



Request for Applications:
NYSCF – Druckenmiller Advanced
Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards

NYSCF invites applications from postdoctoral fellows at institutions within New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut for awards to support translational stem cell research. The main goal of this initiative is to foster research that will advance the application of stem cells for the understanding and treatment of human disease. Responsive translational and/or preclinical studies in stem cell research may include technology development, disease modeling, drug discovery, and/or therapeutics.

NYSCF is eager to support candidates at all stages of the postdoctoral career. The Advanced Postdoctoral Fellowship is designed to encourage candidates at later stages of their postdoctoral training before transitioning to an independent faculty position, and will be awarded for 1 year. (Candidates in earlier stages are invited to consider the Early Postdoctoral Fellowship.) The fellowship provides an annual stipend of \$62,400 plus \$2,500 for computer and travel expenses. The fellowship does not provide institutional overhead.

You can learn more and find out how to apply at:
nyscf.org/fellowshipaward

All applications must be submitted through the online portal before
5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time on January 10, 2024
to be put forward for review.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND BELONGING (DEIB)

NYSCF is committed to fostering diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in STEM. Overcoming the impact of systematic racism, sexism, and other discrimination that has systematically marginalized certain groups from STEM research is critical for a productive, innovative scientific community. NYSCF strongly encourages applications from scientists of all ethnicities, cultures, religions, nationalities, abilities and disabilities, sexes, gender identities, sexual orientations, geographic locations, and socioeconomic statuses. We invite and encourage applicants to (optionally) self-identify as part of any systematically marginalized groups in STEM (including, but not limited to, groups on the basis of gender (including identity / expression), race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and ability), and to describe how this identity may have impacted their scientific career. We request this information to help us stay true to our commitment to increasing diversity in applicants and awardees, and actively use it in the review process to account for any undue adversity candidates may have faced due to their identity. We also require applicants to demonstrate their commitment to DEIB by describing any efforts or activities they are involved in that support DEIB in their own labs, institutes, or the broader STEM field. These activities will be evaluated as additional merits to scientific accomplishments and potential.

Additionally, to help benchmark the state of gender equality in research institutions worldwide, we require all applicants to our grant programs to complete the Institutional Report Card for Gender Equality. The data submitted will not impact how your application is evaluated, but the report card must be submitted for the application to be considered complete. Details and FAQs can be found [here](#).

AWARD BENEFITS

Successful applicants will join the NYSCF Innovators Community, a global group of over 250 outstanding early career scientists and postdoctoral fellows based at institutions around the world including NYSCF Research Institute scientists and engineers. Additionally, they will attend the annual NYSCF Conference as well as an annual scientific retreat, exclusive to the NYSCF – Robertson Investigators, NYSCF – Druckenmiller Fellows, and NYSCF Research Institute Scientists.

Funding is subject to participation in several key NYSCF events.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Have completed one or more of the following degrees or its equivalent: MD, PhD and / or DPhil
- Be working under the guidance of a qualified faculty member at an academic institution in New York, New Jersey, or Connecticut

Applicants who are committed at 100% effort to existing fellowships that last beyond June 1, 2024 will not be considered. Applicants may only apply to one NYSCF – Druckenmiller Fellowship RFA per year, either Early or Advanced. The **Advanced** Fellowship is designed to encourage accomplished candidates aiming to transition from postdoctoral research to an independent faculty position. The **Early** Fellowship is designed to attract promising candidates who are generally within the first four years of postdoctoral experience.

APPLICATION DETAILS

Formatting Requirements: All PDF uploads must use 0.5-inch margins and a minimum font size of 11 points. Smaller text in figures, tables, and captions is appropriate, as long as it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%. Please use adequate type density, line spacing, and font choice to ensure legibility.

Application Requirements: Below is a comprehensive, but non-exhaustive, list of application requirements. Please visit the [application portal](#) to preview the entire application.

References Requirements: Cited publications must list all authors.

