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Life Sciences
Research Foundation



Life Sciences Research Foundation Fellowships (LSRF Fellowships)

<http://www.lsrf.org/home>

2019-08-19

Mission: To identify and fund exceptional young scientists at a critical juncture of their training in all areas of basic life sciences. To provide a high-quality peer-review service to anyone (individual, company, foundation) wishing to sponsor a fellow who shares their vision of important research.

Vision: We at the Life Sciences Research Foundation (LSRF) believe that seminal advances in life sciences depend upon the training and support of the highest quality young scientists when they are embarking on exciting and adventuresome research as postdoctoral fellows. To promote this vision we partner the best young scientists with diverse sponsors who share common interests.

About LSRF, <http://www.lsrf.org/about/about-lsrf>

Since 1983, the Life Sciences Research Foundation (LSRF) has funded nearly 500 outstanding postdoctoral fellows in all areas of the life sciences, and raised more than \$50 million from generous industries, foundations and individuals to support this effort.

We believe that discoveries and application of innovations in biology for the public's good depends upon the training and support of the highest quality young scientists. Every year our selection committee of renowned scientists identify the top 5% of applicants from an international pool of more than 1000 postdoctoral applicants. Once chosen, the LSRF collaborates with current and potential sponsors to match them with fellows with similar research interests. In 2015, thirty of these remarkable young scientists were matched with sponsors to support their research. Yet even now many excellent scientists remain unfunded.

Brief History: In the late 1970s, biologists were founding and leading companies whose goal was to apply modern biological research technology to the solution of important problems in society. While academic and commercial branches of chemistry and engineering had a long history of collaboration, this had not been true of the biological sciences. In 1981 the founder of LSRF, Don Brown, sought to establish similar collaborations in biology, focusing on training the next generation of exceptional biologists. While for-profit enterprises of the life sciences were solicited as major sponsors for postdoctoral fellowships in the early years, sponsorship has evolved with the help of our distinguished advisory board to include small and large not-for-profit foundations, and private individuals

Because all scientists (Board, Peer Review Committee, LSRF Officers) serve LSRF without compensation, administrative costs to sponsors are less than 4%.

Contact, <http://www.lsrf.org/about/contact-lsrf>

Scientific Office:

Susan DiRenzo, Assistant Director
Life Sciences Research Foundation
Lewis Thomas Laboratory
Princeton University
Washington Road
Princeton, New Jersey 08544
direnzo@lsrf.org

Administrative Office:

Christine Pratt
Life Sciences Research Foundation
3520 San Martin Drive
Baltimore, Maryland 21218
Phone: 410-467-2597
pratt@lsrf.org

Scientific Office handles: Submission of applications, Questions pertaining to the submission of applications and application material

Current Sponsors, potential Sponsors, current fellows and their financial administrators should contact the Administrative Office

Application Instructions, <http://www.lsrp.org/apply/application-instructions>

The application system will re-open on September 4, 2019

APPLICATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1 (8:00 pm EST)

DEADLINE FOR SUPERVISOR AND REFERENCE LETTERS: NOVEMBER 1 (8:00 PM EST)

[CLICK HERE TO BEGIN OR CONTINUE AN APPLICATION]

<https://lsrp.secure-platform.com/a>

NOTE: Individuals who have held a PhD or MD degree for more than 5 years at the time of application are not eligible for an LSRF fellowship.

The application contains three tabs, Applicant Info, Research Proposal and Letters of Reference and Support. Instructions for filling out the application are provided below and next to the appropriate fields in the application. Read these instructions carefully before filling out the application.

You may begin your application even if your referees have not yet written their recommendations, but applicants will not be able to upload any additional material after the deadline of October 1, so be sure all requirements of your application are complete (except for supervisor and reference letters) by the deadline. THE APPLICANT CANNOT ACCESS HIS/HER FILES FOR EDITING OR ADDING MATERIAL AFTER OCTOBER 1. THIS ALSO MEANS YOU CANNOT ADD/CHANGE THE NAME OF A REFEREE AFTER OCTOBER 1. THE NAMES (WITH CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESSES) MUST BE LISTED BY OCTOBER 1.

Application Info

Complete all required fields (Note: a few required fields ask for information supplied elsewhere in the application. Entering this information twice in the application is necessary for administrative purposes).

Research Proposal

The Research Proposal is limited to SIX total pages: FIVE single-spaced pages for the research plan (this page limit includes figures and tables) and ONE page for the literature cited. The proposal and literature cited should be formatted with one-half inch (0.5) margins on all four sides of the paper and 12-point Times New Roman or 11-point Arial as the minimum font size for the text of the proposal and literature cited. You may use 10-point Times New Roman or 9-point Arial font type for the figure legends and tables. The style/presentation of the proposal is determined by the applicant, not LSRF. Be concise. Experts in the field review proposals; extensive background information is not necessary. For the literature citations, you must list the complete citation including all authors' names, title, journal name, year, volume and page numbers. The 6 page Research Proposal MUST BE UPLOADED as a single document IN PDF FORMAT ONLY.

