



2009

Career Awards at the Scientific Interface

Bridging Support for Physical/Computational Scientists Entering Biology

Application Deadline: April 15, 2008

BURROUGHS
WELLCOME
FUND 

Program Background

Advances in genomics, quantitative structural biology, and modeling of complex systems have created opportunities for an exciting research career at the interface between the physical/computational sciences and the biological sciences. Tackling key problems in biology will require scientists trained in areas such as chemistry, physics, applied mathematics, computer science, and engineering.

Recognizing the vital role such cross-trained scientists will play in furthering biomedical science, the Burroughs Wellcome Fund has developed the Career Awards at the Scientific Interface. These grants are intended to foster the early career development of researchers with backgrounds in the physical/computational sciences whose work addresses biological questions and who are dedicated to pursuing a career in academic research.

Candidates are expected to draw from their training in a scientific field other than biology to propose innovative approaches to answer important questions in the biological sciences. Examples of approaches include, but are not limited to, physical measurement of biological phenomena, computer simulation of complex processes in physiological systems, mathematical modeling of self-organizing behavior, building probabilistic tools for medical diagnosis, developing novel imaging tools or biosensors, applying nanotechnology to manipulate cellular systems, predicting cellular responses to topological clues and mechanical forces, and developing a new conceptual understanding of the complexity of living organisms. Proposals that include experimental validation of theoretical models are particularly encouraged.

Program

Career Awards at the Scientific Interface provide \$500,000 over five years to support up to two years of advanced postdoctoral training and the first three years of a faculty appointment.

General Requirements

- During the postdoctoral and faculty periods, grants must be made to degree-granting institutions in the U.S. or Canada on behalf of the award recipient.
- Award recipients are required to devote at least 80 percent of their time to research-related activities.
- **Note:** Indirect costs may not be charged against BWF grants.

Career Awards at the Scientific Interface provide the following levels of support:

Postdoctoral Period	Salary and Research	Administrative Fee	Annual Total
Year 1	\$75,000	\$5,000	\$80,000
Year 2	\$55,000	\$5,000	\$60,000
Faculty Period			
Year 1	\$110,000	\$10,000	\$120,000
Year 2	\$110,000	\$10,000	\$120,000
Year 3	\$110,000	\$10,000	\$120,000
Total			\$500,000

Postdoctoral Portion of the Award

- Should last a minimum of one year and a maximum of two years.
- Provides maximum salary support of \$47,000 in year one and \$51,000 in year two. Awardee salary may be supplemented from other sources. BWF expects that support must meet or exceed the NIH pay scale appropriate to the trainee's level of experience. BWF does not set or cap the salary level of its awardees.
- Requires that any equipment purchased by the award recipient be transferable to the institution providing the faculty appointment.
- Encourages award recipients to use funds for advanced course work (at any institution). Applicants should present a training plan in the proposal if they intend to use award funds for this purpose.
- Allows the unpaid balance of the postdoctoral portion of the award to be added to the faculty portion of the award if an award recipient moves to a faculty position in less than two years.

Faculty Portion of the Award

- Will be \$500,000 minus the portion used during the postdoctoral year(s).
- Normally will be five years minus the time spent during the postdoctoral portion of the award.
- Allows no more than 50 percent of the awardee's salary to be charged to the grant.
- Allows awardees demonstrating adequate progress to be granted no-cost extensions up to the time they are reviewed for tenure.

Salary and Fringe Benefits

- If an institution's salary scale for the position is higher than the salary amounts provided by the award, then the institution must supplement the awardee's salary.
- It is anticipated that institutions will make a contribution to the awardee's salary to maximize the amount of the award that can be used for research expenses.
- BWF will pay an administrative fee to the institution to cover a portion of the awardee's fringe benefits, such as health insurance and retirement. The institution is expected to cover the remainder of these costs as an indication of support for the awardee.
- Institutions that pay for fringe benefits from their own funds may keep the fee as reimbursement for administering the grant or reallocate the fee to the awardee's research expenses.
- The balance of the award is to be used to cover research expenses, at the discretion of the award recipient. These funds may be used flexibly for items such as equipment, consumable supplies, travel to scientific meetings, or laboratory personnel.

