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The Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research Postdoctoral Fellowships (JCC Fund 2022)

About the Fund

<https://www.jccfund.org/about-fund/>

The Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research (known colloquially as the JCC Fund) was established in 1937 for the purpose of supporting research into the causes and treatment of cancer. The Fund has taken a broad approach to the study of cell growth and development, emphasizing the study of the basic biology and chemistry of the underlying processes. The Fund has increasingly focused its resources on the funding of three-year postdoctoral Fellowships, supporting Fellows selected by its Board of Scientific Advisers from among the best young scientists at what is often a critical stage in their careers. As a result, there have been over 1,700 Jane Coffin Childs Fellows doing basic cancer-related research in laboratories in North America, Europe, Japan and Australia.

The great strength of this enterprise is its Board of Scientific Advisers, both the standing of its members, and the rigorous, highly informed selection process it carries out each year. This strength is underutilized. The JCC Fund supports between twenty-five and thirty new three-year Fellowships each year. Given enough funding, as many as forty Fellowships could be granted each year without any diminution in quality. Accordingly, the JCC Fund invites others to use this process to qualify Fellowships. The current Fellowship stipend levels are Year 1 \$56,000; Year 2 \$59,000 and Year 3 \$62,000. The JCC Fund can handle all ongoing administrative costs, so funds raised from Fellowship Sponsors go entirely to funding their Fellowships.

From the start the Fund has been fortunate to enlist the services of distinguished and dedicated scientists for its Board of Scientific Advisers. Since its inception the Board has included seventeen recipients of the Nobel Prize, as well as numerous recipients of other prestigious scientific awards. The achievements of its members are well known to young scientists around the world. As a result, many of the top young molecular biologists apply for a highly prized JCC Fellowship. Each year over three hundred and fifty applications for fellowship projects housed in most of the top academic laboratories in North America are received and evaluated by the Board of Scientific Advisers.

Between twenty-five and thirty three-year Fellowships are awarded annually. Most of these Fellowships are funded from the resources of the JCC Fund itself. A Board of Managers consisting principally of members of the Childs family manages the endowment. Each year ten to thirteen of the Fellowships are funded with monies raised from industry (Merck), or from individuals, organizations (HHMI) and from anonymous resources. The funding from industry comes without conditions, except the right to name a Fellowship (e.g. The Merck Fellow of The Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund). The Fund has a small full-time staff, located in the Yale Medical School, which takes care of all administrative needs.

Each year a weekend Symposium is organized by one or two members of The Board of Scientific Advisers "Challenges in Biomedical Sciences: Research from the Fellows Perspective". All Fellows are invited with the second year fellows reporting on the status of their projects in the form of an abstract and poster presentation; much of the "action" at the Symposium takes place in front of the poster boards, as other Fellows and members of The Board of Scientific Advisers focus on particular projects. The main program is a presentation by the third-year fellows of their projects in the form of a fifteen-minute talk with a question and answer session. When Starling W. Childs established the JCC Fund in 1937, he stressed the need for maximum communication among those focused on "the war on cancer". He was ahead of his time.

History

<https://www.jccfund.org/about-fund/history/>

When Jane Coffin Childs died of cancer in 1936, her husband, Starling W. Childs, and her sister, Alice S. Coffin, decided to honor her memory by supporting research directed toward understanding and ultimately conquering the disease. Starling W. Childs believed that a university would provide the best setting for the proposed organization and, based on its reputation as a stimulating center for cancer research, Yale appeared to be the best choice. In June of 1937 - the same year that the federal government set up the National Cancer Institute - The Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research was established as a gift in trust to Yale University.

The structure of The Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research is designed to express the original purpose of the Fund - free, wide ranging scientific inquiry. The Fund has two Boards, the Board of Managers and the Board of Scientific Advisers.

