's SRGA before submitting an application. AACR will work with applicants and the industry partner to determine whether accommodations can be made to facilitate this training while onsite.

6. If selected as a grant recipient, will I be considered an employee of the pharmaceutical company while onsite at my assigned industry facility?

No, the fellow will still be affiliated with and considered an employee of their academic institution during the grant term. At no time during the grant term will the grantee be considered an employee of the industry partner.

7. When will I be assigned an industry mentor?

The industry mentor will be appointed at the time of the award.

8. According to the program guidelines, a stipend may be provided to allow the fellow to travel to the industry site prior to start to secure accommodations. This stipend will also cover necessary costs for the fellow to travel to and from the industry site for the one-year term. What does the stipend cover? Is this considered a discretionary stipend or does it need to be itemized?

This stipend is intended to allow the fellow to travel to the industry site prior to the start of the term to secure housing accommodations needed for the one-year grant term. In addition, this stipend also will cover necessary costs for the fellow to travel to the industry site at the beginning of the grant term spent onsite, and to return home at the conclusion of the grant term. The total amount of the stipend will be determined on a case-by-case basis, and will be dependent upon the distance travelled by the fellow, but will be no more than $7,500.

This stipend will be provided by the industry partner separate from the grant funding. The fellow and the industry partner shall arrange directly with each other for the appropriate amount of such stipend and for payment through the industry partner's expense reimbursement system.

9. Will I be assisted with housing at the industry site?

The industry partner will provide information and guidance to assist with relocation.

In addition, for the Bayer sponsored fellowships, Bayer will provide a flat, fixed rate of $2,500/month, if relocation is required in order to work at the Bayer facility in Cambridge, MA.

10. What will a typical week be like while onsite at the industry site?

The fellow will have the opportunity to shadow their appointed mentor on their various activities, including meetings with project and study teams. This includes discussions on various topics (e.g., drug development strategy and execution, regulatory strategy implementation, statistics, marketing, clinical operations) with key stakeholders. Depending on the background of the fellow, additional focus areas can also be provided (e.g., preclinical research, biomarker discovery).

The spectrum of activities is highly diverse. The training experience during the course of the fellowship includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Learning the fundamentals of conducting clinical research in oncology, such as:

  - understanding potential predictors of response to therapies
  - identifying early response endpoints
  - developing optimal trial design methods for evaluating a large number of novel drug combinations and quickly identifying the most promising combinations
- Learning about clinical trial design, protocol development, and data analysis
- Designing and completing a clinical research project
- Participating in weekly meetings
- Participating in additional training on site
- Opportunities for publication and presentation of the research

The fellow will have the opportunity to develop expertise in drug development and commercialization including developing an understanding of preclinical research, biomarker strategy, and study design in clinical phases 1-3 (depending on their interest). There will be the potential of becoming an expert on the clinical candidate(s) being followed, in terms of understanding the competitor landscape, and the underlying science and biomarker strategy.

11. Who should I contact if I have a question that is not listed here?

Please contact AACR's Scientific Review and Grants Administration department (AACR's SRGA) at grants@aacr.org.