Faculty Appointments

- Most award recipients will accept a faculty position at a different institution.
- Before approving the faculty portion of the award, BWF requires the hiring institution to make a significant commitment to the award recipient's career development as represented by the financial and professional situation offered.
- BWF strongly prefers tenure-track faculty appointments, accompanied by salary support and support for starting up a laboratory or research group.
- If an award recipient chooses to accept a faculty position at a research institute, the research institute must be closely affiliated with a degree-granting institution, and the degree-granting institution must offer the award recipient a joint tenure-track faculty position with some commitment to the award recipient.
- If the institutional commitment to the award recipient is deemed inadequate, BWF reserves the right to terminate the faculty portion of the grant.
- Award recipients must be given the opportunity to take an adjunct or joint appointment in a second department, if desired.
- The institution must name at least one tenured faculty member in a discipline complementary to the award recipient's primary discipline who is willing to serve as a faculty mentor.

Application materials must be received by BWF by 4 p.m. Eastern Time, April 15, 2008. BWF will interview finalists. Candidates will be notified by mid-August about interviews, which will be conducted on September 10 or 11, 2008. The awards will be announced in early November and will begin in January 2009.

Consult BWF's website www.bwfund.org for any program updates and lists of frequently asked questions.

Guidelines

Candidate Eligibility Guidelines

- Candidates should hold a Ph.D. degree in one of the fields of mathematics, physics, chemistry, computer science, statistics, or engineering. Exceptions will be made if the applicant can demonstrate significant expertise in one of these areas, evidenced by publications or advanced course work.
- Candidates must have completed at least **12** months but not more than 48 months of postdoctoral research at the time of application. **No exceptions to this requirement will be made.**

- Candidates **cannot** hold nor have accepted, either in writing or verbally, a faculty appointment as a tenure-track assistant professor at the time of application.
- Candidates must be committed to a full-time career in research as an independent investigator at a North American degree-granting institution.
- Citizens of the U.S. and Canada are eligible.
- Non-citizen Permanent Residents of the U.S. and Canada are eligible, with certification by the nominating institution.
- Temporary residents of the U.S. are eligible, however see "Institutional Nomination Guidelines" for restrictions.
- Temporary residents of Canada are not eligible.
- All candidates must be nominated by accredited, degree-granting institutions in the U.S. or Canada.

Institutional Nomination Guidelines

- A degree-granting institution—including its medical school, graduate schools, and all affiliated hospitals and research institutes—**may nominate up to two candidates for the award.**
- To encourage applications from women, **institutions that nominate a female candidate will be allowed three nominations.**
- To encourage applications from members of underrepresented minority groups, institutions may have **a single additional nomination** if they nominate an African-American, Hispanic, or Native American candidate.
- **No more than one** of an institution's nominees may be a temporary resident of the U.S. **No exceptions will be made.**
- Institutions with questions about the eligibility or number of nominees must contact BWF in advance of the application deadline. **BWF will make no exceptions to its policies.**
- For temporary residents, institutions must certify that the applicant's visa will allow him/her to remain in the U.S. during the postdoctoral period of the grant. **Note:** If a grant is awarded and the individual's visa does not allow for such a stay, BWF may terminate the grant.
- The U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) may nominate candidates from its intramural program, with the same restrictions listed above. The NIH will support these award recipients during the postdoctoral years, and BWF will support them for the faculty portion of the award only, for a total of \$360,000. Postdoctoral fellows at the NIH should contact its Office of Intramural Studies for information about its nomination procedures.

Questions regarding candidate or institutional eligibility should be directed in advance to BWF by calling (919) 991-5100.

