



## **The Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research Postdoctoral Fellowships (JCC Fund 2024)**

Information checked and updated 13/10/2023

### **About the Fund**

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

The Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research (JCC Fund) was established by the Childs Family in 1937, to honor the memory of Jane Coffin Childs who died of cancer in 1936. Inspired by the founding purpose to support research into the causes and treatment of cancer, the Fund's mission has broadened to support fundamental scientific research that advances understanding of the causes, treatments, and cures for human disease.

The JCC Fund provides three years of salary support to the best and brightest postdoctoral fellows, as selected by the esteemed Board of Scientific Advisors (BSA), pursuing fundamental biomedical research to advance human health. Over 1,800 Jane Coffin Childs Fellows have been awarded to conduct basic cancer and human disease related research in laboratories in North America, Europe, Japan and Australia.

The JCC Fund supports between twenty-five and thirty new three-year postdoctoral fellows each year. The 2024 fellowship stipend levels are Year 1 \$70,000; Year 2 \$72,000 and Year 3 \$74,000 with additional funding provided for research costs, travel costs, relocation costs and supplemented salaries for fellows with dependents. Additional funds for child care costs are accessible for fellows, thanks to a generous gift to the JCC Fund, established by Dr. Joan Steitz.

From the start, the Fund has been fortunate that distinguished, thoughtful and dedicated scientists have generously given their time and efforts as members of the BSA. The rigorous selection process, the mentoring and sharing of knowledge that the BSA provides each year is one of the great strengths of the JCC Fund. The BSA has included seventeen recipients of the Nobel Prize, as well as numerous recipients of other prestigious scientific awards and honors. The BSA are innovators and leaders who are well-known among scientists and non-scientists around the world. As a result, competition is high for a JCC Fellowship. Each year over three hundred and fifty applications for fellowship projects are received by the JCC office and evaluated by the BSA.

The JCC Fund is committed to mentoring and advancing people from all backgrounds and through its role as a funder of biomedical research, is dedicated to increasing the diversity of the scientific workforce.

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 by corporate and non-profit partners of JCC, including Merck and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI). The administrative and program offices of the JCC Fund are located in New Haven, CT at the Yale Medical School.

Each year the BSA and the currently funded fellows are expected to attend an annual symposium. As part of the agenda, the fellows will partake in poster sessions, scientific sessions and career development sessions, all to enhance the networking, communication and scientific skills of the fellows. 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. While the focus of our research support has

broadened, Starling W. Childs was ahead of his time and the need for clear, accessible scientific communication from trusted leaders in science is more pressing than ever.

## 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 [23 Nobel prizes](#) that have been awarded to BSA members, Grantees and Fellows.

Dr. Sue Biggins (Director of the JCC Board of Scientific Advisors)  
Senior Vice President and Professor  
Division of Basic Sciences  
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center/HHMI  
[Visit Dr. Biggins' Lab](#)

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

Dr Anne Churchland  
Department of Neurobiology  
University of California, Los Angeles  
[Visit Dr. Churchland's Lab](#)

Dr. Catherine Dulac  
Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology  
HHMI/Harvard University  
[Visit Dr. Dulac's Lab](#)

Dr. Nels Elde  
Department of Human Genetics  
University of Utah School of Medicine/HHMI  
[Visit Dr. Elde's Lab](#)

Dr. Taekjip Ha  
Thomas C. Jenkins Department of Biophysisc  
The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine/HHMI  
[Visit Dr. Ha's Lab](#)

Dr. Rebecca Heald  
Department of Molecular and Cell Biology  
University of California, Berkeley  
[Visit Dr. Heald's Lab](#)

Dr. Ralph Isberg  
Department of Molecular Biology & Microbiology

Tufts University, School of Medicine  
[Visit Dr. Isberg's Lab](#)

Dr. Duoia Pan  
Department of Physiology  
UT Southwestern Medical Center/HHMI  
[Visit Dr. Pan's Lab](#)

Dr. Marion Pepper  
Department of Immunology  
University of Washington  
[Visit Dr. Pepper's Lab](#)

Dr Samara Reck-Peterson  
Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine  
Division of Biological Sciences, Cell and Developmental Biology Section  
University of California, San Diego/HHMI  
[Visit Dr. Reck-Peterson's Lab](#)

Dr. Martine F. Roussel  
Department of Tumor Cell Biology  
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital  
[Visit Dr. Roussel's Lab](#)

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

Dr. Agata Smogorzewska  
Laboratory of Genome Maintenance  
The Rockefeller University, New York  
[Visit Dr. Smogorzewska's Lab](#)

Dr. Aaron Streets  
Department of Bioengineering  
University of California, Berkeley  
[Visit Dr. Streets' 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 our philanthropic partners is the rigorous process that the Fund uses in selecting these applicants and the excellent Board of Scientific Advisers that selects who is funded.