Letter of Reference and Support

All applications must contain a total of 4 letters of support – one supervisor letter and 3 reference letters.

THREE LETTERS OF REFERENCE must come from associates who can critically appraise the applicant's qualifications. One letter should be from the applicant's thesis advisor (if applicable – this does not apply to M.D. applicants). You may still apply if you do not submit your thesis advisor's letter, but your file will not be as strong. The Supervisor may not serve as one of the three referees.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM SUPERVISOR should acknowledge acceptance of the applicant to their laboratory and the willingness of the Institution to administer the award. The letter should indicate the role expected of the applicant in the broad framework of the supervisor's research noting the size of the research group and the degree of independence the applicant will have.

Individuals who are remaining in their thesis labs to do postdoctoral research are not eligible for an LSRF fellowship. *If you have joint supervisors, please note that only one supervisor letter may be submitted. The letter should state each supervisor's role and be signed by both supervisors.

LSRF WILL SEND AN EMAIL TO YOUR SUPERVISOR AND REFEREES WITH THE LINK TO SUBMIT THEIR LETTERS ONLINE AND INFORMING THEM THAT THE DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 1. THIS EMAIL IS SENT WHEN YOU FINALIZE YOUR APPLICATION.

You will receive confirmation emails when the application is finalized and when each of the references/supervisors submits their letters. If you fail to receive these confirmations or wish to check the status of submission of these letters, click the link in the email of the confirmation of application submission or contact Susan Direnzo at direnzo@lsrf.org.

INFORMATION, SUGGESTIONS AND TIPS

Verify that all email addresses listed (yours, your supervisor, your references) are correct and current. Proofread all typing after inserting these into the application. If the email address is not correct your supervisor and referees will not receive the email from LSRF with the instructions and link to upload their letters. AN INCORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS IS THE NUMBER ONE MISTAKE THAT APPLICANTS MAKE.

Supervisor and all Referee's names must be listed by the applicant before the deadline. These names and addresses cannot be listed after October 1.

List all Supervisor and Referee's names and email addresses; do not list his/her assistant's email address. LSRF must have all the recommender's information on file. Do not list more than one supervisor/referee in each slot. (Joint supervisors may be discussed in the single supervisor letter.)

If you encounter a problem in uploading your files into the application try switching the web browser you are using. If that doesn't help it may be that your file is too large.

U.S. citizens are eligible to work in any geographic location while holding an LSRF fellowship. Non-U.S. citizens must work in a U.S. laboratory to be eligible for an LSRF fellowship.

A laboratory may have only one LSRF fellow at a time. Multiple applicants may apply from the same laboratory however, if multiple applicants from the same laboratory are selected as finalists only one fellowship may be awarded. You may apply if there is already an LSRF fellow in the proposed laboratory and the existing fellow is in their final year of funding. In this case if you are awarded, your fellowship would begin as the current fellow's funding ends and there is no conflict.

Individuals who have held a PhD or MD degree for more than 5 years at the time of application are not eligible for an LSRF fellowship.

Individuals intending to remain in their thesis labs to complete their proposed LSRF postdoctoral research project are not eligible for an LSRF fellowship. You must complete your LSRF research project in a different lab. Working as a postdoc in your thesis lab for a brief period before moving to your new postdoc lab is acceptable.

LSRF does not require letters from your institution's grants office at the time of application. The only requirement is that you list his/her name and email address. If and when an applicant is chosen for a fellowship, both you and the institution will be contacted. We recommend that you provide a copy of your completed application along with these instructions to your sponsored programs office so they are aware of your application.

LSRF does not require a budget. The award is \$62,000/year for three years (\$186,000 total). \$52,000/year is for the fellow's stipend/salary and the remaining \$10,000/year is a research allowance for the fellow. The research allowance is to be used for laboratory research supplies, scientific meeting registration and travel expenses (including the LSRF Annual Meeting), small equipment (including computer workstations, a laptop, printer) and up to \$3,000/year may be applied toward the fellow's out-of-pocket health care or childcare costs. Acceptance of the LSRF Fellowship Award requires the host institution to commit funds to cover the awardee's health benefit costs. Funds are paid quarterly to the fellow's host institution and the fellow is paid by the host institution, not LSRF. No indirect or overhead costs may be charged to the fellowship.

Awardees are required to submit annual scientific progress reports and the host institution is required to submit annual financial reports. Links to both a sample award letter/agreement (pdf) and a sample financial reporting template (excel) are at the bottom of this page. Both are subject to change.

LSRF does not require college transcripts, animal certification documents or any type of visa documents.

LSRF does not require signatures at the time of application.

LSRF must be notified if you accept another fellowship at any time during the application and review process (October 1 through July 31). An email to Susan DiRenzo will suffice.

