

AllerGen Emerging Clinician-Scientist Research Fellowship

AllerGen NCE Inc. is a member of Canada's Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) program with a mandate to support research, networking, commercialization, knowledge mobilization and capacity building activities that contribute to reducing the morbidity, mortality and socio-economic impact of allergic and related immune diseases.

Mission

To catalyze and support discovery, development, networking, capacity building, commercialization and knowledge translation/mobilization that contribute to reducing the morbidity, mortality and socio-economic burden of allergy, asthma and anaphylaxis for the benefit of Canadians and the global community.

Vision

To catalyze an enduring network of researchers and trainees, industry partners, healthcare providers, patient advocates and policy makers whose combined efforts improve the quality of life of those impacted by allergic disease, asthma and anaphylaxis, nationally and globally.

Goals

1. Catalyze and support innovative research to discover causes, prevention and treatments for allergic and related immune diseases
2. Contribute to development, translation, mobilization, commercialization and policy use of research that accelerates Canadian innovation, productivity and economic competitiveness
3. Develop and maintain networking and partnerships rooted in strong, mutually beneficial relationships with relevant communities and organizations
4. Create "value-added" opportunities for the training, education and professional development of highly qualified personnel (HQP), students and new professionals and the public that strengthen Canada's knowledge base, innovative capacity and work-force productivity
5. Leave an enduring network of relationships and capacity that sustains AllerGen-fostered research partnerships, commercialization and knowledge mobilization into the future, as a legacy benefiting Canadians nationally and globally.

The goal of the *AllerGen Emerging Clinician-Scientist Research Fellowship* is to enable Canadian Allergists and Clinical Immunologists to pursue allergy, asthma and/or anaphylaxis academic research training immediately following their Clinical Immunology and Allergy subspecialty training.

The quality of the research or training opportunity and the potential for a combined career as a clinician and researcher are the principal criteria on which the applications will be judged.

Eligible academic foci include basic and/or clinical research related to allergy, asthma and/or anaphylaxis.

FUNDING INFORMATION

Value of the Award:

The *AllerGen Emerging Clinician-Scientist Research Fellowship* provides a stipend of up to \$250,000 for a maximum of two years for clinicians who have completed Clinical Immunology and Allergy sub-specialty training at a Canadian academic health sciences centre. Preference will be given to applicants whose host institution can confirm that the applicant has been identified for a junior faculty position following successful completion of the Fellowship and/or continued provincial research funding support.

AllerGen encourages applicants to secure matching funding to a level commensurate with their level of clinical training.

Duration of Support:

The duration of support provided to successful applicants will be for two years. A \$100,000 Fellowship plus a \$25,000 research allowance will be awarded in each of the two years of this Fellowship. Awardees will be eligible to receive year two funds subject to AllerGen's *Research Management Committee's* (RMC) acceptance of a positive recommendation from its *Advanced Education and Training Opportunities Advisory Committee* (AETOAC) based on AETOAC's satisfactory evaluation of a written report demonstrating progress. This Award is non-renewable.

Research Allowance:

The research allowance of \$50,000 over two years is provided to pay for the awardee's research equipment, materials and supplies, relocation to and from the laboratory (where applicable), travel to scientific meetings held either inside or outside Canada and other costs directly related to their research program. These funds cannot be used to pay for health insurance. An awardee may apply receipts against the research allowance for up to three months beyond the official termination date, at which time the account must be finalized. Any unspent funds must be returned to AllerGen immediately on the last day of the three month period following the official termination date.

Conditions of Funding:

All conditions specified in the CIHR Grants and Awards Guide (<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/22630.html>) shall apply to applications funded through this Request for Applications. Conditions cover areas such as Applicant and Institutional Responsibilities, Ethics and Official Language Policy. Successful applicants will be informed of any special financial conditions prior to the release of funds, when they receive AllerGen's funding award letter.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible candidates are Canadian citizens or permanent residents who are clinicians enrolled in or have completed Clinical Immunology and Allergy sub-specialty training at a Canadian academic health sciences centre.

Applications will be considered 18 months prior to and 18 months after completion of the applicants Clinical Immunology and Allergy sub-specialty training.

Preference will be given to applicants whose host institution can confirm that the applicant has been identified for a junior faculty position following successful completion of the Fellowship and/or provincial follow-on research funding.

The Fellowship must be held in Canada at a Canadian university or research institute. If funding flows to a host institution, that institution must become signatory to the AllerGen NCE Standard Network Agreement.

Funds will not be released until successful completion of Clinical Immunology and Allergy subspecialty training and upon confirmation of host institution support and receipt of required signatures on AllerGen funding documents.

Should a successful applicant already hold a concurrent award, the Fellowship will be pro-rated accordingly. Should an awardee receive additional awards, a similar reduction will be made. Awardees are required to notify AllerGen immediately of any and all awards received during the term in which they hold the *AllerGen Emerging Clinician-Scientist Research Fellowship Award 2012-2013*.