The original Board of Managers was appointed in 1937 by the Yale Corporation and was chaired by Frederic C. Walcott, a former Senator from Connecticut and a friend of Starling W. Childs. By the Deed of Gift the Board became self-perpetuating and is solely responsible for the administration and management of the Fund. However, all actions relating to scientific matters shall only be taken upon the initiation, or with the advice, of the Board of Scientific Advisers. This Board, originally with seven, and now with twelve members is also self-perpetuating. The first Chairman of the Board of Scientific Advisers was Stanhope Bayne-Jones, Dean of the Yale University School of Medicine. Reflecting the interests of the Scientific Advisers, one can detect the evolving research emphasis of the Fund: carcinogens of organic and inorganic origins, virus studies, epidemiology, endocrinology, tissue transplants, genetics and mutagenesis, microbiology, biochemistry, recombinant DNA, gene isolation, development and growth control.

As a Fund endowed by one family, it is not surprising that membership on the Board of Managers has been weighted toward members of the family and close friends. The President of Yale University is an ex-officio member. The Board is ultimately responsible for the management of the Fund. All expenditures, whether for scientific ends as recommended by the Board of Scientific Advisers or for administrative needs, and all investment decisions are reviewed and authorized by the Board of Managers. Similarly, all legal matters, such as patent policy pertaining to discoveries by grantees or fellows or changes in the by-laws, fall under the jurisdiction of the Board of Managers with the advice of its counsel. The Board of Managers must approve all appointments to either Board. All of the children of Starling and Jane Childs (three sons and a daughter) have served on the Board of Managers. The third and fourth generations are following in this tradition and, including in-laws, account for the nine members of the present slate of Managers.

The annual distributable income over the first ten years or so of the Fund's existence was \$100,000 to \$200,000 and was the largest private fund for cancer research for some years after its founding. This gives some idea of where the support of cancer research stood at that time. There were basic points of early agreement between the Boards that were to prove lasting policy guides: full collaboration with all other organizations in the field, and the widest possible circulation of information. The latter led to collaboration in the founding and long support of the Journal of Cancer Research, and in turn to support of tumor registries and atlases. The central theme of the Fund has always been that of fundamental biological research.

The early period of the Fund's existence was probably the most eventful in terms of establishing procedures and setting precedents and surely the most chaotic, despite the early decisions regarding the basic direction the Fund would take. During the early years of the Fund 70 to 80 percent of the Fund's grants went to existing Yale projects or to projects brought to Yale by the Fund.

Some of the major areas supported in the early days included Dr. C.C. Little for his famous breeding laboratory and its invaluable records at The Jackson Laboratory in Bar harbor, Maine; and Dr. L.C. Strong at Yale for the building and support of a new animal house for his use. It also provided support for

Dr. William U. Gardner for his endocrinology studies at Yale and for Dr. Charles Huggins of the Ben May Laboratory in Chicago for his studies on the hormonal control of human cancer. Shortly after the Fund was established, it arranged for Dr. Francisco Duran-Reynals to come to Yale and establish a center for the continuing study of the Rous Avian Sarcoma, as well as other modes of viral infection and malignancy. In 1941 Dr. Harry S.N. Greene was invited to come to Yale to pursue his research project involving the transplantation of living cells to the anterior lobe of a guinea pig's eye. All of the above projects were supported for many years. The Fund was also instrumental in bringing Dr. Paul Howard-Flanders to New Haven for studies in the area of radiobiology.

In the early years the Fund's resources were devoted entirely to the support of grants for established investigators and their projects in the United States (as well as abroad). For instance, the work of Dr. Jacques Monod at the Institute Pasteur was supported for a number of years by the Fund. Many Japanese investigators also were recipients of grants.

Prior to 1940, the grant money supplied by the Fund almost doubled the financial support available for cancer research from all other sources combined. The phenomenal increase in funds devoted to medical research during the subsequent decades, especially by the federal government, changed the attitudes of the Boards about the best use of their resources.

