INVESTIGATORS IN THE PATHOGENESIS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (PATH)

Pre-proposal deadline:
July 15, 2015

Invited full proposal deadline:
November 5, 2015
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KEY DATES

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grant application portal available</td>
<td>By June 1, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-proposal applications due</td>
<td>July 15, 2015, 4:00 pm EDT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Invitation to submit a full proposal</td>
<td>By September 14, 2015, 4:00 pm EDT</td>
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<td>Full proposal due</td>
<td>November 5, 2015, 4:00 pm EST</td>
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<td>Finalist in-person interviews</td>
<td>April 20-21, 2016</td>
</tr>
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<td>Notice of award</td>
<td>May 20, 2016</td>
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<td>Award start date</td>
<td>July 1, 2016</td>
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<td>Award end date</td>
<td>June 30, 2021</td>
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PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The Investigators in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease program provides opportunities for assistant professors to bring multidisciplinary approaches to the study of human infectious diseases. The goal of the program is to provide opportunities for accomplished investigators still early in their careers to study what happens at the points where the systems of humans and potentially infectious agents connect. The program supports research that sheds light on the fundamentals that affect the outcomes of these encounters: how colonization, infection, commensalism and other relationships play out at levels ranging from molecular interactions to systemic ones.

Investigators in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease (PATH)

PATH is a highly competitive award program that provides $500,000 over a period of five years to support accomplished investigators at the assistant professor level to study pathogenesis, with a focus on the interplay between infectious agents and their hosts, shedding light on how both are affected by their encounters. The awards are intended to give recipients the freedom and flexibility to pursue new avenues of inquiry, stimulating higher-risk research projects that hold potential for significantly advancing understanding of how infectious diseases work and how health is maintained.

New for 2016 Program Cycle

Beginning with the July 2015 deadline, PATH will move from an institutional nomination to a self-nomination process. Self-nominations will remove the limit of applications per institution, expanding and potentially diversifying the applicant pool. Proposals must be submitted through accredited, degree-granting institutions in the U.S. or Canada.
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The ideal candidate is an accomplished investigator at the mid-to late-assistant professor level with an established record of independent research in a tenure-track position or its well-supported equivalent in non tenure-offering departments.

Applications must be approved and signed 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 will generally have a Ph.D. and/or a clinical doctorate (M.D., D.V.M., etc.).

- Candidates must have an established record of independent research.
- Candidates must be citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. or Canada at the time of application. Those who have applied for permanent resident status but have not received their government documentation by the time of application are not eligible.
- Candidates who have held or are currently holding a Burroughs Wellcome Fund award should contact BWF before writing the pre-proposal.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- BWF strongly encourages applications from women and underrepresented minorities.
- BWF encourages submissions from those working in protozoan and metazoan parasites, protists, and fungi. Viral, bacterial, immune, and multi-species work is likewise encouraged. Work related to malaria, tuberculosis, and AIDS is appropriate for this program. BWF particularly encourages human health-relevant applications from veterinary scientists.
- The PATH award can only be made to accredited, degree-granting institutions in the U.S. or Canada. An Internal Revenue Service determination letter of the institution’s non-profit status may be requested by BWF staff if one is not on file in our office.

SELECTION PROCESS

The PATH Advisory Committee will review pre-proposals and full proposals, interview finalists, and make recommendations for funding to BWF’s Board of Directors.

See Key Dates on Page 3 for important grant deadline dates. BWF does not provide critiques of unfunded proposals.
TERMS OF GRANT/USE OF FUNDS

Indirect costs may not be charged against BWF grants.

PATH is a career development award made to degree-granting institutions on behalf of an awardee. The institutions are responsible for disbursing the funds and for maintaining adequate supporting records and receipts of expenditures.

Award recipients are required to devote at least 75 percent of their overall time to research-related activities. There is no explicit minimum percent effort that must be dedicated to the PATH award.

Awardees must provide BWF with an annual report detailing scientific progress. Institutions must provide an annual financial report. Both reports must be submitted (on forms that will be provided) by August 1 of each award year. 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 similar areas as that conducted under these grants, so long as there is no conflict with meeting the BWF award’s specific aims. Award recipients may not hold concurrent BWF awards.

The support allocated for research is under the control of the awardee and may be used flexibly for items such as equipment, consumable supplies, travel to scientific meetings, and salaries for laboratory personnel working with the awardee. Prior approval by BWF is required when, within an award year, purchases of equipment exceed $20,000 or travel costs exceed $8,000. The PATH award may not be used to pay student tuition.

During the award period, unused research funds may be carried over to the succeeding year. Unused funds greater than $500 held by institutions when awards expire or are terminated must be returned to BWF. Awardees may receive no-cost extensions for a total of 24 months.

Awards may be transferred only with written approval of BWF. Requests must be received at least three months prior to any move explaining why a transfer is requested. Awards cannot be transferred to government institutions, for-profits, and some non-profits. Awardees 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.

Awardees who want to take a sabbatical year in order to acquire new research skills must submit to BWF a written request that includes appropriate justification.

Scientific publications or presentations that result from these awards must acknowledge the awardee’s receipt of a Burroughs Wellcome Fund Investigator in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease Award. Copies of journal articles and other publications should be sent to BWF along with the annual progress report.

