Burroughs Wellcome Fund/
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Tropical Infectious Diseases
Application Guidelines

Application Deadline: August 12, 2015

astmh.org
This fellowship will provide the support I need at this critical juncture in my training to continue my research on malaria in Asia and to continue to build the relationships that will form the foundation for future exciting projects in the region.

Jessica Lin, MD
University of North Carolina
Fellowship Recipient
About the Burroughs Wellcome Fund/ASTMH Postdoctoral Fellowship in Tropical Infectious Diseases

Established in 1999, the Burroughs Wellcome Fund/ASTMH Postdoctoral Fellowship in Tropical Infectious Diseases supports career development of physician-scientists focused on infectious diseases of the developing world.

This unique fellowship provides funding for individuals to conduct research in tropical infectious diseases (and, on occasion, other clinical conditions unique to tropical medicine).

It is designed to stimulate or sustain interest in research in tropical infectious diseases by individuals who are planning academic career paths focused on clinical research in order to build a long-term academic presence for our field in the U.S. and Canada.

“This Fellowship will allow me to continue to learn from my mentors at home and in Kenya, while at the same time establishing my own collaborative relationships with colleagues overseas.”

Katherine Dobbs, MD
Case Western Reserve University
Fellowship Recipient

Katherine Dobbs, MD
Case Western Reserve University
“Monocyte-mediated immune responses to malaria infection in children”

John Openshaw, MD
Stanford University
“Zoonotic disease spillover: Identification and ecology of novel viruses in humans and domestic animals, Bangladesh”

James Platts-Mills, MD
University of Virginia
“Quantitative molecular diagnostics for evaluation of rotavirus vaccine effectiveness and pathogen-specific burden of severe diarrhea in rural Tanzania”
Award Notice

Applicants will be notified of decisions in October, 2015.

Eligibility

Open to individuals with an academic appointment of fellow proposing to perform research in tropical infectious diseases. In addition to postdoctoral infectious disease fellows, applicants who have completed training in other clinical specialties relevant to tropical medicine (e.g., internal medicine, pediatrics, OB/GYN) are encouraged to apply. The fellowship is not intended for students, pre-doctoral candidates, veterinarians, nurses, PhD scientists seeking post-doctoral opportunities, or faculty-level applicants. In addition, it is not intended to provide funding for overseas clinical electives or experiences.

Particular consideration will be given to:
- North American clinician-scientists enrolled in (or accepted by) a fellowship program approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and those accredited through the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
- Applicants seeking support for their third (research) year of fellowship training
- ASTMH post-doctoral student members

A minimum of three months of each funded year must be spent conducting research overseas. View the list of eligible countries. (World Bank Low-Income and Lower-Middle Income Economies and WHO/HINARI Group A and Group B Countries, Areas and Territories)

Since a minimum of three months of each funded year must be spent conducting research overseas, applicants working toward board eligibility must obtain approval from their fellowship program director.
before applying for this award. If the period covered by this award is to be considered toward board eligibility, the recipient must have a continuity clinic at the overseas site (and the program director must notify the ACGME concerning the integration of this clinic into their fellowship program).

Application Evaluation Criteria

- Potential of this fellowship to influence the candidate’s career
- Excellence and promise of the proposed candidate and her/his work
- Relevance of the proposed work to the amelioration of important tropical/geographic infectious diseases
- Excellence and experience of home and overseas mentors
- Adequacy of field populations/laboratory/epidemiologic facilities for the proposed work
- Institutional commitment from the domestic and overseas institutions
- Duration of three months at overseas site

“...I am tremendously excited about the opportunity to further my training and develop a longitudinal research program in this fascinating and important setting [of Tanzania].”

James Platts-Mills, MD
University of Virginia
Fellowship Recipient
Funding

- The Fellowship consists of two years of support at $65,000 US per year to cover travel, stipend, fringe benefits, health insurance and capacity development at the overseas site.
- The Fellowship does not allow for indirect costs.
- Funds for Year One of the Burroughs Wellcome Fund/ASTMH Fellowship will be distributed to the applicant’s home institution. Subsequent allocation of funds for Year Two for qualifying fellowship recipients will be the responsibility of the applicant’s home institution.

Funding is available for two 12-month periods:

Year One
The award for Year One will be made during the fellowship (generally the final year). During Year One of the Fellowship, the recipient should commit at least 80% of his/her time to research and spend three months working in a tropical or developing area. The three months time period does not need to be continuous.

