Bristol Myers Squibb Collaborative Research Fellowship Program

Harvard Medical School is accepting postdoctoral fellowship applications from candidates who wish to perform research in Harvard Medical School laboratories in collaboration with senior scientists at Bristol Myers Squibb. Selected fellows will be awarded a fellowship of up to three (3) years.

Letter of Intent Deadline: September 28, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time

Program Overview

This collaborative research fellowship program is made possible through the generous support of the Bristol Myers Squibb Company (BMS).

The Bristol Myers Squibb Collaborative Research Fellowship Program is designed to support postdoctoral fellows conducting cutting edge research that creates new avenues for the discovery and development of future medicines. The program aims to advance the novel science, ranging from basic inquiry through early translation, that fuels medical breakthroughs while fostering meaningful collaboration with industry. A short-term path to therapeutic translation is not required. The fellowships support laboratory based and computational research across all basic science disciplines at HMS. Projects will be conducted as a collaboration involving the postdoctoral fellow, their HMS mentor, and a senior scientist(s) at BMS.

Applications will be evaluated based on their potential for broad impact in advancing novel areas of inquiry. Examples of projects include advancing our basic understanding of cellular mechanisms or targets related to human disease, novel approaches to measuring human biology and pathophysiology both at the bench level and at scale, novel computational methods to analyze arising data sets, and advances in understanding protein structure in complex macromolecular systems, among others. While not required, applications with linkage to cardiovascular disease, immunology, or oncology are preferred.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) will be overseen by a Joint Steering Committee (JSC) including BMS scientists and HMS senior leadership. The program will be managed by the HMS Therapeutics Initiative. Each fellowship will be governed by a distinct agreement between BMS and the fellow's department.

Application Timeline

Letter of Intent Deadline: September 28, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time

Notification of Applicants Invited to Submit Full Proposals: October 2026

Full Proposal Deadline: December 1, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time

Fellowship Decision Announcement: January 2027

Anticipated Fellowship Start: February 1, 2027

Eligibility

The program welcomes fellowship applications from individuals who meet the following criteria:

- Plan to conduct lab or computational research at an HMS "Quadrangle" basic science department (Departments of Biological Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology, Biomedical Informatics, Cell Biology, Genetics, Immunology, Microbiology, Neurobiology, Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology, or Systems Biology)
- Apply together with a mentor who is an Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor who holds a primary appointment at HMS and has a laboratory on the HMS Quad or, for SCRB faculty only, on the Faculty of Arts & Sciences campus
- Applicants can be either current or incoming postdoctoral fellows at HMS. Incoming fellows must have accepted a position, signed Harvard's standard Participation Agreement, and begun their appointment in the sponsoring lab no later than February 1, 2027 to be eligible for the fellowship

Each HMS faculty mentor can support one application, and each applicant can submit only one (1) application. If desired, the applicant has the option to submit one (1) application with multiple HMS co-mentors. If multiple HMS co-mentors are listed, one (1) mentor must be listed as the lead HMS mentor to accept and manage fellowship funds.

The anticipated start date of the fellowship is February 1, 2027. Alternative later start dates may be acceptable upon request and should be justified in the application.

Award Amount

The Fellows who are accepted into the program will be awarded standard postdoctoral fellowship compensation commensurate with postdoc year, up to $76,000 salary plus fringe benefits per year for the duration of the fellowship and an amount of up to $50,000 per year to support lab research. The maximum annual direct cost award per

fellow is $142,872. The fellowships provide up to three (3) years of direct funding support for the fellow and associated research costs. Funding for the first two (2) years is committed upon award. Continued funding for a third (3rd) year is contingent upon satisfactory progress and funding availability.

If the fellow moves out of the HMS mentor's lab prior to the end of the fellowship, the funding will remain with the mentor's lab following consultation with the JSC. The fellowship amount can be applied to allowable costs, as outlined below.

Allowable and Unallowable Costs

Allowable costs include: fellow compensation, fellow fringe benefits, lab supplies, other direct research costs

Unallowable costs include: mentor PI effort, any other cost not explicitly referenced as allowable (e.g., travel expenses, computers, clinical trials, etc.)

IRB and IACUC Requirements

The Fellow and department are responsible for meeting all compliance requirements associated with the award, including any IRB or animal research approvals, and providing documentation of any needed approvals to the HMS Office of Research Administration (ORA) prior to the activation of the fellowship.

Intellectual Property Terms

See Appendix B for full Intellectual Property terms applying to this program.

Review Process and Criteria

Completed applications submitted by the specified deadline will be reviewed for merit and feasibility. Funding decisions will be made by the Joint Steering Committee based on the following criteria:

- Academic strength of candidate
- Strength of mentor
- Merit and relevance of project, and alignment with RFP criteria.

Application Instructions

Applications will be submitted through the Harvard Medical School Office for Research Initiatives and Global Programs.

Letter of Intent (LOI) Requirements

Submission Deadline: September 28, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time

Submission Format: LOIs should be submitted as a single PDF file via the Harvard Medical School online system: https://forms.hms.harvard.edu/f/bms-loi

Required Components

- **Cover Page** (1 page)
  Include:
  - Applicant name and email
  - HMS mentor name, email, and department
  - Project title
- **Project Description** (1 page)
  A brief summary of the proposed research aims and project
- **Applicant Biosketch and Publication List**

Full Proposal Submission Requirements

Submission Deadline: December 1, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time

Submission Format: Full proposals should be submitted as a single PDF file via the Harvard Medical School online system. Applicants invited to the full proposal stage will receive the submission link by email.

