

FY2021 Research Fellowship Application Guideline

1. Purpose of Research Fellowships

As society continues to age rapidly, it is becoming increasingly important to understand conditions such as cancer, lifestyle diseases, and psychiatric and neurological diseases, so that we can develop treatments that are more effective and have fewer side-effects while still being economically viable.

Selection will be conducted uniformly for all applications, and the selection will not be affected the selected research area.

We aim to promote “research that benefits the understanding of disease conditions and development of revolutionary treatments” by providing support for “original, pioneering and groundbreaking research proposals” and “research proposals that are likely to produce clinically meaningful results”. Although proposals don’t have to be in specific fields, potential areas of research include the following.

- (i) **Basic life science research**
- (ii) **Scientific drug discovery research and research on medicinal resources**
(includes organic synthetic chemistry and natural product chemistry)
- (iii) **Basic research into specific disease conditions**
- (iv) **Research that has to comply with “Ethical Guidelines for Medical and Health Research Involving Human Subjects” .***

*References

“Ethical Guidelines for Medical and Health Research Involving Human Subjects”

• For the details in Japanese, please refer to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare's website:

<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/file/06-Seisakujouhou-10600000-Daijinkanboukouseikagakuka/0000166072.pdf>

• For the details in English, please refer to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and

Technology's website: https://www.lifescience.mext.go.jp/files/pdf/n2181_01.pdf

1. Research applicable to these Guidelines

These Guidelines shall apply to any medical and health research involving human subjects which is carried out by a Japanese research implementing entity or carried out in Japan. Of research which falls under the scope to which other guidelines are applicable, however, matters not set forth in such other guidelines shall be carried out in accordance with these Guidelines.

Besides, these Guidelines (not including Part 17 in the case of research which only uses anonymously processed information or unidentifiably-processed personal information which has already been created (limited to information used for the purpose of providing for use in academic research by a university or other academic or research-oriented institution or organization, or a person belonging thereto prescribed in the Personal Information Protection Act)) shall not apply to research which corresponds to any of the following:

(A) Research carried out pursuant to the provisions of laws and ordinances;

(B) Research included in scope of the code of conduct set forth by laws and ordinances; or

(C) Research utilizing only the specimens and information listed in the following:

- (i) Specimens and information, the value of which has already been established academically, widely utilized in research and generally available;
- (ii) Information which has already been anonymized (limited to information that cannot identify a specific individual, and for which a decoding index has not been created); and
- (iii) Anonymously processed information or unidentifiably-processed personal information which has already been created.

We are keen to support researchers who are newly proposing research based on your own idea, female researchers, researchers who have recently started your own laboratory, researchers who have recently returned from studying overseas, and researchers who have balanced the research with life events such as childbirth, childcare, caring parent(s)/parent(s)-in-law or a partner, etc.

2. Number of recipients of fiscal year 2020 Research Fellowship

We received 841 applications for fiscal year 2020 Research Fellowship (male:661, female:180). After in-depth scientific review by Selection Committee members, fifty (50) applications (male:39, female:11) have been selected to give Research Fellowship of ¥2million per application. Therefore, in total, ¥100million has been given to the selected 50 applicants.

The results of the FY2020 selection of researchers that we especially would like to support are as follows;

	Research proposal based on your own idea	Female researchers	Started your own laboratory	Returned from studying overseas in 2 years	Balanced the research with life events*
Number	20	11	27	16	7
Ratio	40.0%	22.0%	54.0%	32.0%	14.0%

* Childbirth, childcare, caring parent(s)/parent(s)-in-law, etc.

3. Application period

From 9 AM, April 1 to 4 PM, May 31, 2021

Just before the application deadline, many applications may come together and this over-the-capacity burden on the application system may make it difficult for applicants to apply research proposals smoothly. As you will not be able to proceed application on application system after the deadline, please prepare your application in well advance of the deadline.

4. Eligibility **Researchers conducting their proposed research in Japan.**

- No references are required.
- There are no age limits.

5. Precautions

- 1) A clinical study proposal to use products of Astellas Pharma in the market or under the

development is not subject for funding of research.

- 2) One applicant can allow to submit to Astellas Foundation for Research on Metabolic Disorders (AFRMD) either application for funding of research to be conducted in Japan (Research Fellowship) or Fellowship to go abroad to involve research.
 - 3) Researchers may be awarded Research Fellowships on no more than two separate occasions* per person, dating back to the foundation's activities from fiscal 2007 onwards. A third Research Fellowship may be awarded however in the following circumstances:
 - If the research proposal is original and challenging, and relates to an entirely different subject and has entirely different contents from the researcher's previous two fellowship proposals; or if the research proposal is a continuation of a subject from the researcher's previous two proposals but includes new and original ideas which would be likely to produce significant results.
- * Occasions when recipients obtained Fellowship to go abroad to involve research, Emergency Research Fellowship related to East Japan great earthquake disaster or Kumamoto earthquake disaster will be excluded.
- 4) No fellowship will be awarded if a researcher has already received funding exceeding ¥25 million per project for fiscal year 2021 (direct costs excluding overhead) as the project leader as of the time of application, i.e., dispatch of the application form. This involves grants for fiscal 2020 and for multiple fiscal years including 2021.
 - 5) If you are a researcher being dispatched to a public research institution from a profit-making organization, you are not eligible to apply.
 - 6) Research to aim to gain personal or corporate profits is not subject of funding of AFRMD.