The Fellowship Program was initiated in 1944 and provided support for applicants who had just received their doctorate. As more and more funds from other sources became available to support research projects the fellowship program of the Fund was expanded, and today it consumes virtually all of the available income of the Fund. In all, over 1,600 individuals have held or are now holding Jane Coffin Childs Postdoctoral Fellowships. Supporting top young scientist at the critical postdoctoral phase of their careers is felt by both Boards to be the best use of the Fund's resources.

In 1976, on the suggestion of Doctors Berg and Luria, the Board of Scientific Advisers initiated a series of Symposia for the Fellows. The intent of this program is indicated in the following quote from the initial announcement:

"Jane Coffin Childs Fund Fellows are at a decision point in their scientific careers; most of them are deciding what lines of research to pursue when they complete their training. This Symposium series was conceived and is being organized to inform and challenge the Fund's Fellows about problems in clinical medicine relating to cancer, particularly aspects that have already been advanced, or could profitably be undertaken, by presently available biochemical and molecular approaches. Our hope is that some of the Fellows may recognize the excitement and opportunity that exist at the interface between molecular biology and clinical science and elect to direct their research interests towards these problems"

Under the overall title of □Challenges in Biomedical Sciences, the Symposia have been held annually since 1976. Attendance has been restricted to the current Fellows, members of the Boards and guest speakers to encourage informal contact. More recently the Board of Scientific Advisers realized that the Fellows Symposia could be used as a training session. Currently, the third year Fellows presents their work in a 15-minute presentation. Prior to the Symposia the Fellows are paired with a member of the Board of Scientific Advisers to mentor them in the content and presentation of their talks. This has proven to be very successful and has allowed the Fund to provide a great training opportunity for the Fellows. The second-year Fellows present their work with a poster. There are designated times for the Fellow to stand with their poster to explain their work to their peers, the Board of Scientific Adviser, the Board of Managers and any invited guests. The posters remain up throughout the Symposium and serve as a focus for informal discussion. This allows the Fellows to find out what their colleagues are doing and for the Board members to see the progress of projects that they know about generally only from the original fellowship application.

While the actual laboratory science and its potential medical applications are the central interest of the Fund, today's massive literature, in even the narrowest of fields, has slowed rather than facilitated communication. Workshops and small group meetings have become the norm for communication within specific fields. The published literature is taking on more and more of an archival function. We hope that these Symposia, bringing together a special but diverse group of individuals, will serve in a small way to

improve communication, to broaden interest and perhaps to influence direction of those who will in the future expand the horizons of biomedical science.

Board of Scientific Advisors

<https://www.jccfund.org/about-fund/board-of-scientific-advisors/>

The Fund's commitment to excellence is embodied in the Board of Scientific Advisors. The BSA has been largely responsible for shaping the original charitable gift into an effective force for the advancement of medical research by supporting the broadest view of basic biomedical science as it relates to cancer research. The Fund has been fortunate to attract extraordinarily distinguished scientists to the BSA. They have brought their expertise, a concern for excellence and a spirit of service that has contributed immeasurably to the Fund's reputation and accomplishments. This is clearly demonstrated by the 22 Nobel prizes that have been awarded to BSA members, Grantees and Fellows.

Dr. Bonnie Bassler (Chair)
Department of Molecular Biology
Princeton University/HHMI
[Visit Dr. Bassler's Lab](#)

Dr. William Bement
Department of Zoology, Laboratory of Cell and
Molecular Biology
University of Wisconsin, Madison
[Visit Dr. Bement's Lab](#)

Dr. Sue Biggins
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Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center/HHMI
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Dr. Catherine Dulac
Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology
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Dr. Nels Elde
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Dr. Ralph Isberg
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Dr. Sandra Schmid
Chief Scientific Officer
Chan Zuckerberg BioHub, UCSF

Dr. Kevan Shokat
Department of Cellular and Molecular
Pharmacology
University of California, San Francisco
[Visit Dr. Shokat's Lab](#)

Dr. Li-Huei Tsai
The Picower Institute for Learning and Memory
Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
[Visit Dr. Tsai's Lab](#)

Partners

<https://www.jccfund.org/about-fund/partners/>

The Jane Coffin Childs Fund provides post-doctoral funding for research. One thing that is attractive to Sponsors is the rigorous process that the Fund uses in selecting these applicants and the excellent Board of Scientific Advisers who determines who is funded.