Awardees must adhere to all federal, state, and local regulations regarding the participation of human subjects, use of animals, radioactive or hazardous materials, and recombinant DNA in their research projects. BWF expects the appropriate federal, state, and local guidelines with regard to scientific misconduct are in place and enforced at all institutions with which BWF awardees are affiliated.

Awardees should share scientific findings in a timely manner via the standard means of scientific communication, including publications and/or presentations in scientific forums. Awardees should follow their institutions’ patent, copyright, and intellectual property policies regarding discoveries that result from research conducted under these awards. BWF will not retain any rights to published results or patents that result from the research.
INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT A COMPLETE PROPOSAL

Application Process

Applying for this award is a two-stage process:

1. **Pre-proposals.** Interested candidates who meet the eligibility criteria may submit one online pre-proposal through BWF’s Internet Grant Application Module (IGAM) by **July 15, 2015 4:00 pm EDT**. The pre-proposal submission site or grant application portal will be available by June 1, 2015. Though the pre-proposal is short, it should be well thought out and prepared with care: only a fraction of those submitting pre-proposals will be invited to submit a full proposal.

2. **Full proposals.** Submission of full proposals will be by invitation only after review of pre-proposals. By September 14, 2015, those who make it to the next round will be invited to submit a full research proposal. Instructions on how to prepare a full research proposal (elements listed below) will be provided by email with the invitation to participate. Full proposals will be due **November 5, 2015 by 4:00 pm EST**.

Invited Full Proposal Elements:

- Scientific Abstract
- Research Plan (5-page limit)
- Bibliography
- Budget and Budget justification
- Facilities and Resources
- Reprints
- Confidential Letters of Recommendation (3)
- Signature Page form

All communications, including the invitation to submit a full proposal and declinations, will be made through email.

BWF does not provide critiques of pre-proposals or of full proposals.

Application Process Workflow

START

Review Eligibility Requirements

Are you Eligible? → **YES** → Submit Pre-proposal Online

Are you Eligible? → **NO**

Receive Invitation for Full Proposal?

NO → **YES** → Submit Full Proposal Online

End
How to Submit an Online Pre-proposal Application

To begin a pre-proposal submission on or after June 1st use this link: pre-proposal

First complete the eligibility quiz to determine if you are eligible to apply. If you meet the eligibility criteria, you will be allowed to access the application form.

To return to a pre-proposal already in progress you must use this link: saved pre-proposal

Applicants should bookmark this page to return to a pre-proposal in progress. Using the first link of the two immediately above will return you to the eligibility quiz.

Pre-proposal Elements and Checklist

A complete pre-proposal consists of fields submitted through the online IGAM application plus a single PDF attachment. The detailed components of the complete pre-proposal are shown below

Online pre-proposal form – available through IGAM (see links above)
- Applicant Information
- Applicant Demographics
- Institutional Information (degree-granting only)
- Signing Official Information (degree-granting only)
- Proposal Information

Single PDF Attachment:
Prepare in advance the following required documents. Combine and order the supporting materials and upload into one (1) PDF file. Name the file using this format only: LastName, FirstName – PATH 2016 PPL

Download Forms and Templates

A. Cover Sheet
Name
Academic Rank at Time of Application
Education and Training Background
Demographics
Project Title
Keywords

B. Five Critical Questions
1. What is your proposed research question? (50 words)
2. Why is the work you propose interesting and important? How will it change our understanding of how disease unfolds? (200 words)
3. How will you do it? What is your approach? (200 words)
4. What about your outlook / background / training gives you great insight into this problem? (100 words)
5. How is this work innovative and different than that supported by your other external funding? (100 words)

C. Candidate's Biosketch (required)
Use the BWF biographical sketch form, which was derived from the recently discontinued “old format” NIH biosketch. Note that when listing your published works we ask you to list them by career stage. (no page limit)

D. Citizenship/Residency Form and Documentation
Applicants who are not citizens of the US or Canada must provide documentation of their permanent residency status (US-Permanent Resident Card; Canada-Landed Immigrant Status form)

E. Signature Page Form (required)
Using the template provided, complete the form including signature of the applicant and an authorized signing official of the degree-granting institution.
Submission Process

Upload a single, combined pdf file containing all of the supporting documents to the “Attachments” tab of the online application. Click the “Review Your Application” on the Attachments tab to see if any errors are identified in your application. If the “SUBMIT” button does not become available, check your work. All information must be provided before the “SUBMIT” button is available. Click the “SUBMIT” button to transmit the application. An automated message will confirm that the application was successfully submitted. If you do not receive a confirmation email, your application has not been successfully submitted.

Note:

Pre-proposals will not be accepted after 4:00 pm EDT on July 15, 2015. The online application system shuts down automatically at the deadline and the SUBMIT button will no longer be available. Plan to submit your application well in advance of the grant deadline to allow adequate time to troubleshoot any issues. NO EXCEPTIONS OR EXTENSIONS WILL BE GRANTED.

After the deadline, applicants with incomplete pre-proposals and those not adhering to instructions will be disqualified.

Only pre-proposals submitted through BWF online application website IGAM will be accepted.

Questions?

Please review our online Frequently Asked Questions first. Eligibility inquiries should be directed in advance to BWF program staff by contacting:

Victoria McGovern, Ph.D., Senior Program Officer vmcGovern@bwfund.org, 919-991-5112
Jean Kramarik, Senior Program Associate jkramarik@bwfund.org, 919-991-5122
Ruth Reynolds, Programs Assistant reynolds@bwfund.org, 919-991-5129