Selection

The Interfaces Advisory Committee (listed on p. 5) will review all applications, interview finalists, and make recommendations for awards to BWF's Board of Directors. Selection will be based on:

- Depth and rigor of training and experience in a scientific discipline other than biology.
- Importance of biological questions identified in the proposal, and innovation in the approaches chosen to answer them. Candidates should present evidence of already beginning to tackle a biological problem.
- Interdisciplinary nature of research plan, the degree to which non-biological methods are integrated, and the degree to which the proposed work will open new fields of inquiry.
- Potential of candidate to establish a successful independent research career, evidenced by productivity during the post-doctoral period prior to application.
- Quality of proposed collaborations.

Candidates not selected may be renominated in the next award cycle, provided they still meet the eligibility requirements. BWF does not provide critiques of unfunded proposals.

Application Instructions

General Information

Candidates must be nominated by a dean or department chair at the degree-granting institution where they will conduct their postdoctoral training under the award. Applications must be approved by an official responsible for sponsored programs (generally from the grants office, office of research, or office of sponsored programs) at the degree-granting institution. Candidates should contact one of these offices for information about the nominating process at the institution.

BWF requires **all** applications for this program to be submitted electronically. **Applications not submitted electronically will be returned and not reviewed.** The electronic application is submitted through proposalCENTRAL, a web-based grant application system developed and hosted by Altum. For further details, see "Submission" section.

Burroughs Wellcome Fund must receive the following by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time, April 15, 2008:

1. **A completed electronic application submitted via proposalCENTRAL (including all letters of support)**
2. **One hard copy of the two-page Signature Page form with original signatures**
3. **One hard copy of the Institutional Nomination form with an original signature.**

Applications submitted electronically without also sending the original signed hard copy Signature Page

form (two pages) and the original signed hard copy Institutional Nomination form by the current deadline will not be reviewed. Faxed or electronic copies are not acceptable.

Unless otherwise noted, all other documents listed must be submitted to complete the application and must be uploaded to proposalCENTRAL as Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files. This includes all letters of support—no exceptions.

Using proposalCENTRAL

Candidates must register on proposalCENTRAL and create a professional profile, including a unique user ID and password. Demographic data in this section is for statistical use only. If a professional profile has already been created, the applicant must verify the information for accuracy before submitting a completed application.

Candidates are not required to complete the online application in one sitting. The application may be accessed and changed multiple times as needed prior to the application deadline. However, the application cannot be changed once the deadline has passed.

Assistance with Applications

Applicants are **strongly encouraged** to first read the descriptive program brochure, Guide to Submitting a CASI Application, Application Section instructions, and other application materials, including the FAQs, which all can be found on the Burroughs Wellcome Fund website: www.bwfund.org. If there are remaining questions, the Burroughs Wellcome Fund staff is available to assist you. For questions regarding eligibility, policies, and terms and conditions for this program, please contact:

Debi Vought, Senior Program Associate
dvought@bwfund.org
 919-991-5116

For help with the electronic application process, please contact:
 proposalCENTRAL Help Desk
pcsupport@altum.com
 800-875-2562 x227

Submission

Candidates can apply through proposalCENTRAL using links provided on the BWF's website: www.bwfund.org.

Application Sections

BWF encourages applicants to **start early**. All application sections **MUST** be completed online, and applicants must adhere to online instructions for each section (see Application Section Instructions). Applications that are not in compliance with online instructions will be rejected out of fairness to other applicants.

Completing the Application

Before applying, check with the institution regarding their candidate nomination process.

Applications must be completed electronically via proposalCENTRAL and include the sections below. Original signed hard copies of the Signature Page form and Institutional Nomination form must be printed and sent directly to BWF **for receipt by 4 p.m. Eastern Time, April 15, 2008. Faxed or electronic documents will not be accepted.**

Sections Requiring Data Entry

- ☐ Title Page
- ☐ Applicant Information
- ☐ Nominating Institution and Contacts
- ☐ Request Recommender/Graduate Advisor Letters
- ☐ Lay Abstract
- ☐ Applicant Demographics