EVALUATION PROCESS

All eligible applications will be screened by AllerGen administrative staff for completeness. Eligible applications will then be subject to peer review by the AllerGen Advanced Education and Training Opportunities Advisory Committee, which will rank and recommend applications for final decision by AllerGen's Research Management Committee.

Evaluation Criteria:

The quality of the research or training opportunity and the potential for a combined career as a clinician and researcher are the principal criteria on which the applications will be judged.

More specifically, points considered in the assessment of an application are as follows:

- Academic achievements
- Publication record and contributions to published work
- Research accomplishments to date, including evidence of independence and originality
- Quality and clarity of the proposed research project and the potential to increase capacity of translational Clinical Immunology and Allergy research
- Appropriateness of the proposed research or training project to further the candidate's combined clinical and research career
- Supervisor/mentor qualifications and strength of learning environment
- Sponsor assessments and strength of references
- Institutional confirmation of the candidate's identification for a junior faculty position *(if applicable)*

PUBLICATIONS

Awardees must acknowledge the assistance given by AllerGen in any publication or presentation made during or resulting from the tenure of the Award.

AllerGen shall be provided a copy, at the time of submission, of all manuscripts and presentations submitted for publication that arise from the efforts of the Fellowship recipient during the tenure of this Award.

MONITORING, PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT AND EVALUATION

AllerGen is committed to demonstrating results to Canadians for the public funds it invests on their behalf. Therefore, processes for monitoring progress and appropriate use of funds, as well as for performance measurement and program evaluation are in place. To this end, funding recipients must:

- Contribute to the monitoring, review and evaluation of AllerGen's programs, policies and processes by participating in networking activities at the Annual Research Conference as well as participating in evaluation studies, surveys, workshops, audits and providing data and reports as required for the purpose of collecting information to assess progress and results;
- Encourage their associates, trainees and administration to participate in the monitoring, review and evaluation of AllerGen's programs, policies and processes as required;
- Sign AllerGen's Standard NCE Network Agreement and comply with all of its provisions.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COMMERCIALIZATION

Awardees and their host institutions must be signatories to the AllerGen Standard NCE Network Agreement. As per this agreement, AllerGen NCE Inc. requires that it be informed of any commercial exploitation arising from activity supported through the Award in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement.

AllerGen directs that effort should be made by the Awardee to maximize beneficial social and economic impacts to Canada as a result of this Award.

TERMINATION OF THE AWARD

This Award may be terminated at any time with 30 days written notice for good and sufficient reason by the Awardee, the host University or AllerGen NCE Inc. If terminated, all unspent funds as at the termination date, must be returned immediately to AllerGen.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Candidates are requested to complete the attached application form and include the following:

1. A description of the proposed research project and training opportunity, (maximum five pages, excluding references, which may be appended on a separate page);
2. CIHR Common CV Modules for both the candidate (*candidate section only*) and the proposed supervisor(s) (*condensed form - pages 1, 2, 3, 4, 5*). Draft copies of the CV modules will not be accepted;
3. Proof of enrollment or completion within the last 18 months of Clinical Immunology and Allergy sub-specialty training at a Canadian academic health sciences centre;
 - Applicants providing a letter from their host institution confirming that the applicant has been identified for a junior faculty position will be given preference
 - Applicants are encouraged to provide evidence that provincial follow-on research funding support is available where applicable
4. CIHR Sponsor Assessment Forms from three (3) people under whom the candidate has trained and who have had an opportunity to assess the candidate's potential for research available at CIHR ResearchNet;

5. Letter(s) of support from the candidate's proposed supervisor(s) and sponsoring institution indicating assurance of adequate supervision;
6. Official transcripts of the candidate's graduate and/or clinical training, including proof of any degrees completed, in the original sealed envelope. AllerGen will only accept an official student's copy of the transcript if submitted in the original sealed envelope from the institution.

Send one (1) original plus seven (7) copies of the Application by courier to:

(Note only one copy of the transcripts and Sponsor's Assessment forms need be submitted since they must be sealed at source.)

AllerGen Emerging Clinician-Scientist Research Fellowship
Attention: Michelle Harkness, Highly Qualified Personnel and Events Coordinator
AllerGen NCE Inc.
McMaster University
Michael G. DeGroote Centre for Learning and Discovery
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Hamilton, ON L8S 2A5

KEY DATES

- Full applications must be either hand-delivered or courier stamped no later than Friday, April 13, 2012 by 12:00 p.m. EST
- Adjudication: May 2012
- Notification: July 2012

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions regarding the completion of the application and the peer review process, contact:

Michelle Harkness
Highly Qualified Personnel and Events Coordinator
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Email michelleharkness@allergen-nce.ca