6. Subject Research that benefits understanding of specific disease conditions and development of breakthrough treatments

7. Funding ¥2 million per Fellowship (50 in total); **Total available:** ¥100 million

8. Duration to use Research Fellowship

December 2021 to September 2023

9. Selection Recipients will be selected by the Selection Committee and finalized by the Board of Directors

10. Notify of the result With regard to pass/fail, applicants will be notified via email during the period from the end of October to early November 2021.

11. Issuance November 2021

12. Obligations as a Research Fellowship recipient

- 1) **Submission of Financial Statement**

Recipients will be required to submit a Financial Statement (December 2021 - September 2023) to AFRMD by the end of November 2023.

2) Submission of Research Report

Recipients will be required to write up the results of their research in the form of a Research Report and submit it to AFRMD by the end of November 2023. Research Reports will be published in March 2025 at AFRMD website. Please bear that date to publish in mind when writing your report.

3) Acknowledgement in scientific/medical journals or other publications

When recipients will publish results of the study which is supported by Research Fellowship, recipients are requested to list the name of Astellas Foundation for Research on Metabolic Disorders in the section of Acknowledgement of scientific/medical journals or other publications and submit a copy of the article or summary of the article to AFRMD. Submission of electronic version of the article to AFRMD is accepted.

4) Attendance at Research Conference

Recipients will be required to give a presentation on progress or the results of their funded research at Research Conference organized by AFRMD (scheduled for Saturday, October 21, 2023). Presentation by someone on behalf of a recipient will not be accepted.

Based on voting by Selection Committee members who attend the Research Conference, two researchers who have presented outstanding research results at the Research Conference will receive the Astellas Award for Best Biomedical Research (certificate) and an additional prize of ¥1 million per person. Meanwhile, based on the same procedure, one young and promising researcher who has presented outstanding results will receive the Takenaka Young Scientist Award (certificate) and an additional prize of ¥500,000.

Based on mutual voting by researchers who have presented the research results at Research Conference, three researchers will receive Best Presentation Certificate. It is allowed that one can obtain simultaneously all three certificates mentioned above.

13. Compliance with the Act on the Protection of Personal Information

- 1) AFRMD will only use personal information obtained in relation to the above Research Fellowship program for administrative purposes including the selection process, notification of pass/fail to applications, requests to recipients to prepare essays to be listed in AFRMD website or to respond to questionnaire prepared by AFRMD.
- 2) Once Research Fellowships have been finalized, AFRMD will publish details of recipients on its website and in other publications, including recipients' names, job titles and the nature of their research.
- 3) Any inquiries regarding personal information should be directed as follows.
Personal information officer: Yoshito Abe, Secretary General, AFRMD

14. Languages permitted on application form

Japanese or English

15. Application steps

The application steps are as follows.

- 1) Create My Page
- 2) Submit application documents through “My Page”

16. Application procedure

Application Form / English Version <Sample, For Review Purpose Only>

※This is a sample for review purpose only. For application, please download the application form from “MY PAGE”.

1) Application procedure

(1) Creating “My Page”

Create your account by clicking, "「[基本情報登録 \(ID・パスワードの取得\)](#)」Registration of basic information (acquisition of ID / password)" and fill out the form.

※If you already have “My Page”, please proceed to (2).

(2) Login to “My Page”

Please login to My Page using the ID and password you obtained.

Confirm your information by opening the "Confirm and Change" from My Page.

(3) Fill out the research grant application form and submit the required documents

After logging in to your account : My page, click the red button: 「[応募はこちら](#)」 under the “Information” tab and select the program, “Research Grant” or “Overseas Research Fellowship” . Or, you can also select the program by opening the "Submit Application" tab.

Fill out the "Research Grant Application Form 「[助成申請受付フォーム](#)」", download the text format, and prepare the application documents.

(4) Submit documents

Click “Confirm” after filling out all the forms and uploading the required documents, then complete the submission.

The contents cannot be modified after submission, so please check carefully before submission.

2) Preparation of application documents

(1) Required documents for the application

The followings are required documents for application.

- Filled-in text formats (PDF)
- Figures, if any. (PDF)

(2) Download the text format

The text format is available on the application form on "My Page".

(3) Points for the preparation of application documents

(i) The Text formats

Please check the followings when filling in the text format.

- Use 11 pt. font size or more (no specified font).
- You may change the size of the designated frame, but please briefly fill in the text items from [I] Objectives of your research proposal to [IX] Are you submitting figures within 3 pages. Applications that exceed 3 pages will not be accepted excluding a cover and Figure page.
- In the text format, Delete the "Notes in the frame" in the text format and increase entry fields. Please delete the "Notes outside the frame" before submission.

(ii) Figures

If you have figures, create it within 1 page of A4 (front side only) and attach it separately from the text format; instead of inserting in the text format.

(iii) PDF conversion of application documents and total file size

- All completed text formats and figures must be converted to PDF.
- Total file size of all required documents for the application (cover PDF, completed text format PDF, figure PDF) must be 3MB or less.

17. Confidentiality

All the AFRMD officers, the selection committee members, and secretariat members signed the "Pledge for Confidentiality" and obliged to retain confidential information such as contents of an application form.

18. Inquiries

Secretariat, Astellas Foundation for Research on Metabolic Disorders (AFRMD)

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