Sections Requiring Upload of Attachments

- ☐ Candidate's Curriculum Vitae (required; three pages max)
- ☐ Scientific Abstract (template required; one page max)
- ☐ Research Plan (required; six pages max)
- ☐ Bibliography (optional)
- ☐ Faculty Sponsor Letter (required)
- ☐ Graduate Advisor Letter (required)
- ☐ Letters of Recommendation (up to two; one required and one optional)
- ☐ Statements of Collaboration (up to two optional)
- ☐ Reprints (up to three; one required and two optional)

Sections Requiring Printing

- ☐ Signature Page (two pages including the page with original signatures and the page with contact information for the sponsoring dean/department chair)
- ☐ Institutional Nomination (one page with original signature)

For in-depth application instructions visit our website:
www.bwffund.org

Instructions for submitting a BWF online application for the Career Awards at the Scientific Interface, along with any required templates, can be found on proposalCENTRAL in either the 'Download Templates & Instructions' section or the 'Research Plan and Other Attachments' section. The Application Submission Instructions (without required templates) can also be found on the BWF website: www.bwffund.org.

Standard word processing software (e.g., MS Word, WordPerfect) can be used to prepare the attachments; however, **all documents MUST be converted from standard word processing format to Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files prior to being uploaded to proposalCENTRAL.** Information about converting documents to PDF format is included in the submission instructions.

Each application must include the sections notated in the Completing the Application box. Some sections will involve on-screen data entry and others will involve the upload of attachments as a PDF file. The Signature Page (two pages) and the Institutional Nomination form will require printing and signing a hard copy form.

Print Signature Page and Institutional Nomination Forms

Candidates **must** print the two-page Signature Page form and the Institutional Nomination form, obtain the relevant signatures, **and send one original hard copy of both forms**

to BWF for receipt by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time, April 15, 2008. Prior to printing the Signature Page form, candidates should have completed at least the following sections on proposalCENTRAL, since the information will be included on the two-page Signature Page form:

Title Page
 Applicant Information
 Nominating Institution & Contacts

Faxed or electronic documents will not be accepted. Send one copy, with original signatures, of the two-page Signature Page form and the Institutional Nomination form to:

For delivery by express courier service (recommended)

Burroughs Wellcome Fund
 Career Awards at the Scientific Interface
 21 T.W. Alexander Drive
 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
 919-991-5100

For delivery by U.S. Postal Service

Burroughs Wellcome Fund
 Career Awards at the Scientific Interface
 P.O. Box 13901
 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-3901

Terms

Grants are made to institutions on behalf of the named award recipients. The institutions are responsible for disbursing the funds and for maintaining adequate supporting records and receipts of expenditures. Indirect costs may not be charged against the grants.

Award recipients must provide BWF with an annual progress report, and institutions must provide an annual financial report, using forms provided by BWF. Continued funding will depend on both the timely submission of these reports and their favorable review by BWF and its program advisory committee.

Award recipients may obtain funds from other sources for research in the same or similar areas as that conducted under these grants, so long as there is no conflict with meeting the terms of BWF's award. Award recipients may not hold concurrent BWF awards or NIH K99/R00 awards.

The support allocated for research is under the control of the award recipient and may be used flexibly for such items as equipment, consumable supplies, travel to scientific meetings, and laboratory personnel working with the award recipient. Prior approval by BWF is required when, within an award year, purchases of equipment exceed \$20,000 or travel costs exceed \$8,000.

During the award period, unused research funds may be carried over to the succeeding year. Any unused funds held by institutions when grants expire or are terminated must be returned to BWF, unless BWF has granted prior permission to retain the funds. Award recipients may receive a no-cost extension of up to 24 months; requests explaining why an extension is needed must be submitted in writing at least four months prior to the end of the award.

For award recipients in the U.S., the administrative fee is intended to cover a portion of the cost of medical insurance and other benefits, such as retirement. For award recipients in Canada, the fee is to be used as a contribution to the employer's benefit plan.

BWF acknowledges that most postdoctoral fellows will receive offers from and will move to new institutions to begin their independent research careers; therefore, this award is "portable." Written approval from BWF is required,

however, in order for the grant to be transferred to the new institution. Requests must be received at least four months prior to any move, and approval will be based on whether the move will enhance the award recipient's scientific growth and development, and whether the hiring institution demonstrates adequate commitment to the award recipient's career. Award recipients who change institutions may take with them any equipment or supplies purchased under the award, as well as the balance of any unused award funds.