Administrative Components

- **Demographic information.** Contact details, demographic information, and other relevant administrative information. (text boxes)
- **Other support / fellowships.** Please upload details of **your** current and pending support. Please include sources, project titles, dates of project period, amounts, statuses and major goals of the project. Applicants who are committed at 100% effort to existing fellowships that last beyond June 1, 2024 will not be considered. (text box)
- **Compliance documentation.** All applications must provide assurance of compliance with research regulatory bodies, state and local laws, and institutional policies. Notice of approval, determination of exemption, or determination of non-human subjects research designation by the overseeing Institutional Review Board (IRB) is required for all research activities in advance of the award start date. Documentation of review and approval by institutional ancillary review committees and/or Embryonic Stem Cell Research Oversight Committee (ESCRO) is not required at the time of application, but must be provided upon request. (check box)

Scientific Components

- **Research Proposal.** This should describe the research you intend to complete with the fellowship award. Include sections on background/motivation, preliminary data, detailed aims (containing experimental design, analysis plan, risk management), timeline, expected outcomes, and relevance to the field. (7-page maximum including figures/tables and excluding references; PDF upload)
- **Response to comments from previous NYSCF – Druckenmiller Fellowship applications** (if relevant). Please upload your response to any comments provided from previous applications to this award. (text box)
- **NIH biosketch** formatted according to current NIH guidelines. [Click here to download the current template](#). (Please use the most recent format.) Include your full bibliography and any explanations for career gaps in your personal statement. (5-page total maximum; PDF upload)
- **Vision Statement.** Summarize your vision for your future career as an independent researcher and your work's potential impact on stem cell research. Include your hypothetical plans – if you were to start an independent position within the next year – to chart a scientifically distinct path from your mentor. As a grantmaking organization, NYSCF acknowledges that research directions can (and will) change. Please treat this section as a thought experiment; it will be used primarily to evaluate your ability to strategize and design as an independent researcher. (3,000-character maximum; text box)

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB)

- **Self-identification (optional).** We provide a section in which you may self-identify as a member of any systematically marginalized group in STEM (yes/no) and can also choose to describe that identity and/or how it may have affected your career. We invite and encourage applicants to (optionally) self-identify as part of any systematically marginalized groups in STEM (including, but not limited to, groups on the basis of gender (including identity / expression), race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and ability), and to describe how this identity may have impacted their scientific career. This section is intended to help us accurately estimate the diversity of our applicant pool as part of our commitment to increasing the diversity of applicants and awardees, and to enable reviewers to account for any undue adversity faced by applicants as a result of their membership in minoritized groups. (1,500-character maximum; text box)
- **Commitment to DEIB.** Describe any of your past, current, or planned efforts and activities to foster diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in your lab, institute, or the field in general. These activities will be evaluated as additional merits to scientific accomplishments and potential. Examples of activities may include but are not limited to: mentorship of or outreach to minoritized individuals in STEM; following or advocating for inclusive recruiting practices; educating yourself or others on issues related to DEIB; attending, participating in, or organizing events with a DEIB focus; participating in or leading programs, workshops, or committees dedicated to DEIB; incorporating a DEIB lens into your research; working to establish institutional policies or practices related to DEIB (3,000-character maximum; text box)
- **Institutional Report Card for Gender Equality.** To help benchmark the state of gender equality in research institutions worldwide, we require all applicants to our grant programs to complete this institutional report card. Please note that this will require significant input from your department/institution. The data submitted will not impact how your application is evaluated, but the report card must be submitted for the application to be considered complete. Details and FAQs can be found [here](#).

Faculty Sponsor Materials and Reference Letter

- **Contact details.** Provide your faculty sponsor's contact information.
- **Faculty sponsor biosketch.** Provide your faculty sponsor's biosketch, formatted according to current NIH guidelines. (5-page maximum; PDF upload)
- **Mentoring plan.** A mentoring plan describing the mentoring activities that will be provided for you. (2-page maximum; PDF upload)
- **Reference letter.** Please request letters of reference from 1 referee, from someone besides your mentor, which must be submitted through the portal by the application deadline.
- **Selection Rationale.** Please explain your choice of referee. (1,500-character maximum; text box)

TIMELINE

2024

- **January 10:** Deadline to submit an application
- **April (approximate):** Finalist notified and interviews
- **April (approximate):** All non-finalist applicants notified of funding decisions
- **June:** Awardees announced at NYSCF – Druckenmiller New Fellows Welcome Reception
- **June 1:** Funding commences