Year Two
The award for Year Two will be made once the recipient has entered a stable, entry-level faculty position. Year Two carries the same requirements as Year One: commit at least 80% of his/her time to research and spend three months working in a tropical or developing area. The three months time period does not need to be continuous.

Online Application Site
Opens July 8 here.

Application Deadline - August 12, 2015
After August 12, only completed applications will be forwarded to the review committee.

Fellowship Recipients (cont.)

Claudia Denkinger, MD, PhD, DTM&H
McGill University
“Development and evaluation of point-of-care tests for tuberculosis”
India

Andrew DiNardo, MD
Baylor College of Medicine
“Longitudinal effects of helminth infection on tuberculosis-specific immune response in HIV-infected children”
Swaziland

Scott Dryden-Peterson, MD
Massachusetts General Hospital
“Who can safely formula-feed in Botswana? A prospective observational cohort study to assess counseling of HIV-infected women around infant feeding choices, and predictors of mortality among their formula-fed infants”
Botswana

Kathryn Dupnik, MD
Weill Cornell Medical College
“Regulation of T cell activation in leprosy and its reversal reactions”
Brazil
Application Materials

Applicants are encouraged to gather all application materials prior to online submission. Although it is possible to edit the application prior to the August 12 deadline, the submission process will be smoother and more efficient if the complete application packet is posted at one time.

**Application must include:**

1. **CV and Bibliography Information**
   - Date/place of birth/citizenship/visa status
   - Education – schools, dates and degrees earned (2,500 characters)
   - Residency, if applicable – include department and dates (2,500 characters)
   - Post-doctoral fellowships, if applicable – include department and dates (2,500 characters)
   - Other training (2,500 characters)
   - Chronological listing of employment experience and honors (2,500 characters)
   - Titles, authors and complete references to all publications (2,500 characters)

“This Fellowship allows me to become involved with laboratory techniques related to viral discovery and viral serological assays. And it gives me the opportunity to combine medical science and ecology – answering questions that address human health and how humans change the complex environment.”

*John Openshaw, MD*  
*Stanford University*  
*Fellowship Recipient*

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**Fellowship Recipients (cont.)**

**Aric Gregson, MD**  
*University of Maryland*  
“Propagation of drug-resistant malaria”  
*Mali*

**Anusha Gunasekera, PhD**  
*Harvard School of Public Health*  
“Genetic diversity of the vaccine candidates, AMA-1 and MSP-1, from clinical isolates of *Plasmodium falciparum* and *Plasmodium vivax* in Sri Lanka”  
*Sri Lanka*

**Scott Heysell, MD, MPH**  
*Yale University School of Medicine*  
“Enhancing diagnosis of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in children in rural South Africa”  
*South Africa*

**Risa Hoffman, MD, MPH**  
*University of California at Los Angeles*  
“Male genital schistosomiasis and HIV-1 shedding”  
*Malawi*
2. Applicant Letter (3,000 character limit)
Include in the applicant letter:

- Description of how the Burroughs Wellcome Fund/ASTMH Fellowship will enhance career development in tropical medicine
- Summary of research project to be undertaken for the fellowship period
- Personal career goals and how this project fits into those goals
- Project start date and end date

3. Research Proposal (8 pages maximum)
- Background, rationale, and specific aims (1-2 pages)
  - Indicate how the project supports the aims/objectives of ASTMH
  - Indicate how the project will advance the candidate’s academic career
- Research strategy (3-5 pages)
  - Research design
    - Describe the work that will be done in the overseas site, and explain why it needs to be done abroad (as opposed to domestic setting)
  - Data interpretation
  - Expected outcomes
  - Feasibility
  - Potential problems/alternative strategies
  - Timeline
  - Mentorship, career development and future directions
- References

Fellowship Recipients (cont.)

Michelle Hsiang, MD
University of California at San Francisco
“Malaria elimination surveillance in Swaziland: Investigation of strategies to improve sensitivity and efficiency for detection of secondary cases”

Karen Jacobson, MD, MPH
Massachusetts General Hospital
“Correlation of clinical outcomes to specific drug resistance-conferring mutations in Mycobacterium tuberculosis”

Prasanna Jagannathan, MD
University of California at San Francisco
“The impact of parasitemia on cellular immune responses to malaria”

Paul Lantos, MD
Children’s Hospital Boston
“Relationship of clinical severity to PfRBL expression in Plasmodium falciparum”
4. Home Institution Sponsor/Mentor Letter, CV and Approval Documentation

This letter should include:

