

Fellowship Application Instructions

Overview

As we aspire to help generate the world's most effective and widely adopted methods and resources for detecting and deterring the use of performance enhancing substances, the PCC recognizes the need to support scientists who invest their time and talent in anti-doping research. The Fellowship Program represents the PCC's investment in the future of the anti-doping science community. The program supports qualified scientists who have completed a PhD program and who demonstrate strong interest and potential for long-term contribution to the fields of anti-doping science. By cultivating ethical leadership and ongoing commitment to research, the Fellowship Program helps ensure the continuation of standards established by today's anti-doping experts.

The PCC selects up to two Fellows annually to participate in a two year program. During that time, a Fellow will gain practical knowledge from a U.S.-based, WADA-accredited laboratory and use that knowledge to conduct research that supports the anti-doping field.

- In the first year, the PCC Fellow will spend at least three months in a U.S.-based WADA-accredited lab, supporting existing lab research and learning about the intricacies of the sample testing and analysis process and the existing approaches.
- During the remainder of the first year and the second year, the PCC Fellow will refine the initial project proposal based on his/her experiences in the WADA-accredited lab and conduct the supporting research either at the WADA-accredited laboratory or at the Fellow's home institution.
- In exceptional circumstances, the PCC would consider a request for a third year of support. In these rare cases, the PCC will cover a portion of the third year salary, up to \$30,000 per year. The institution in which the Fellow conducts research (either WADA-accredited lab or home institution) will be required to match the amount and may decide to apply to the PCC to continue the Fellow's initial research or involve the Fellow on other priority anti-doping projects.

The Fellow will receive a \$50,000 per year stipend in each of the first two years. The institutions in which the research will be conducted would be paid overhead in addition to the salary stipend. Either the WADA-accredited laboratory or the Fellow's home institution will still be eligible to apply for other research project funds from the PCC. **Please note that the most important criteria for acceptance into the program is the quality of the postdoctoral fellow and not the proposed research per se.**

Candidate Eligibility

- Candidates must have a PhD in a physical, biological/medical science, or pharmacology discipline such as:
 - Biochemistry
 - Pharmacology
 - Endocrinology
 - Statistical modeling
 - Protein chemistry
 - Analytical chemistry
 - Toxicology
 - Hematology
 - Molecular and cell biology
 - Physiology
 - Metabolism
 - Proteomics

- Mass spectrometry
- Analytical techniques
- Immunological assay and chromatography techniques
- Candidates must demonstrate an interest in anti-doping but may have limited experience with research in the field.
- Candidates must demonstrate an excellent research and academic background.
- Candidates are encouraged to contact one or more of the WADA-accredited laboratories (Contact information included below) in formulating their proposal. The candidate may either select the WADA-accredited laboratory at which they desire to conduct their research or rank the WADA-accredited labs in order of their interest.
- Candidates should explain the value they will provide to the WADA-accredited lab during their experience and include their approach to collaborating with the lab, if they choose to return to another institution to conduct research.
- Candidates may not currently be employed by one of WADA-accredited labs considered for hosting the candidates.

Screening Process

The PCC Scientific Advisory Board will evaluate candidate applications and determine the finalists based primarily on:

- The candidate's qualifications, including academic credentials, quality of research conducted, relevance of background to anti-doping science and potential for future contribution to the field.
- The research proposal submitted, judged on the scientific merit, innovativeness, clarity of thought/writing, and likelihood of impact.
- If returning to another institution, the mentor's qualifications, training record, research track record, grant support and the resources and training environment of the mentor's institution.
- Potential for collaboration with the WADA-accredited laboratory during the Fellowship, including process for synchronizing research and connection between lab capabilities and research topic.

Research Proposal

- Candidates must develop an initial and brief anti-doping research proposal related to one of the PCC Research Objectives that would advance anti-doping science. If the fellowship is granted, the proposal may be revised after the initial rotation. The proposal, which forms a part of the Fellowship application, should not be simply a revision of an institutional grant application.
- Candidates must receive the support and acknowledgement from the relevant mentors and institutions prior to submitting the application.
 - If the research project is to be conducted outside of the U.S.-based WADA-accredited laboratory (after the first three to six months), the home institution and project mentor must be identified and he or she must submit a letter supporting the proposed research and sign the application. The involved U.S.-based WADA-accredited laboratories must also sign a letter of acknowledgement that the project and process for synchronizing research and mentorship have been discussed.
 - If the Fellow desires to spend the full two year fellowship associated with a WADA-accredited laboratory, the candidate must contact the lab(s) of interest in advance to understand the capabilities, cost structure, research capabilities and priorities of the lab.

A project mentor from the lab must be identified and the lab must submit a letter supporting the proposed research and sign the application.

Interview Process

The highest potential Fellowship applicants may be selected to interview with the PCC Scientific Advisory Board as well as the leaders of the relevant WADA-accredited laboratories. Each WADA-accredited laboratory will prioritize among the candidates who interviewed for the lab.

Final Fellow Selection

The PCC Scientific Advisory Board and Board of Governors will make the final decision on the Fellow based on the selections put forward by the U.S.-based WADA-accredited laboratories, the application and interview of the applicant, the commitment of the lab and the fit between the lab, the applicant and the proposed research topic.

WADA-accredited Laboratory Requirements

Laboratories wishing to participate in the PCC Fellowship Program must be WADA-accredited during the duration of the project and must agree to the following conditions:

- Laboratory commits to developing long-term talent for the field of anti-doping.
- Lab to provide a plan to the PCC detailing how the Fellow will be supported and mentored during their Fellowship, whether conducting research within the lab or at the individual's home institution.
- Lab to sign the final project proposal, after the initial rotation, and may propose changes to the project budget.
- Some funding will be provided to the anti-doping labs to provide support for curriculum development and time mentoring the Fellow.

Application Process

The PCC Fellowship application must be received by the deadlines for one of the grant rounds (Pre-applications: March 1, July 1, and November 1; Full applications: April 1, August 1, and December 1).

- This application will include the following information:
 - Personal background information
 - Short project proposal to identify area of interest and hypothesis
 - Two letters of recommendation (Should be mailed directly to the PCC, Attention: Michael Pearlmuter at 1 Olympic Plaza Colorado Springs, CO 80909)
 - Mentor(s)¹ support and credentials, including:
 - Biosketch
 - A letter of support that includes a mentorship plan, training plan and committing to support the research proposal

¹ One of the mentors could be the Director of the WADA-Accredited Laboratory

- Training record of previous trainees, years of training, research project, publications and current position
- Description of resources and environment in the mentor's institution
- Support and acknowledgement from the institution
 - Please note: If the research project is to be conducted outside of the WADA-accredited laboratory (after the first three to six months), the home institution must sign the application and the WADA-accredited laboratories of interest must also sign a letter acknowledging the approach to synchronize research and mentorship.
 - If the Fellow desires to spend the full two year fellowship associated with a WADA-accredited laboratory, the lab must be identified and the lab must submit a letter supporting the proposed research and sign the application.

To apply to be a PCC Fellow, please visit the PCC website at www.cleancompetition.org. Please contact PCC Executive Director, Michael Pearlmutter, at (719) 866-3307 or mpearlmutter@cleancompetition.org with further questions.

Contact Information for U.S.-based, WADA-Accredited Laboratories

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