



ECFS / CF Europe Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship

Establishment

The European Cystic Fibrosis Society (ECFS) is an international society of researchers and clinical professionals committed to improving survival and quality of life for people with cystic fibrosis (CF) by promoting high quality research, education and care.

Cystic Fibrosis Europe (CFE) is the federation of national CF Associations in Europe. CFE represents persons with CF and their families in Europe. CFE aims to promote investment and progress in CF research in Europe, to promote the best care from a patient perspective and represent and defend the interests of people with CF.

With aim to foster basic and translational research on CF, the ECFS and CFE have joined forces to support a number of European Post-Doctoral 3-year duration Research Fellowships. It is likely that a call for this 3-year support will be launched each year.

DEFINITIONS

Host laboratory: the laboratory at which the nominated earlier career researcher will be placed with a maximum of 3 years of ECFS/CFE funding to undertake his/her research. The host laboratory will be located in a European country (according to: [WHO/Europe | Countries](#)). The host laboratory will be part of an academic Institution, will have recognised expertise in CF research and researcher support systems that can offer learning opportunities to the selected fellows. The host laboratory will not have welcomed an ECFS/CFE research fellow during the 3 years preceding the proposed placement.

Collaborative laboratory: an academic laboratory located in a different European country (defined as above) than the host laboratory and collaborating with the host laboratory on the post-doctoral fellow's scientific project.

Mentor: the senior scientist in the host laboratory who will supervise the Post-Doctoral fellow's research.

Post-Doctoral Fellow: the early career researcher benefiting from funding under the ECFS/CFE Fellowship Programme.

RESEARCH AREAS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

The ECFS and CFE will favour applications where the Post-Doctoral Fellow plans to work in these scientific areas:

- CFTR expression, folding, trafficking and activity
- Cell physiology and ion transport
- Mucus and mucins
- Inflammation
- Infection
- Model systems for CF
- Innovative therapeutic approaches targeting the basic defect (e.g. CFTR modulators, DNA- or RNA-based approaches)

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility criteria for Post-Doctoral Fellow:

- The candidate must hold a PhD diploma in life sciences or similar obtained in 2020 or later. Exceptions might be granted on a case-by-case basis for duly justified reasons (i.e., maternity leave, sick leave, etc...).
 - The candidate should not have previously benefitted from an ECFS/CFE Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship.
 - The candidate must be ≤ 35 years old by the application deadline. Exceptions might be granted on a case-by-case basis for duly justified reasons.
 - The candidate is a citizen from a European country (according to [WHO/Europe | Countries](#))
 - The candidate is planning to work for 3 years as a post-doctorate in a scientific laboratory, the host laboratory
 - The scientific project the candidate is planning to work on aims at understanding the biology of CF covering basic or translational research. Clinical research is not within the scope of this funding.
 - The scientific project involves at least 2 laboratories (host laboratory and collaborative laboratory) located in 2 different countries. A move from the candidate's current place of work to the host laboratory is preferred, but not mandatory. A stay of a few weeks in the collaborative laboratory should be planned over the 3 years of funding.
 - A letter of support signed by the Post-Doctoral fellow's Mentor in the host laboratory and the Director of the host laboratory confirms that:
 - o if funded, the candidate will be welcome in his/her laboratory for 3 years
 - o the candidate will work on the project described in the application
 - o adequate workplace facilities will be provided during the 3 years
 - o funding is available to support this research, i.e., while the selected candidate's salary will be supported by ECFS/CFE for 3 years, laboratory's equipment and consumables should be available and paid for by the host laboratory
 - A short CV from the Post-Doctoral fellow's mentor is provided
 - A letter of support from the researcher involved in the collaboration from the main collaborative laboratory confirms that:
 - o His/her laboratory is engaged in a collaboration with the host laboratory and states its role and its added value in the project
 - o He/she supports the candidate's scientific project
 - o He/she will welcome the candidate to stay in his/her laboratory for a few weeks over the 3-year period and the aim of the stay is stated
 - At least one recommendation letter from someone working in the CF field in another laboratory than those working on the candidate's scientific project is provided.
 - The candidate is an ECFS member. Successful fellows must remain an ECFS member for the duration of their funding
 - The candidate agrees for his/her application to be reviewed externally
 - If awarded, the candidate agrees to submit his/her work to an ECFS conference for presentation
 - If awarded, the candidate agrees to submit a report to ECFS and CFE at the end of the first year, at the end of the second year and a final report at the end of the third year
 - A separate salary budget signed by the host laboratory institution's human resources department stating the total cost of the fellowship candidate's salary per year for the duration of the fellowship is sent with the application
- A 1-2-minute video message in English of the applicant presenting him/herself and explaining the main purpose of his/her research would be welcome, although not mandatory for the application to be eligible

GRANT DURATION

The postdoctoral fellowship will be of 3 years in duration. The duration of the fellowship should reflect the time frame of the research activities.

FUNDING SUPPORT

The ECFS/CFE support is to cover the total cost of the fellowship recipient's own salary. The exact amount will be based on the actual salary and costs that are directly related to the payment of salary, including any mandatory taxes, social security contributions and similar as required to pay or withhold under local law but excluding all other costs.

LANGUAGE

The application must be in English.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The application form (see separate document) is to be filled out and sent back to this address: ECFS-CFEPostdocFellowship@ecfs.eu together with the required supporting documents by the deadline advertised.

The deadline to send the applications is: 24 November 2023 (23:59 CET)

REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- o a copy of an identification document (ID card or passport)
- o a copy of the candidate's PhD degree
- o a letter of support from the candidate's mentor in the host laboratory co-signed by the host laboratory Director
- o a short CV from the candidate's Mentor
- o a letter of support from the researcher involved in the main collaborative laboratory
- o at least one recommendation letter from someone working in the CF field in another laboratory than those working on the candidate's scientific project
- o a salary budget signed by the host lab institution's human resources department stating the salary of the fellowship candidate per year for the three years fellowship
- o if possible, a 1–2-minute video of the candidate presenting him/herself and his/her research

EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

Each application will be reviewed by 2 members of the Selection Committee and 2 external reviewers. The Selection Committee will be appointed by the Boards of ECFS and CFE. It will be composed of 6 members: 4 experts in CF basic and/or translational research from different countries, 1 ECFS representative and 1 CFE representative.

After the review process, the top ranked applicants will be invited for a 30-min videoconference interview in the presence of the Selection Committee to present their CV and project (15 min presentation and 15 min of questions and answers). The number of interviews will depend on the total number of applications, but it is expected to interview the top 4 or 5 applicants.

After the interviews, the Selection Committee selects the awarded applicant(s). This recommendation needs to be approved by both the ECFS and CFE.



TIMELINE FOR 2024 CALL

- Call: 15 September 2023 until 24 November 2023 23:59 CET
- Evaluation and selection: December 2023 to end of April 2024
- Results: June 2024 presented at the ECFS annual conference
- Contracts with institutions over the Summer/Autumn
- Launch: As from September 2024 and as soon as contract in place with institution