LSRF cannot supply you with a sample proposal, nor can it supply you with a critique of your submission.

LSRF receives more than 1000 applications per year and awards 15-25 fellowships per year. The number of fellowships awarded depends entirely on our fundraising efforts that year. The LSRF does not have an endowment. We were able to fund 21 of 55 finalists in 2016, 24 of 55 finalists in 2017 and 26 finalists in 2018.

Timeline for Application Submission, Evaluation and Funding

September 4: Website opens for applications

October 1: Application deadline

November 1: Supervisor and reference letters deadline

December: Applications sent to members of the Peer Review Committee for initial review

February: Peer Review Committee meets to choose approximately 50-60 finalists

Feb/March: Applicants are informed if they are finalists. (Non-finalists are also notified.)

February/March to August: LSRF solicits existing and new potential sponsors to fund the finalists.

Finalists are notified immediately if funding is secured for their project. Approximately 18-25 finalists each year are matched successfully with sponsors.

August 1: Award activation date - THIS IS THE ONLY AWARD ACTIVATION DATE

Questions and inquiries pertaining to the submission of applications should be sent to:

Susan DiRenzo, Assistant Director

Email : direnzo@lsrf.org

Sponsor Information, <http://www.lsrf.org/sponsor/sponsor-information>

Why partner with LSRF to sponsor post-doctoral fellows?

The proof of our success is the accomplishments of our nearly 500 alumni over a 33 year period. The large and diverse peer review team, and the supervision of a distinguished advisory board guarantee selection of the highest quality young scientists at this crucial stage of their training. LSRF not only carries out the reviewing and selection process but also administers the program, all for the remarkably low overhead of less than 4%.

The process of selecting LSRF finalists

Deadline for applications is October 1 each year. The review process is completed by February. Details of the process including the names of the large review team can be found elsewhere on this web site. Last year we screened 1000 applications and chose 50 finalists. All 50 were eligible for awards. In 2016, our 34rd year, LSRF awarded 34 three year fellowships supported by 16 different sponsors. These finalists are the highest quality young scientists in all areas of the life sciences.

How LSRF matches sponsors with finalists

Once the selection committee has identified the top candidates as finalists, sponsors have the option of choosing whom they want to support. Should they choose this option, LSRF will send applications of finalists based on the sponsor's research interests. Sponsors have no obligation to support any fellow whom they review.

Present and past sponsors

Here is a list of our diverse sponsors. They include research oriented pharmaceutical companies, a medical research organization, disease targeted foundations, basic research oriented foundations, individual philanthropists, and one government-granting agency. We are a perfect partner for anyone

who above all wishes to support the highest quality research in the life sciences. Please see the list of our Sponsors on the right side of this page

Current cost to sponsors:

\$65,000 per year for three years. Total of \$195,000.

\$52,000 per year is salary. This does not change over the three years.

\$10,000/year is an institutional allowance for exclusive use by the fellow.

\$3000/year is kept by LSRF for our expenses (<4%).

The host institution receives no overhead.

When fellows leave their postdoctoral position early the unspent money is refunded to the sponsor.

Although sponsors are asked to pay LSRF the yearly amount (\$65,000) by July of each year other convenient payment schedules can be arranged to suit the sponsor. The money is disbursed quarterly by LSRF to an authorized institutional official.

Additional benefits for sponsoring an LSRF fellow

Sponsors and their fellows are encouraged to meet. The fellow agrees to visit the sponsor for one day each year at the sponsor's initiative.

All fellows attend an October annual meeting. Sponsors, advisory board, peer review committee and invited guests attend.

Use and Limitations of Fellowship

<http://www.lsrf.org/sponsor/use-and-limitations-of-fellowship>

Use of the institutional allowance by fellow

Up to \$2000/year can be used for the fellow's out-of-pocket healthcare costs. It is expected that the host institution will cover the cost of the fellow's health/fringe benefits.

Other legitimate uses are all research related: small equipment, research supplies, travel to meetings including the cost to the LSRF annual meeting.

Escrow fund

Fellows can ask LSRF to withhold up to \$5000/year. If the fellow moves to a non profit institution in the US the escrow fund (up to \$15,000) will be reverted to the fellow as a one time mini-grant.

Eligibility of fellows and their host institutions

All fellows must carry out their research in a non profit university or research institution. If the fellow is not a US citizen the research must be carried out in a US host institution. A US citizen can work in a not for profit institution in any country.

Patent policy

Fellows must sign an agreement that their research project has no prior commitment with any for profit enterprise.

All patents generated from the fellow's research revert to the host institution (like an NIH grant).

The Life Sciences Research Foundation is a non-profit, public foundation. All donations to the Foundation are tax-deductible and our tax ID# is: 52-1231801.

Present and Past Sponsors

<http://www.lsrf.org/sponsor/present-and-past-sponsors>