These Sponsors have the same philosophy that the Fund does and are great partners in helping us to fund the next generation of great scientist that have the freedom to try new ideas and to be innovative.

HHMI, www.hhmi.org

At the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, we believe in the power of individuals to advance science through research and science education, making discoveries that benefit humanity. The philosophy of The Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research is a good fit with our mission, With the quality of the applicants and an exceptional review board our collaboration makes sense.

In 2007 HHMI agreed to fund 4 Post-Doctoral Fellows and in 2009 HHMI increased the number of fellows they are funding. Since 2009 they have funded 8 three year fellowships per year for a total of 80 fellowships including this year's awardees.

MERCK, www.merck.com/index.html

Purpose of the grants provided by Merck and Company, is to support activities that increase the skills and knowledge of the scientific community and/or foster scientific debate and have scientific merit. They are currently funding 2 three year fellowships a year.

Fellowship Information

<http://www.jccfund.org/fellowship-information/>

Eligibility

Eligibility requirements for this postdoctoral fellowship are as follows:

- Postdoctoral applicants should have no more than 18 months of postdoctoral research experience at the time of the deadline for submitting applications (February 1).
- PhD. degree must not have been conferred more than 24 months prior to the deadline date (February 1)
- MD. degree should not have been conferred more than three years before deadline date of application (February 1)
- PhD. candidates that do not have their degree at time of application deadline (February 1) are eligible to apply. If awarded, the applicant's PhD. degree must be conferred prior to the start of the Fellowship.

If February 1 falls on a Saturday or Sunday the application due date will be the following Monday.

The appointment will be for three years. The Fund recognizes that in some instances there may be valid reasons for changing both laboratory and sponsor during the course of your fellowship. Such changes require the permission of the Director with the advice of the Board of Scientific Advisers.

Applicants may be citizens of any country, but for foreign nationals awards will be made only for study in the United States. American citizens may hold a fellowship either in the United States or in a foreign country.

An applicant, in addition to submitting evidence as to pre and postdoctoral training, must supply the following:

1. the names and addresses of three individuals personally acquainted both with the applicant and with the applicant's professional work, one of whom is to be the principal predoctoral advisor,
2. in addition to the three references a letter from the Sponsor is required
3. a suitably documented outline of the research problem proposed, and
4. the written consent of the Chair of the Department and a responsible fiscal officer of the host institution indicating their willingness to accept and provide necessary facilities for the Fellow (Signature form). (Please note that in the event of multiple applications, it is the policy of the Fund to initiate no more than one fellowship under a particular sponsor in any fiscal year)

Stipend & Expenses

The basic stipend is \$56,000 for the first year, \$59,000 for the second year, and \$62,000 the third year, with an additional \$1000 for each dependent child. There is no dependency allowance for a spouse.

An allowance of \$2,000 a year toward the cost of the research will be made available to the laboratory sponsoring the fellow. The research allowance is not to be used for travel. The Fellow will have access to \$1,800 for travel to science meetings, please look at the travel policy. In addition to the travel allowance the Fund provides a travel award for the Fellow and their family to travel to the sponsoring laboratory.

Indirect Costs

The Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research is a non-profit organization that currently awards fellowships to suitably qualified applicants for full-time training. Since its inception in 1937, the Fund has not provided indirect costs as a matter of policy.

Child Care Funding for Female Fellows

In 2008 The Joan A. Steitz Fund of the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven was established as an Endowed Designated Fund for the benefit of Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research to provide stipends for child care to women who are recipients of a Jane Coffin Childs post-doctoral fellowship.

