Grant Programs

Biomedical Sciences

Career Awards for Medical Scientists: Five-year awards for physician scientists provide $700,000 to bridge advanced postdoctoral/fellowship training and the early years of faculty service. This award addresses the on-going problem of increasing the number of physician scientists and will help facilitate the transition to a career in research.

Collaborative Research Travel Grants: Provide up to $15,000 in support for interdisciplinary biomedical researchers from degree-granting institutions to travel to a laboratory to acquire a new research technique or to facilitate collaboration.

Career Guidance

Career Guidance for Trainees: Provides up to $50,000 over a one-year period to support demonstration projects that will model affordable approaches to improving trainees’ readiness for stable, fulfilling careers.

Diversity in Science

Postdoctoral Enrichment Program: Provides $60,000 over three years to support the development of underrepresented minority postdoctoral fellows in biomedical research.

Infectious Diseases

Investigators in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease: Five-year awards provide $500,000 for opportunities for accomplished investigators at the assistant professor level to study infectious disease pathogenesis, with a focus on the intersection of human and microbial biology. The program is intended to shed light on the overarching issues of how human hosts handle infectious challenge.

Interfaces in Science

Career Awards at the Scientific Interface: Five-year awards provide $500,000 to bridge advanced postdoctoral training and the early years of faculty service. These awards are intended to foster the early career development of researchers with backgrounds in the physical/mathematical/computational/engineering sciences whose work addresses biological questions.

Regulatory Science

Innovation in Regulatory Science Awards: Provides up to $500,000 over five years to academic investigators developing new methodologies or innovative approaches in regulatory science that will ultimately inform regulatory decisions.

Reproductive Science

Preterm Birth Initiative: Provides $600,000 over a four-year period to bring together a diverse interdisciplinary group with the more traditional areas of parturition research to address the scientific issues related to preterm birth.

Science Education

Career Awards for Science and Mathematics Teachers: Five-year awards provide $175,000 to eligible science or mathematics teachers in the North Carolina public primary and secondary schools. The purpose of this award is to recognize teachers who have demonstrated solid knowledge of science or mathematics content and have outstanding performance records in educating children. The award is a partnership between the North Carolina State Board of Education and BWF.

Student Science Enrichment Program: Three-year awards provide up to $180,000 to North Carolina nonprofit organizations, including public/private schools, universities, colleges, and museums. This program supports creative inquiry-based science enrichment activities that occur outside the typical school day for K-12 students. The program’s goals are to nurture students’ enthusiasm about science, expose them to the excitement of scientific discovery, and interest them in pursuing careers in research or a variety of other careers in science.

Promoting Innovation in Science and Mathematics: Awards up to $4,500 provide teachers with funding for materials, equipment, and training to conduct hands-on, inquiry-based science and mathematics projects in North Carolina public schools.

For complete program information, including deadlines, please visit www.bwfund.org
Iris B. Evans, the first Executive Director of the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, once remarked “We want to not only give a grant, but to invest in the person. We want to get to know them, to establish a relationship with them.”

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2015, and her words still ring true—perhaps now more than ever.

When I reflect upon what has made the Burroughs Wellcome Fund a successful organization, I think our willingness to invest in personal relationships has been perhaps our most powerful asset.

We do not simply fund research. We create opportunities for researchers to engage with one another, sparking conversations and collaborations. We cultivate a diverse community of peers and mentors, so our award recipients can brainstorm and innovate across institutions and disciplines. We support our awardees in their maturing careers, so they can navigate and negotiate the business of academia towards advancement. We want our investment in a researcher to last more than just one project or award cycle—but for the lifetime of impact they will have on biomedical science.

In 2015 we again invested in a remarkable group of scientists and had the opportunity to welcome them to the Burroughs Wellcome Fund family at our annual new awardee meeting, hosted at the Fund’s headquarters in October. Here, these promising investigators shared the unique visions and inventive approaches of their research questions with their new colleagues—including past award recipients—and had their first taste of the Burroughs Wellcome community that will be there to support them as they launch their careers.

We continued to invest in improving science education in North Carolina—giving back to our home state by energizing resources for STEM: science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. We supported programs that put critical thinking and the excitement of discovery directly into the hands of K-12 kids. We provided career awards to proven STEM teachers so they can inspire others with education innovations. And we leveraged the resources and insights of the NC Science Mathematics and Technology Education Center to amplify our goal of advancing meaningful STEM opportunities for students in our state.

And in giving, we had the privilege of making three one million dollar endowment grants to organizations in which we have had a strong and long term relationship—the Marine Biological Laboratory, the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, and the North Carolina Science Festival.
Since 1994, the Fund has given away more than $550 million in grants, while growing our endowment from $420 million to $720 million. But as the Fund looks towards its next 60 years, we will be looking beyond mere numbers to measure the capital gain of our investments.

At the Fund’s annual Board of Directors meeting in May, past chair Dr. George Langford spoke to us about his childhood as an African-American growing up in a segregated, rural North Carolina. He recalled his individual struggles, but also the community of supporters and advisers who shepherded his eventual success.