- Details of the applicant’s qualifications and proposed role on the research project
- Detailed information regarding the overseas location, resources available (staff and facilities), duration of applicant’s stay, plans for onsite mentoring and overall institutional commitment
- Describe the promise of the proposed candidate and his/her work, as well as the applicant’s potential to become a faculty member
- Describe the career trajectory of the applicant and explain how the Burroughs Wellcome Fund/ASTMH Fellowship will support his/her career development
- This letter should be a maximum of three pages

Upload the following documents with the home institution sponsor/mentor letter:

- Home institution sponsor/mentor curriculum vitae
- Documentation of appropriate Institutional Review Board approval (of both the home and overseas sites) for the research project

Applicants must upload the letter, curriculum vitae and IRB documentation from the home institution sponsor as a single PDF or Word file to the application site. Applicants are encouraged to obtain these documents from the home institution before beginning the application.
5. Overseas Institution Sponsor/Mentor Letter, CV and Approval Documentation

This letter should include:

- Details of the applicant’s proposed role on the research project, specifically stating that the overseas sponsor has reviewed the proposed project and the qualifications of the candidate
- Confirmation that the project is feasible, important and practical in the time period allotted
- Confirmation that the sponsor, working closely with the home institution’s sponsor/mentor, will be responsible for in-country oversight of the candidate
- Detailed information regarding the overseas location, resources available (staff and facilities), duration of applicant’s stay and plans for onsite mentoring
- This letter should be a maximum of two pages

Upload the following documents with the overseas sponsor/mentor letter:

- Overseas institution sponsor/mentor curriculum vitae
- Documentation of appropriate in-country Institutional Review Board approval for the research project

Applicants must upload the letter, CV and IRB documentation from the overseas institution sponsor as a single PDF or Word file to the application site. Applicants are encouraged to obtain these documents from the overseas institution before beginning the application.
6. Program Director Letter

This letter should include:

- Documentation of the applicant’s enrollment in a fellowship program
- Confirmation that this fellowship will fund research that is part of the institution’s fellowship program
- The letter should clearly state whether the time period funded by this award would count toward Board Eligibility. If so, then the program director must notify the Executive Director, Residency Review Committee for Internal Medicine, ACGME, 515 N. State St., Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60610: (1) that a weekly continuity clinic has been established at the overseas site, (2) how this clinic integrates into the home fellowship program. The letter should detail hours, location, patient population, clinical oversight, mentoring, etc. It will be the responsibility of the candidate and program director to assure that ACGME requirements are met.
- This letter should be a maximum of two pages
- Upload a copy of the letter to the ACGME with this program director letter. A copy of any subsequent pertinent correspondence between the ACGME and program director will be required before funds are distributed.

Applicants must upload the program director letter and ACGME letter, if applicable, as a single PDF or Word file to the application site. Applicants are encouraged to obtain these documents from the program director before beginning the online application.

Fellowship Recipients (cont.)

Holly Murphy, MD, MPH & TM
Tulane University
“Evaluating directly observed therapy with ZDV and NVP (DOT-ZDV/NVP) for prevention of maternal-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV in rural Haiti”

Haiti

Rebeca Plank, MD
Brigham and Women’s Hospital
“Male infant circumcision in Botswana”

Botswana

Amber Read, MD
University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center
“Development of paratransgenic sandfly colonies with transformed B. megaterium and B. linens as a model to prevent visceral leishmaniasis”

India
7. Institutional Review Board Approval

- If research involves human or animal subjects, include a copy of current approval letters (or documentation that such approval is in process or will be sought) from both home and overseas sites.
- Funds will be disbursed in advance of IRB approval, when necessary, with the understanding that research will not be undertaken without documentation of IRB approval from both locations, if required.

Applicants must upload the IRB letters as a single PDF or Word file to the application site. Applicants are encouraged to obtain these documents from the home and overseas sites before beginning the online application.

8. Budget

Total funds available: $65,000 US for Year One of fellowship; $65,000 US for Year Two of fellowship.

- Budget should indicate funds for stipend, fringe benefits, health insurance, supplies, communications, travel expenses and capacity development at the overseas site.
- Indirect costs are not allowed.
- A detailed budget statement of how funds were used will be due 30 days after completion of each fellowship year.

Applicants must upload the budget as a single PDF, Word or Excel file to the application site.

Fellowship Recipients (cont.)