When hiring a BWF award recipient to a tenure-track faculty position, the hiring institution must state in writing its intention to support an application for permanent residency if requested by the award recipient and if the permanent residency would take effect during the period of employment by the institution.

BWF prefers that award recipients do not move from one institution to another during their three years of faculty service. Special training opportunities that require faculty-level award recipients to spend up to a year away from their base institution may be considered; award recipients must submit to BWF a written request that explains why the training is needed.

Scientific publications or presentations that result from these awards must acknowledge the award recipient's receipt of a Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Award at the Scientific Interface. Copies of journal articles and other publications should be sent to BWF along with the annual progress report.

Award recipients should follow their institutions' patent, copyright, and intellectual property policies regarding discoveries that result from research conducted under these awards. Award recipients are expected to adhere to all federal, state, and local regulations regarding the participation of human subjects, and the use of animals, radioactive and hazardous materials, and recombinant DNA in their research projects. BWF expects that appropriate federal, state, and local guidelines with regard to scientific misconduct are in place and enforced at all institutions with which BWF award recipients are affiliated.

Award recipients should share scientific findings in a timely manner via the standard means of scientific communication, including publications and/or presentations in scientific forums. BWF will not retain any rights to published results or patents that result from the research.

Program Advisory Committee

Laurence F. Abbott, Ph.D.

Professor
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Columbia University

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University of Washington

Bonnie Bassler, Ph.D.

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Professor, Molecular Biology
Princeton University

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MIT-Harvard Division of Health Science and Technology
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Harvard Medical School

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HHMI Janelia Farm Research Campus

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Professor, Departments of Molecular and Cellular Biology and Chemistry and Chemical Biology
Director, FAS Center for Systems Biology
Harvard University

Suzanne R. Pfeffer, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair
Department of Biochemistry
Stanford University

Eric Siggia, Ph.D. (Co-Chair)

Professor of Physics
Rockefeller University

**Additional members will be added to the committee. Check the BWF website www.bwffund.org for the latest information.*

Recent Award Recipients

For a full listing of award recipients, visit the BWF website at www.bwffund.org

2008

Dirk R. Albrecht, Ph.D.

Rockefeller University
Investigating neural circuits governing chemotaxis using microtechnology

David Biron, Ph.D.

Brandeis University
Understanding small neural circuits

Lynette Cegelski, Ph.D.

Washington University
Mapping the structural and functional landscape of the microbial extracellular matrix

Rhiju Das, Ph.D.

University of Washington
High resolution prediction of new RNA folds

Alfredo Dubra-Suarez, Ph.D.

University of Rochester
Understanding glaucoma through structural and functional in vivo cellular imaging of the retina

Alexander Dunn, Ph.D.

Stanford University
Single molecule characterization of the energetic landscape underlying myosin force generation

Maria N. Geffen, Ph.D.

Rockefeller University
Perception and neural encoding of textured sounds

Andrea M. Goforth, Ph.D.

University of California-Davis
Bimodal, luminescent/magnetic nanoparticle assemblies targeted to alpha-4-beta-1 integrin for tumor imaging and therapy

Ming Hammond, Ph.D.

Yale University
Large-scale discovery and analysis of regulatory RNAs using computational and chemical approaches

Arjun Raj, Ph.D.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Stochastic gene expression in development: from phenomena to function

Sridevi V. Sarma, Ph.D.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Improved therapies for Parkinson's disease using advanced engineering methods

Georg Seelig, Ph.D.

California Institute of Technology
Nucleic acid logic circuits for conditional gene regulation

Jan Skotheim, Ph.D.

Rockefeller University
A systems level approach to cell cycle control: from molecules to motifs to physiology

Joshua Vaughan, Ph.D.

Harvard University
Discovery of new motility mechanism and high speed, in vivo imaging of motor protein dynamics

Lauren J. Webb, Ph.D.