Required Components

- **Cover Page** (1 page)
  Include:
  - Applicant name and email
  - HMS mentor name, email, and department
  - HMS mentor's grant manager name and email
  - Project title
  - Requested budget
  - Anticipated fellowship start date (if not February 1, 2027)
  - Departmental administrator's signature to indicate awareness of proposal
- **Research Plan** (3 pages)
  A detailed description of the proposed 3-year research project at HMS

    - Research plans should be written in the third-person. Do not use first-person pronouns (e.g., “I” or “we”); instead, use phrasing such as “The Institution will…” or “[PI]’s lab will…”
    - Research should be broken down into discrete, specific aims. Inclusion of sub aims are fine but not necessary.
- **Budget and Justification**
    - Provide a 3-year budget using the template in Appendix A
    - The maximum total direct cost budget is $142,872 per year
    - The postdoctoral compensation amount can be found on https://postdoc.hms.harvard.edu/guidelines
    - Fringe is currently calculated at 22.2% of compensation
    - Allowable research costs up to $50,000 per year can also be included
    - For budgeting purposes, assume an indirect rate of 46.05% applies to all direct cost lines
- **Applicant Biosketch and Publication List**
- **PhD Research Statement** (1 page)
  A summary of the applicant’s PhD and/or recent postdoctoral work
- **Applicant Statement** (1 page)
  A statement about how this fellowship will contribute to your academic and personal growth
- **HMS Mentor Biosketch**
- **HMS Mentor Letter of Support**
  The letter must confirm that the HMS mentor has reviewed the research proposal and, contingent upon the applicant’s acceptance, agrees to:
    - Serve as the applicant’s HMS mentor
    - Provide adequate lab space and supplemental research funding as needed to complete the proposed project
    - Identify the extent to which the Research Plan will be funded by any federal government (including any of its agencies), non-profit organizations, or state or local agencies
    - Integrate the applicant into their research group, if not already a part of the lab
- **Letters of Reference**
  Up to 2 letters of reference in addition to the HMS Mentor Letter of Support

Contact

For any inquiries about RFP or the fellowship program, please contact therapeuticsinitiative@hms.harvard.edu.

Appendix A: Full Proposal Budget Template

INSTITUTION INDIRECT RATE, IF APPLICABLE					
Institution indirect/overhead rates are considered a request and are subject to Collaborator review. Indirect rates may not be applicable to every line-item.				**Percentage** 46.05%	
RESEARCHERS					
Description	**% Effort**	**Time Committed to Research Program**	**Direct Support Requested ($)**	**Indirect Cost (46.05%)**	**Total Support Requested**
(Name, Role)					
(Name, Role)					
(Name, Role)					
Subtotals					
EXPERIMENTAL COSTS					
Description	**Quantity**	**Cost/Unit**	**Extended Cost**	**Indirect Cost (46.05%)**	**Total Support Requested**
Aim 1					
Ex. Viability Assay Kits					
Ex. Cell Lines					
Aim 2					
Ex. Antibodies					
Ex. Lab disposables (pipettes, etc)					
Subtotals (All Aims)					

OTHER COSTS (INDIRECT NOT APPLICABLE)					
Description	**Quantity**	**Cost/Unit**	**Extended Cost**	**Full Study Cost**	
Ex. Data Storage ($ per TB/year)					
Ex. Sample Storage (per year)					
Ex. IRB review and renewal					
Subtotals			**$0.00**	**$0.00**	
			Subtotal (Full Request)	**Indirect Cost (Full Request)**	**Total Support Requested**
TOTALS			**0**	**0**	**0**

Appendix B: Key Intellectual Property Terms

- BMS will have an automatic internal research and development license and an option for commercial rights to all arising patentable inventions and software that are created in the performance of the Research under a Project. For this reason, funds from other industry sponsors cannot be used in performance of a Project. The Fellow should only work on the Project, and not on any other research activities at Harvard, to avoid conflicts in intellectual property rights.
- In the proposal, the HMS overseeing faculty member must identify, to the best of their knowledge, any background patent rights or software of which the HMS faculty member is an inventor or author that will be used in the performance of the Project. This is important so that Harvard's Office of Technology Development can discern the extent to which these identified background intellectual property rights are available to be licensed to BMS.
- In the proposal, the HMS overseeing faculty member must identify, to the best of their knowledge, any federal government, agency, non-profit and/or state or local agency funding that will also fund the Research Project.
- All researchers on the Project, including the Fellow, should sign a participation agreement or Harvard visiting scientist agreement under which all rights in patentable inventions and software are assigned to Harvard. No subcontractors or collaborators from other organizations outside of Harvard should work on a Project without first informing the administrators of this program for compliance with BMS requirements.
- Any researcher on a Project that intends to work at BMS must sign a BMS visitor participation agreement and so any such proposal to visit BMS must be disclosed to the administrator of this program.
- Investigators are encouraged to ensure any arising IP based on the funded work is reported to Harvard OTD.