Stories like Dr. Langford’s renew and inform our dedication to investing in the person. We will continue our mission of advancing biomedical science by supporting research and other educational activities, but with awareness and an eye towards opportunity for diverse voices and career guidance. We will continue to nourish research talents, skills, and fields in need of attention, filling gaps to advance the whole. And we will continue to cultivate our community of scientists, educators, and worthy organizations—seeking the brightest and most promising in their fields to assist them towards unimagined possibilities.

When we make personal investments, we help nurture and advance the entire biomedical research enterprise—and, in turn, help confer good health and knowledge to all. These are worthy gains no number can quantify.

“We do not simply fund research. We create opportunities for researchers to engage with one another, sparking conversations and collaborations. We cultivate a diverse community of peers and mentors, so our awardees can brainstorm and innovate across institutions and disciplines.”

John E. Burris, Ph.D.
President
Burroughs Wellcome Fund
Fiscal Year 2015 Major Competitive Grant Awardees

Career Awards at the Scientific Interface

Lacramioara Bintu, Ph.D.
California Institute of Technology
Alistair Nicol Boettiger, Ph.D.
Harvard University
Julijana Gjorgjieva, Ph.D.
Brandeis University
Ann M Hermundstad, Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania
Markita Patricia Landry, Ph.D.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Monica M Laronda, Ph.D.
Northwestern University
Chen Li, Ph.D.
University of California-Berkeley
Francisco Eduardo Robles, Ph.D.
Duke University
Allyson E Sgro, Ph.D.
Princeton University
Jeffrey Neil Stirman, Ph.D.
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
Vivek Venkatachalam, Ph.D.
Harvard University
Christina May Woo, Ph.D.
Stanford University

Career Awards for Science and Mathematics Teachers

Tomika R. Altman-Lewis
Fayetteville Street Elementary School
Durham Public Schools
Katie Mauldin Matthews
Valle Crucis School
Watauga County Schools
Jennifer Michelle McCarthy
Jay M. Robinson High School
Cabarrus County Schools
Jodi S. Riedel
Wakefield High School
Wake County Public Schools
John D. Scarfpin
Havelock High School
Craven County Schools
Rolie ‘Andi’ Adrienne Webb
Alderman Road Elementary
Cumberland County Schools

Innovation in Regulatory Science

Patrick Allard, Ph.D.
University of California-Los Angeles
Darla M. Goeres, Ph.D.
Montana State University
Erich S. Huang, M.D., Ph.D.
Duke University School of Medicine
Rustem F. Ismagilov, Ph.D.
California Institute of Technology
Sara Lynn Van Driest, M.D., Ph.D.
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Joseph C. Wu, M.D., Ph.D.
Stanford University School of Medicine

Investigators in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease

Jesse D Bloom, Ph.D.
University of Washington
Igor E. Brodsky, Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania
Ken Cadwell, Ph.D.
New York University School of Medicine
Matthew James Evans, Ph.D.
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Andrew L Goodman, Ph.D.
Yale University
Elissa A Hallem, Ph.D.
University of California-Los Angeles
Sun Hur, Ph.D.
Harvard Medical School
Rahul Manu Kohli, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania
Li-Jun Ma, Ph.D.
University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Luciano A Marraffini, Ph.D.
Rockefeller University
Daniel Mucida, Ph.D.
Rockefeller University
Nan Yan, D.Phil.
University of Texas Southwestern Medical

Career Awards for Medical Scientists

Jennifer M Alexander-Brett, M.D., Ph.D.
Washington University
Daniel Evan Bauer, M.D., Ph.D.
Harvard Medical School
James Toliver Bennett, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Washington
Shadmehr Demehri, M.D., Ph.D.
Harvard Medical School
Charles Gawad, M.D.
University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine
Matthew Blake Greenblatt, M.D., Ph.D.
Weill Cornell Medical College
Rajan Jain, M.D.
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine
Matthew Stern Kayser, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine
Dan Avi Landau, M.D., Ph.D.
Weill Cornell Medical College

Postdoctoral Enrichment Program

Ishmail Abdus-Saboor, Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania
Breann L. Brown, Ph.D.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Travis James Chapa, Ph.D.
University of Texas Southwestern Medical School of Medicine
Laura M. K. Dassama, Ph.D.
Northwestern University
David M. Garcia, Ph.D.
Stanford University School of Medicine
Tamia Alisha Harris-Tryon, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center-Dallas
Michael John Mitchell, Ph.D.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Samira Musah, Ph.D.
Harvard University
Thomas Pohl, Ph.D.
Princeton University
Elenoe Chedda Smith, Ph.D.
Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School
David Ashley Van Valen, M.D., Ph.D.
Stanford University
The Burroughs Wellcome Fund is an independent private foundation dedicated to advancing the biomedical 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 biomedical sciences that are undervalued or in need of particular encouragement.

Financial support is channeled primarily through competitive peer-reviewed award programs. Grants are made primarily to degree-granting institutions on behalf of individual researchers. To complement these competitive award programs, grants are also made to nonprofit organizations conducting activities intended to improve the general environment for science.

BWF was founded in 1955 as the corporate foundation of Burroughs Wellcome Co., the U.S. branch of the Wellcome pharmaceutical enterprise, based in the United Kingdom. In 1993, BWF received a $400 million gift from the Wellcome Trust, the main entity in the enterprise, to become a fully independent foundation.