Megan Reller, MD
Children’s Hospital Boston
“Optimal detection of Salmonella typhi and paratyphi from the blood in children in Pakistan”

Mark Travassos, MD
University of Maryland
“The role of var gene expression in the development of symptomatic malaria”

Joseph Tucker, MD
Massachusetts General Hospital
“Optimizing integrated syphilis and HIV testing in south Chinese STI clinics”

Krystn R. Wagner, MD, PhD
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
“Molecular beacons for rapid diagnosis of Mycobacterium tuberculosis”
9. Other Support

- A summary of all funds or resources (whether federal, non-federal or institutional) that are available or pending to the applicant. This summary should include all active or pending funding sources available to the home institution sponsor.
- If other support is available to the applicant or to the sponsor, especially if it is available for scientific projects related to the research proposed for the Burroughs Wellcome Fund/ASTMH Fellowship, the applicant and sponsor must state the specific need for additional funding support from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund/ASTMH Fellowship.
- If no funding support is available or pending to the applicant or home institution sponsor, this information should be included in the statement of “Other Support.”
- Applications will not be considered without a statement of “Other Support” from both the applicant and the home institution sponsor.

Indicate the following for each source of support:

- Name of funding organization
- Title of grant
- Years of support
- Duration of support
- Yearly direct costs
- Amount of active funding
- Source and identifying number
- Principal investigator
- Applicant’s role on the project
- Percentage of time spent on the grant
- Dates and costs of entire project
- Dates and costs of current year
- Specific aims of the project
- 1-2 sentence summary of the research focus of the grant

Applicant must upload the documentation regarding other support for both him/herself and the home institution sponsor as a single PDF or Word file to the application form.

Fellowship Recipients (cont.)

Thor Wagner, MD
University of Washington
“Improving pediatric HIV-1 diagnostics in an effort to avoid antiretroviral failure in Tamilnadu, India”

Emily Wong, MD
Massachusetts General Hospital
“MAIT cells in the lung: Exploring a new class of innate lymphocytes in tuberculosis and HIV”

Questions?
Contact: Judy DeAcetis
Administrator
+1-847-480-9592
Fax +1-847-480-9282
j.deacetis@astmh.org
Finalizing the Application

After entering all information and all document uploads have been made, applicant should proceed to the REVIEW SUBMISSION page and scroll to the bottom. If all information has been entered correctly, a drop-down menu will display at the bottom of the page. Applicant should select the COMPLETE response in the drop-down menu and hit SAVE. The application will then be complete and ready for review by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund/ASTMH Fellowship Committee.

Award Administration

Awards for Year One of the Burroughs Wellcome Fund/ASTMH Fellowship will be made to the recipient’s home institution, which will be responsible for administering this fellowship. Subsequent allocation of funds for Year Two for qualifying fellowship recipients will be the responsibility of the recipient’s home institution.

Application Checklist

- CV and bibliography information
- Applicant letter including personal statement of interest
- Research proposal
- Home institution sponsor/mentor letter
- Overseas institution sponsor/mentor letter
- Program director letter
- Institutional Review Board approval
- Budget proposal
- Other support
- Preference given to ASTMH Member
- Applicant photo (2-inch x 2-inch JPEG file, head shot preferred)
Agreements and Reporting

Recipients agree to list the Burroughs Wellcome Fund/American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Postdoctoral Fellowship in Tropical Infectious Diseases as a funding source for any publication generated by research funded by this fellowship.

Fellowship recipients agree to allow ASTMH to use their name and photo in Society publications, website and other communication vehicles for educational and professional development purposes, and not for solicitation purposes.

Fellowship recipients are required to submit a maximum three-page report within 30 days of completion of fellowship outlining the fellowship experience, lessons learned and impact on career development, as well as a budget summary indicating use of funds. Periodically, recipients may be invited to present their reports at the Society’s Annual Meeting. Reports should be submitted to Judy DeAcetis, Administrator, j.deacetis@astmh.org.

Recipients agree to provide ASTMH with interim reports outlining progress to date on research project, as well as budget summaries.

Burroughs Wellcome Fund/ASTMH Fellowship Committee

Terrie Taylor, DO, Chair
Michigan State University

Ravi Durvasula, MD
University of New Mexico

Richard Guerrant, MD
University of Virginia

Victoria McGovern, PhD, FASTMH
Burroughs Wellcome Fund

Joseph Tucker, MD
University of North Carolina

Joseph Vinetz, MD, FASTMH
University of California San Diego

Mary Wilson, MD
University of Iowa
ASTMH is grateful to the Burroughs Wellcome Fund for its continuing commitment and support.