There is no application or paperwork due on the part of the female Fellow. The income from this Fund is sent to the Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund annually. The Jane Coffin Childs Fund identifies the female fellows that have children and a distribution is made. The dollar amount of the distribution to each female fellow is determined by the amount of funds received and the number of female fellows with children.

Important Dates and Documents

<https://www.jccfund.org/fellowship-information/important-dates-and-documents/>

OCTOBER 1: Online application form becomes available.

FEBRUARY 1: Applications must be received by the Fund no later than 11:59pm ET, February 1 No Exceptions

FEBRUARY 12: Letters of Reference, Sponsor Letter, Signature Page

Please note that it may take up to 7 business days to update your application with the status of received letters sent by your referees/sponsor. Do not email or call us to ask whether we received the materials until this time has passed. Please check your application for the status of letters.

LATE APRIL/EARLY MAY: The Boards of the Fund meet to review fellowship applications.

JULY 1: This is the earliest possible starting date for a fellowship. All fellowships must be activated by January 1 of the next year with no exceptions. (ie July 1, 2022 – January 1, 2023)

[Application 2022](#)

[Guidelines 2022](#)

[Application Signature Page 2022](#)

[Travel Policy](#) [Travel Policy](#)

Patent and Publication Policy

<https://www.jccfund.org/fellowship-information/patent-and-publication-policy/>

The patent policy adopted by the Board of Managers includes the following requests:

1. Notification of the Fund whenever a patentable discovery is foreseen
2. Adherence by the investigator to the established patent policy of the institution at which the investigator is working
3. In the event that the institution does not have an established patent policy the right of the Fund to join with the investigator and the institution in determining
 - The procedure to be followed in applying for a patent, and
 - The manner of administering any patent resulting from such application.

The Fellow is also asked to provide the Fund with publication information detail that results during their tenure with the Fund. We do not need copies of the reprints. We ask that in each publication the Fellow acknowledge assistance from the Fund by including the following statement:

“Fellow of The Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research

This investigation has been aided by a grant from The Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research.”

Frequently Asked Questions

<https://www.jccfund.org/fellowship-information/faq/>

When does the application period open and close?

The online application process opens October 1 for grants due February 1 of the following year. For example October 1, 2020 the on-line application for the February 1, 2021 deadline will be available. The application period closes Feb 1 at 5pm.

Does the Fund provide indirect cost to the Institute?

No indirect costs are paid.

When will I be notified if I have been awarded a Fellowship?

The review board generally meets in late April or early May. Applicants will be notified by email in late April or early May, whether their application has been declined for funding. Those applicants selected for funding will receive a phone call.

Can the research allowance be used for travel?

No, there are separate funds that are awarded to the Fellow. Check the [Travel Policy](#) for more information.

Can the research allowance be used for health insurance?

Yes, the research allowance may be used for health insurance. The use of the funds from the research allowance will be decided by the Fellow and his/her sponsor.

What is the Fund's Patent Policy?

The [patent policy](#) adopted by the Board of Managers adheres to the policy of the institution.

What if I can't send in the signature page with my application?

If you are having difficulty getting the required signatures from the sponsoring institute, send the application in without the certification page (to meet the February 1 deadline). Your application will not be considered incomplete. Please note on the application that the certification page will be coming under separate cover.

What is the deadline for the signature page?

The certification page is due February 12th.

When are my sponsor and reference letters due?

We have a deadline of February 12 for all letters. It is important that the letters are received by then, so that they can accompany your application when they are assigned for review.

Do you fund foreign nationals?

Yes, if they are working in a US lab.

Do you fund US citizens in foreign labs?

Yes

Does the Fund provide feedback on the applications?

No, we do not provide feedback on applications.

Can more than one person from a lab apply in the same year and do you fund more than one person in a lab?

In the event multiple applications are submitted, it is the policy of the Fund to initiate no more than one fellowship under a particular sponsor in any award year.

Can there be more than one Jane Coffin Childs Fellow in the lab?

