Weill Cornell Medicine
BURROUGHS WELLCOME FUND
PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST ACADEMY

Burroughs Wellcome Weill Cornell Physician-Scientist Academy

Request For Applications

- **Description**
  - This program seeks to train MD-only trainees and physicians of all clinical disciplines for full time careers in laboratory investigation. To achieve this goal, it will help trainees develop explicitly structured career development programs that are customized to their specific clinical discipline and scientific interests using the collective resources of the Tri-Institutional Community. This training strategy is built around three core concepts - start early, stay focused, and stay connected - that aim to overcome key barriers identified by the NIH Physician-Scientist Working Group.
  - The program will specifically furnish trainees (ranging from late stage medical students to residents and post-graduate trainees) with: (i) longitudinally structured, multidisciplinary career development plans that integrate individualized scientific training into clinical training from the time of matriculation; (ii) financial support for extended full time research training; (iii) help managing the competing demands of work-life balance related to primary caregiver responsibilities; and (iv) membership in a Multi-institutional Consortium dedicated to the Advancement of Physician Scientists (MCAPS) whose explicit goal is to jumpstart professional networking and thereby facilitate longitudinal career stage transitions. All activities are intended to be explicitly tied to the professional finish line of faculty independence.
  - ***Applications from all clinical disciplines are welcome.***
  - Applications will be reviewed by committee and awarded on a competitive basis based on the number and quality of applications received.

- **Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria**
  - M.D.-only trainees and graduates seeking full time careers in laboratory-based investigation.
  - MD graduates of all clinical disciplines no more than 1 year past residency/fellowship with a guarantee of:
    - >1 year of protected research time of no less than 80% for residents and >3 years for fellows.
- **Financial Resources Available to Accepted Trainees**
  - For post-graduate trainees: Funding in the form of 1-year bridge awards to help defray salary costs during the research intensive phase of training. Salary costs will be determined according to PGY payscale and subsidized by up to a maximum of $67,000 with a requirement that participating departments and/or programs provide matching support equivalent to or greater than 1/2 of that requested. This matching support from participating departments and/or programs must be specifically committed to protected research time and does not require any other clinical or administrative responsibilities.
  - For matriculated trainees with primary caregiver responsibilities: Funding, on a competitive basis, in the form of 1-year awards intended to support salary costs of a closely supervised technician for up to a maximum of $50,000.

- Additional funding will be available for matriculated trainees on a competitive basis to support individualized training activities, such as participation in immersion courses, and professional development activities, such as conference attendance, and in specific cases, special reagent or laboratory-related costs.
- *Available funding is not automatically awarded upon acceptance but must be requested by trainee with explicitly stated goals and milestones.*

- **Application**
  - NIH style Biosketch
  - Personal statement of career goals, research experiences (including examples of both successes and challenges), and scientific interests that may include a brief description of a proposed research plan and/or summary of specific aims (3-page maximum)
  - Statement of duration and timeline of applicant's current training program/career stage (1/2-page maximum)
  - Letter of support from current training program (3-page maximum)
    - For residents and fellows, this should be from the Program Director and/or Department Chair and include a specific description of the Program/Departmental commitment to the creation of an individualized training curriculum that longitudinally integrates structured research training across the course of the trainee's clinical curriculum. The letter should guarantee:
      - For residents: 1 year of >80% protected research time and written assurance of departmental support matching ½ of that requested for bridge support from this program.
      - For fellows: support for 3 years of >80% protected research time and written assurance of Departmental support matching ½ of that requested for bridge support from this program.
  - Two (2) letters of recommendation from prior research references (one of which may include the proposed mentor, if already identified)
    - Letters should include an evaluation of the applicant's commitment to and potential for an independent career in laboratory research.
    - Letters from proposed mentors should include a statement of support for the applicant's career development plan and be accompanied by the referee's biosketch.
  - Requests for access to specific forms of financial support will follow acceptance into the program.

- **Application deadline**
  - Applications should be submitted as a single pdf file using the naming convention: PI_LASTNAME_DEPARTMENT_BWWC.pdf, and will be accepted on a rolling basis and reviewed quarterly. Email the complete application file and any questions regarding eligibility or the application process to the program manager, Jeanne Tejada (jed2029@med.cornell.edu) and PI, Dr. Kyu Rhee (kyr9001@med.cornell.edu).
  - **Application deadline is December 21, 2026.**

- **Website**
  - Visit the website at *https://faculty.weill.cornell.edu/faculty-development/programs/BWWC*