These partners share JCC's philosophy to help advance the next generation of great scientist by providing them with the freedom and flexibility to try innovative ideas and to be bold in their scientific pursuits.

## HHMI, [www.hhmi.org](http://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 funded four post-doctoral fellows, and in 2009 HHMI increased the number of fellows supported to eight three-year fellowships per year. In total, HHMI has generously supported more than 80 JCC fellowships, including this year's awardees.

## MERCK, [www.merck.com/index.html](http://www.merck.com/index.html)

Merck and Company supports activities that increase the skills and knowledge of the scientific community and/or fosters scientific debate and has scientific merit. JCC has partnered with Merck since 2011.

Merck is currently funding two three-year fellowships per year and has funded more than 20 JCC fellowships, including this year's awardees.

If you are interested in becoming a philanthropic partner and supporting additional JCC fellows, please reach out to the JCC office at [jccfund@yale.edu](mailto:jccfund@yale.edu).

## National Postdoctoral Association

The National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) believes that the contributions of this highly skilled and educated population should be known. NPA is committed to amplifying the postdoc stories of the 70,000 postdocs innovating across the United States to the academic community, policymakers, and the nation at large. As a member of the NPA, JCC supports the NPA in its work to enhance the postdoctoral workforce.

## To Apply

THE APPLICATION PORTAL IS OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS ON **OCTOBER 10, 2023 at noon.**

**The Jane Coffin Childs Fund has a new online application. All instructions to apply, with digital guides, can be found in the application portal.**

## Eligibility Criteria to Apply

<https://www.jccfund.org/eligibility-criteria/>

The applicant must meet all eligibility requirements as outlined here to apply:

- Postdoctoral applicants should have no more than 18 months of postdoctoral research experience at the time of the application deadline of February 1, 2024 (ie first postdoctoral position must not have commenced August 1, 2022). Please note that dual degree M.D.,Ph.D. applicants should contact the program office ([jccfund@yale.edu](mailto:jccfund@yale.edu)) regarding extended timeline criteria.
- Ph.D. degree must not have been conferred more than 24 months prior to the application deadline of February 1, 2024 (ie must not have conferred PhD before Feb.1, 2022). Please note that dual degree M.D.,Ph.D. applicants should contact the program office ([jccfund@yale.edu](mailto:jccfund@yale.edu)) regarding extended timeline criteria.

- M.D. degree should not have been conferred more than three years before the application deadline of February 1, 2024 (ie must not have conferred M.D. before February 1, 2021).
- Ph.D. candidates that do not have their degree at time of the application deadline (February 1, 2024) are eligible to apply. If awarded, the applicant's Ph.D. degree must be conferred prior to the start of the Fellowship.
- Postdoctoral training in the same institution in which the applicant received their Ph.D. is not preferred. Particularly, if it is in the same department. In the appropriate section of the application, please address this situation if you are proposing training either in the same institution or with the same department as your graduate work. Proposals that are in the same laboratory where the fellow received their Ph.D. will not be funded.
- Applicants who have accepted a postdoctoral research fellowship award are not eligible. (Candidates may hold a T32 at the time of application, but not concurrently with the Jane Coffin Childs Award.) Fellows may obtain additional awards or grants to cover research expenses only, but not stipends.
- Applicants must have identified a sponsoring laboratory and sponsoring institution prior to applying.
- Applicants may be citizens of any country, but awards for non-U.S. citizens can only be made to sponsoring institutions in the United States.
- No more than one Fellow per sponsor's laboratory will be funded per award year. Multiple fellows may be funded in the same sponsor's laboratory over multiple award years.

### **Application and Fellowship Dates and Documents**

<https://www.jccfund.org/eligibility-criteria/important-dates-and-documents/>

**The Jane Coffin Childs Fund has a new online application. All instructions to apply, with digital guides can be found in the application portal.**

From the application portal, the applicant will invite the appropriate contacts to receive an email with a link to upload the referee letters, sponsor letter and signature letters.

1. **Three referee letters are required** from qualified individuals, other than the applicant's Sponsor, who can evaluate the applicant's qualifications for the proposed research project and assess the applicant's potential for successful independent biomedical research. For applicants with a Ph.D., the first referee letter should preferably come from the applicant's thesis advisor.
2. **One sponsor letter** is required, indicating that the proposed postdoctoral sponsor has accepted the applicant into the laboratory and outlining the plans for the fellowship
3. **A signature page** that verifies that the appropriate contacts at the sponsoring institute are aware of the applicant's submission to the Jane Coffin Childs Fund and are aware of the terms of the award as outlined on [www.jccfund.org](http://www.jccfund.org). If the applicant is awarded as a JCC Fellow, the award notification letter will be sent to the institutional contacts as noted.

OCTOBER 10, 2023: Online application form and templates for reference letters, sponsor letter and signature page become available.

FEBRUARY 1, 2024, 12pm EST (noon): Applications and all supporting material must be received in the application portal no later than 12:00pm (noon) EST, February 1, 2024. No Exceptions.