There can be more than one Fellow funded by Jane Coffin Childs. They would be a 2nd or 3rd year Fellow.

What is the budget for this fellowship?

Stipend amounts are : Year 1 \$56,000; Year 2 \$59,000 and Year 3 \$62,000
\$2,000 as a research allowance per year for the three years
\$1,000 as a dependent allowance, per child, per year for the three years
No fringe costs

Is there a travel allowance?

Yes, but this is not part of the budget. The travel allowance may be requested by the Fellow to attend science meetings. An expense report is filed and the reimbursement is sent directly to the Fellow.

Contacts

<https://www.jccfund.org/contact-us/>

Feel free to contact us using the form or one of the other methods below.

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333 Cedar Street, MC0191
PO Box 208000
New Haven, CT 06520-8000

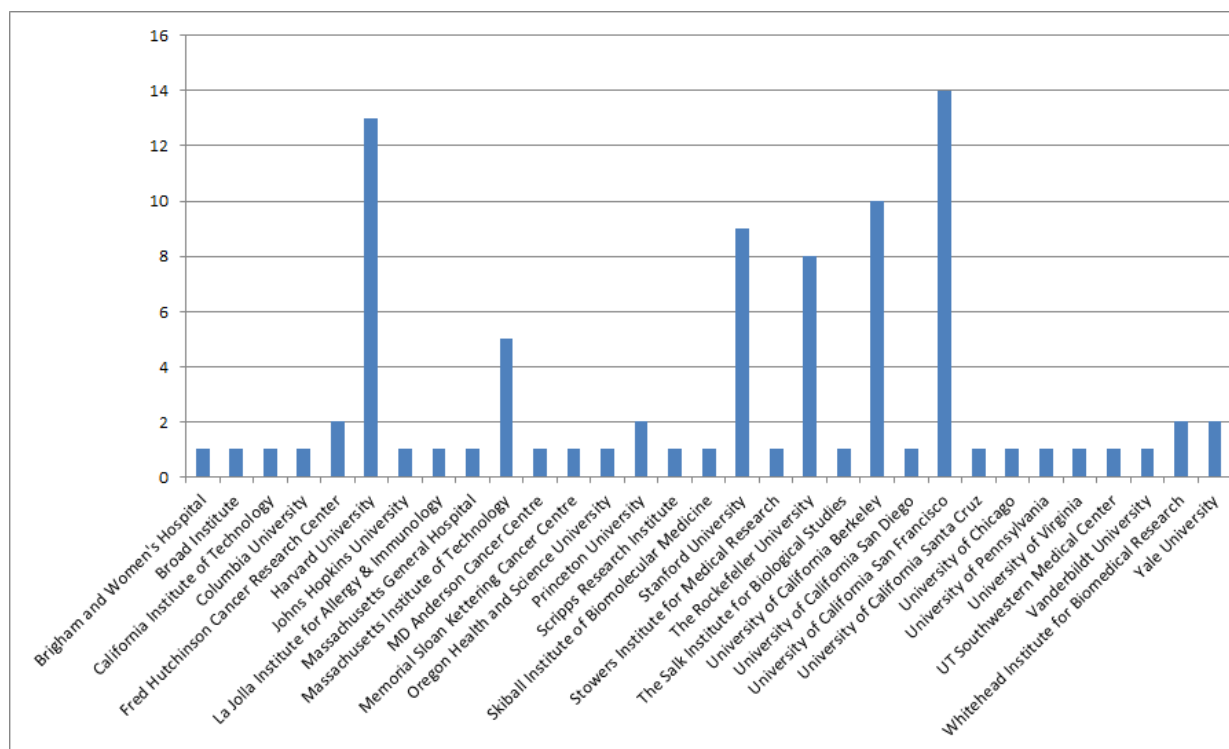
By Phone: 203-785-4612

Current fellows (61)

<https://www.jccfund.org/fellows-projects/>

Former fellows

<https://www.jccfund.org/former/>



Apply now

<https://application.jccfund.org/>