

CAREER AWARDS FOR MEDICAL SCIENTISTS (CAMS)

Application deadline:

October 17, 2023 (3:00 PM Eastern Time)

BURROUGHS
WELLCOME
FUND 

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KEY DATES

Grant application portal available	July 2023
Grant application due	October 17, 2023, 3:00 pm (Eastern)
Finalist virtual interviews	March 20-21, 2024
Notice of award	June 2024
Award start date	September 1, 2024
Award end date	August 31, 2029

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The Career Awards for Medical Scientists (CAMS) was introduced in 2007 to specifically address limited funding opportunities targeted at supporting physicians engaged in academic biomedical research. The CAMS award provides support to facilitate the transition from mentored position to independence for the early career physician scientist. The program is ideal for the physician scientist considering an academic career.

Career Awards for Medical Scientists (CAMS)

CAMS is a highly competitive program that provides \$700,000 in support over five years for physician scientists (M.D., D.O., D.V.M., V.M.D., D.D.S.), who are committed to an academic career, to bridge postdoctoral/fellowship training and the early years of faculty service.

Proposals must be in the area of basic biomedical, disease-oriented, or translational research. Proposals in health services research or involving large-scale clinical trials are not eligible. BWF anticipates making up to 12 awards including up to two awards to clinically trained psychiatrists who focus their research at the interface between psychiatry and neuroscience.

Special Considerations

Proposals that incorporate artificial intelligence and machine learning or climate change and human health are of particular interest.

- BWF believes that a diverse scientific workforce is essential to the process and advancement of research innovation, academic discovery and public service.

- BWF strongly encourages applications from persons who have been historically underrepresented in the research enterprise, including but not limited to: women of any ethnic or racial group; any person identifying as Black or African American, Latino/a or Hispanic American, Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, indigenous to the Pacific Islands, indigenous Canadian; persons with disabilities; persons from disadvantaged backgrounds (see <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-031.html> for examples). BWF also strongly encourages individuals who identify as LGBTQIA+ to apply.
- BWF seeks institutional geographic diversity. Applicants at academic institutions that typically do not apply for BWF grants are encouraged to apply.
- There are many training paths that can prepare candidates for a career as a physician scientist, and BWF seeks to ensure that CAMS awardees reflect this. Therefore, special consideration will be given to single degree physician-scientists (M.D., D.O., D.V.M., V.M.D., D.D.S.) as well as dual degree physician-scientists who have not historically been well represented in our applicant or awardee pool (D.V.M., Ph.D., D.O., Ph.D., D.D.S., Ph.D., M.D., M.S., M.D., M.P.H., etc).

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Competitive candidates for the CAMS award will have at least two years of research experience, be up to two years away from becoming an independent investigator, be a first author on at least one publication in a peer-reviewed journal, and have a significant publication record.

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 should contact one of these offices for an authorized signature before submitting the grant application. The following eligibility requirements must be adhered to and will be strictly enforced:

- Candidates must hold an M.D., D.D.S., D.V.M., V.M.D., or D.O. degree.
- Candidates must have completed clinical training (residency or fellowship) and be board eligible by the award start date.
- Candidates may hold a junior faculty appointment (Lecturer, Instructor, Assistant Professor-non-tenure track, etc.). At the time of application, candidates cannot hold nor have accepted, either in writing or verbally, a faculty appointment as a tenure track Assistant Professor.
- Candidates that have non-tenure track faculty appointments and have been awarded an NIH R01 or Early Independence Investigator award(s), including NIH K99 or NIH DP5 award, are not eligible. Those with substantial institutional start up packages are also ineligible.
- Candidates must submit proposals through accredited, degree-granting institutions in the U.S. or Canada. Candidates must obtain approval and signature by an authorized official at the degree-granting university in the U.S. or Canada.
- If applicable, an authorized official at the degree-granting institution must verify candidate's immigration status as part of the application.
- The primary mentor or faculty sponsor of a candidate must hold an appointment at the same accredited, degree-granting institution in the U.S. or Canada as the applicant.
- Citizens and non-citizen permanent and temporary residents of the U.S. and Canada who are legally qualified to work in the U.S. or Canada are eligible.
- Candidates who are temporary U.S. residents must hold a valid U.S. visa (J-1, H1B, F-1 or O-1 visas).
- Temporary Canadian residents must hold a valid Canadian visa (Study Permit, C-43, C-44, C-10, or C-20 work permits/visas).
- As a candidate, your visa status must allow you to remain in the U.S. or Canada during the award period of the CAMS grant. If a grant is awarded and your visa does not allow for such a stay, BWF may terminate the grant. BWF will not intercede on behalf of non-citizens whose stay in the U.S. or Canada falls out of visa compliance.
- Proposals must be in the area of basic biomedical, disease-oriented, or translational research. Proposals in health services research or involving large-scale clinical trials will not be considered.
- Candidates with a clinical degree not awarded in the U.S. or Canada must be fully licensed to practice in the U.S. or Canada or have completed a residency in the U.S. or Canada.
- Candidates must be committed to a full-time career in research as an independent investigator at a North American degree-granting institution.
- Award recipients are required to devote at least 75% of their time to research-related activities.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- CAMS utilizes a self-nomination process. There is no longer a limit on the number of applicants from any institution. Only proposals from accredited degree-granting institutions in the U.S. or Canada will be accepted.
- Applicants are allowed to hold a National Institutes of Health K series award (except K99/R00) as long as there is no significant overlap in research aims nor conflict with meeting the terms of BWF's award.
- Candidates may apply for CAMS and the NIH early career investigator awards (K99 and DP5) simultaneously. However, if awarded, they may not be held concurrently with CAMS.
- NIH candidates who intend to continue their postdoctoral/fellowship training at the NIH are allowed to apply to CAMS, but such awardees must move to a degree-granting institution in the U.S. or Canada to assume a faculty position. The NIH will support these awardees during the postdoctoral/fellowship years, and BWF will support them for the first three years of their faculty appointment. Their total award will be \$510,000. Postdoctoral fellows at the NIH should contact its Office of Intramural Research for more information.
- The CAMS 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 said letter is not on file in our database.

SELECTION PROCESS

The [CAMS Advisory Committee](#) will review proposals, interview finalists, and make recommendations for approval to BWF's [Board of Directors](#).

See Key Dates on Page 3 for important grant timeline dates.

BWF does not provide critiques or written comments of unfunded proposals.

Questions?

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

Paige Cooper, PhD, Program Officer
Eligibility and Competitiveness Discussion
pccooper@bwfund.org, 919-991-5110

TERMS OF GRANT/ USE OF FUNDS

Indirect costs may not be charged against BWF grants.

Awards are made to degree-granting institutions in the U.S. or Canada on behalf of the awardees. 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 CAMS award.

Awardees must provide BWF with an annual progress report detailing scientific progress. Institutions must provide an annual financial report. Both reports must be submitted (on forms that will be provided) by November 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 the same or similar areas as that conducted under these grants, there is no significant overlap in research aim(s) and no conflict with meeting the terms of BWF's award. Award recipients may not hold concurrent BWF awards, NIH DP5, or NIH K99/R00 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 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.

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 annual no-cost extensions; requests explaining why an extension is needed must be submitted in writing at least four months prior to the end of the award.

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

BWF acknowledges that many postdoctoral/clinical fellows will move to new institutions to begin their independent research careers; therefore, this award is "portable." Awards may be transferred only with written approval of BWF. Requests must be received at least four months prior to any move, and approval will be based on whether the move will enhance the awardee's scientific growth and career development and whether the hiring institution demonstrates adequate commitment to the award recipient's career. 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.

BWF prefers that awardees not move from one institution to another during their three years of faculty service. Special training opportunities that require faculty-level awardees to spend up to a year away from their base institution may be considered; awardees 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 awardee's receipt of a Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Award for Medical Scientists. Copies of journal articles and other publications should be sent to BWF along with the annual progress report.

Awardees should follow their institutions' patent, copyright, and intellectual property policies regarding discoveries that result from research conducted under these awards. Awardees must adhere to all federal, state, and local regulations regarding the participation of human subjects, the use of animals, radioactive or hazardous materials, and recombinant DNA. 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. BWF will not retain any rights to published results or patents that result from the research.