MID MAY 2024: Award decisions will be made and applicants notified via email.

JULY 1, 2024: Fellowship start date.

To apply: [Apply Now](#)

### **Terms of the Award**

<https://www.jccfund.org/eligibility-criteria/patent-and-publication-policy/>



### **Term of Fellowship**

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 the fellowship. Such changes require the permission of the Director with the advice of the Board of Scientific Advisors.

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.

The JCC Fund is committed to mentoring and advancing people from all backgrounds and through its role as a funder of biomedical research, is dedicated to increasing the diversity of the scientific workforce.

Attendance at the annual symposium of the Jane Coffin Childs Fund is required each year of the fellowship. All meeting expenses for attendees' travel, lodging, and meals hosted by JCC are paid for by JCC.

An award does not constitute an employer-employee relationship between the Foundation and the JCC Fellow, if supported by JCC or Merck.

During the term of the fellowship, sponsors are required to provide medical benefits for the Fellow.

Please note that JCC Fellows supported by the JCC/HHMI partnership and in the laboratory of an HHMI investigator have unique terms as outlined at the time of the award by JCC and HHMI.

### **Stipend & Expenses**

- The basic stipend is \$70,000 for the first year, \$72,000 for the second year, and \$74,000 the third year.
- An additional \$1,000 of stipend support is provided annually per dependent child under the age of 18.
- 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 and the use of the research funds are left to the discrepancy of the fellow and sponsor.
- The fellow may be reimbursed up to \$1,800 total for travel to scientific meetings. Travel funding is to be spent over the three year fellowship according to the Jane Coffin Childs Fund travel policy that is distributed to fellows at the time of award notification.
- The Fund provides a one-time relocation award for the fellow and their family to move to the sponsoring laboratory, capped at \$500.
- 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 to provide stipends for child care to all fellows with dependents under the age of 18. There is no application or paperwork due on the part of the fellow and further information will be provided to awardees at the time of award.
- Second and third year funding of awards is contingent upon submission of an annual fiscal and narrative report.

### **Indirect Costs**

- The Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research is a non-profit organization that currently awards fellowships to for full-time training of postdoctoral fellows. No indirect costs are provided to the sponsoring institution.

### **Intellectual Property**

- Fellows should notify the Fund whenever a patent has been applied for and Jane Coffin Childs Fund has supported the awardee during the development of the patentable intellectual property
- The Jane Coffin Childs Fund requests that awardees adhere to the established patent policy of the institution at which the primary sponsor is working
- In the event that the institution does not have an established patent policy, the Jane Coffin Childs Fund has the right to join with the sponsor and the sponsoring institution in determining
  1. The procedure to be followed in applying for a patent, and
  2. The manner of administering any patent resulting from such application.

### **Communication Policy**

- The Fellow should communicate new publication details during the tenure of their fellowship to the JCC office. Fellows should acknowledge support from the Fund by including the following statement:

***(FELLOW'S INITIALS) is a Fellow of The Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research***

If presenting a poster or talk, fellows should include the Jane Coffin Childs Fund logo to their materials and designate Jane Coffin Childs Fund as a funder in all funding acknowledgements during your tenure as a fellow

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

<https://www.jccfund.org/eligibility-criteria/faq/>

### **When does the application period open and close?**

The online application process opens October 10, 2024 for grants due February 1, 2024. The application period closes Feb 1, 2024 at 12:00pm (noon) EST.

### **Does the Fund provide indirect cost to the Institute?**

No indirect costs are paid to the supporting institute.

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

Applicants will be notified by email in May, whether their application has been awarded or declined for funding.

### **Can the research allowance be used for travel?**

The \$2000 research allowance should not be used for travel. There are separate funds (\$1800) that are awarded to the Fellow to support travel.

### **Can the research allowance be used for health insurance?**

Yes, as long as the sponsor and fellow agree, the research allowance may be used for health insurance.

### **What is the Fund's Intellectual Property Policy?**

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

### **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 as long as they are funded in different award years.

### **Is attendance at the annual symposium required for the three years of fellowship?**

Yes, fellows are expected to attend annual symposium for three years. All meeting expenses for attendees' travel, lodging, and meals hosted by JCC are paid for by JCC.



**Are fiscal and narrative reports required annually for the three years of fellowship?**

Yes, funding in years 2 and 3 of the fellowship is dependent on the submission of annual fiscal and narrative reports.

**Contacts**

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

Please contact us using the form or one of the other methods below.

By Phone: 203-785-4612

By Mail: The Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research  
333 Cedar Street  
Sterling Hall of Medicine, L300  
Yale University  
New Haven, CT 06510

By Email: [jccfund@yale.edu](mailto:jccfund@yale.edu)

**Current fellows (69)**

<https://www.jccfund.org/fellows/current>

**Former fellows**

<https://www.jccfund.org/fellows/directory>

**Apply now**

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