Stanford University
Electrostatic fields at the protein-protein interface

2007

Derek Cummings, Ph.D.

Johns Hopkins University
Natural and vaccine-induced immunity and spatiotemporal dynamics of epidemic dengue

Ajit P. Joglekar Ph.D.

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
Building a mechanistic model of the structure and function of a kinetochore-microtubule attachment

Harold D. Kim, Ph.D.

Harvard University
Understanding the mechanisms of sensitivity in gene expression

Gavin McLean King, Ph.D.

University of Colorado-Boulder
The dynamic structural biology of ion channel proteins: an ultra-stable atomic force microscope study

Mary L. Kraft, Ph.D.

Stanford University
Composition analysis of the influenza virus pre-envelope by multiple isotope imaging mass spectrometry (MIMS)

Alison L. Marsden, Ph.D.

Stanford University
Engineering new treatments for cardiovascular disease via optimal design and physiologic simulation

Celeste M. Nelson, Ph.D.

University of California-Berkeley
Biophysical dynamics in the regulation of tissue morphogenesis

Erin C. Rericha, Ph.D.

University of Maryland-College Park
Fluid flows in cell mechanosensitivity and cell motion

Jason T. Ritt, Ph.D.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Active sensing in natural and robotic organisms

Alexander Sher, Ph.D.

University of California-Santa Cruz
Investigation of retinal processing through large-scale multi-electrode recordings

Joshua S. Weitz, Ph.D.

Princeton University
Evolutionary ecology of bacterial viruses

Ahmet Yildiz, Ph.D.

University of California-San Francisco
Molecular mechanism of dynein in vitro and in living cells

Burroughs Wellcome Fund

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund is an independent private foundation dedicated to advancing the medical sciences by supporting research and other scientific and educational activities. Within this broad mission, BWF seeks to accomplish two primary goals—to help scientists early in their careers develop as independent investigators, and to advance fields in the basic medical sciences that are undervalued or in need of particular encouragement.

BWF's financial support is channeled primarily through competitive peer-reviewed award programs, which encompass six major categories—biomedical sciences, infectious disease, interfaces in science, translational research, population sciences,

and science education. BWF makes grants to degree-granting institutions on behalf of individual researchers, who must be nominated by their institutions. To complement these competitive award programs, BWF also makes grants to nonprofit organizations conducting activities intended to improve the general environment for science.

BWF is governed by a board of directors composed of distinguished scientists and business leaders. BWF was founded in 1955 as the corporate foundation of the pharmaceutical firm Burroughs Wellcome Co. In 1993, a generous gift from BWF's sister philanthropy in the United Kingdom, the Wellcome Trust, enabled BWF to become an independent foundation. BWF is not affiliated with any corporation.

BWF Board of Directors

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Philip R. Tracy, J.D.

Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan, L.L.P.

Dyann F. Wirth, Ph.D.

Harvard School of Public Health

Other Program Deadlines

Career Awards for Medical Scientists

Fostering the career development of physician scientists from the postdoctoral level to faculty appointment.

Application deadline for 2009 awards: **October 1, 2008**

Clinical Scientist Awards in Translational Research

Providing physician-scientists the freedom and flexibility to explore fundamental scientific questions, to apply the resulting knowledge at the bedside, and to bring insights from the clinical setting back to the laboratory for further exploration.

Application deadline for 2009 awards: **October 1, 2008**

Institutional Program Unifying Population and Laboratory Based Sciences

New institutional training awards to stimulate new connections

between the population and computational sciences and the laboratory based biological sciences

Application deadline for 2009 awards: **May 15, 2008**

Investigators in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease

Investigating the overarching issues of how human hosts handle infectious challenge.

Application deadline for 2009 awards: **November 3, 2008**

Student Science Enrichment Program

Supporting creative inquiry-based science enrichment activities for primary and secondary students in North Carolina.

Application deadline for 2009 awards: **April 10, 2008**

**For complete program information visit
www.bwffund.org**

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