

AllerGen Emerging Clinician-Scientist Research Fellowship 2011-2012

Request for Applications

The goal of the *AllerGen Emerging Clinician-Scientist Research Fellowship 2011-2012* is to enable Canadian Clinical Immunologists and Allergists to pursue allergy, asthma and/or anaphylaxis academic research training immediately following their Clinical Immunology and Allergy sub-specialty clinical training in order to:

- Strengthen the academic capacity of Canadian Clinical Immunology and Allergy sub-specialists
- Increase Canadian capacity for translational Clinical Immunology and Allergy research
- Facilitate enhanced patient care through excellence in basic and clinical Allergy and related immune disease research.

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

Table of Contents

[Background](#)

[Objectives and Eligible Research Areas](#)

[Funding Information](#)

[Eligibility](#)

[Application Procedure](#)

[Evaluation Process](#)

[Publications](#)

[Termination of Award](#)

[Proprietary Rights](#)

[Contact Information](#)

[Att. 1 – Application Form](#)

BACKGROUND

AllerGen NCE Inc. (AllerGen) 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.

This fellowship is aligned with AllerGen's strategic objectives related to Canadian capacity building, which are to:

- Increase research capacity in the field of Clinical Immunology and Allergy,
- Foster and enhance academic innovation arising from basic and clinical research for medical students and postgraduate clinical trainees that pursue sub-specialties in allergy and clinical immunology, and
- Increase the number of medical students that pursue the Clinical Immunology and Allergy sub-specialty and undertake related basic and/or clinical research.

OBJECTIVES and ELIGIBLE RESEARCH AREAS

The goal of the *AllerGen Emerging Clinician-Scientist Research Fellowship 2011-2012* 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 sub-specialty clinical training in order to:

- Strengthen the academic capacity of Canadian Clinical Immunology and Allergy sub-specialists
- Increase Canadian capacity for translational Clinical Immunology and Allergy research
- Facilitate enhanced patient care through excellence in basic and clinical Allergy and related immune disease research.

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 2011-2012* 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 within the past 18 months 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 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.

Please note that AllerGen is the process of applying for continued NCE funding for the period April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2019. Availability of year 2 funding for this fellowship will be contingent upon NCE renewal of AllerGen NCE funding, and cannot be confirmed at this time.

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.

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 Agreement and comply with all of its provisions.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible candidates are Canadian citizens or permanent residents who are clinicians that have completed Clinical Immunology and Allergy sub-specialty training within the past 18 months 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 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.

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 2011-2012*.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Candidates are requested to complete the attached application form and include at least three (3) assessments by individuals under whom the candidate has studied. One (1) original plus seven (7) copies of the application package are to be submitted. The supervisor and the sponsoring institution must provide a letter of support indicating assurance of adequate supervision. The application package to be used for this position is available on the AllerGen-NCE Inc. website at: <http://www.allergen-nce.ca/>.

A complete application consists of:

1. **CIHR Common CV Modules** for both the candidate (the 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;
2. Provide a **description of the proposed research project and training opportunity**. (Maximum 2 pages, excluding references, which may be appended on a separate page);
3. **Proof** that the applicant has completed their Clinical Immunology and Allergy sub-specialty training within the past 18 months 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. **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;
5. **Letter(s) of support** from the candidate's proposed supervisor(s) and sponsoring institution;
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.

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

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

AllerGen Emerging Clinician-Scientist Research Fellowship
Attention: Michelle Harkness, Highly Qualified Personnel and Events Coordinator
AllerGen NCE Inc.
McMaster University
Michael G. DeGroot Centre for Learning and Discovery
1280 Main Street West, Room 3120
Hamilton, ON
L8S 4K1

Phone 905-525-9140 ext. 26633
Fax 905-524-0611
Email michelle.harkness@allergen-nce.ca

Key Dates

- Deadline for Applications: full applications must be either hand-delivered or courier stamped no later than Friday, October 14, 2011 by 12:00 p.m. EST
- Adjudication: December 2011
- Notification: January 2012

Funds: Released upon confirmation of candidate acceptance and enrolment, host institution support and receipt of required signatures on AllerGen funding documents.

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 weight given to each of the criteria below will vary depending on the candidate's level of academic performance. The quality of the research or training opportunity and the potential for a combined career in medicine and research are the principal criteria on which the applications will be judged. More specifically, points considered in the assessment of an application are as follows:

- Appropriateness of academic and research training.
- Acknowledgments of academic achievement and potential benefit from the program.
 - Publication record and contributions to published work.
 - Research accomplishments to date, including evidence of independence and originality.
- Potential for translational research opportunities that contribute to the achievement of AllerGen's goal of developing Canadian Clinical Immunologists and Allergists pursuing allergy, asthma and/or anaphylaxis academic training immediately following their Clinical Immunology and Allergy sub-specialty training in order to:
 - Strengthen the academic capacity of Canadian Clinical Immunology and Allergy sub-specialists
 - Increase Canadian capacity for translational Clinical Immunology and Allergy research
 - Facilitate enhanced patient care through excellence in basic and clinical Allergy and related immune disease research
- Appropriateness of the proposed research or training project to further the candidate's combined Clinical Immunology and Allergy research career.
- Supervisor/mentor qualifications
- Institutional confirmation of the candidate's identification for a junior faculty position (optional but preferred).

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.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY COMMERCIALIZATION

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Michelle Harkness

Highly Qualified Personnel and Events Coordinator
AllerGen NCE Inc.
McMaster University
Michael G. DeGroote Centre for Learning and Discovery
1280 Main Street West, Room 3120
Hamilton, ON
L8S 4K1

Phone 905-525-9140 ext. 26633

Fax 905-524-0611

Email michelle.harkness@allergen-nce.ca