

Oxford – BMS Translational Research Fellowship Programme 2020

Please note that this is the same fellowship programme as the previously named Oxford-Celgene Translational Research Fellowship.

Celgene was acquired by Bristol Myers Squibb in 2019.

Guidance for Applicants

<https://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/research/internal/funding-directory/oxford-BMS-fellowship#about>

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1. Introduction

BMS is a global biopharmaceutical company that uses cutting-edge technology and innovative science to discover new medicines for patients. In partnership with the Oxford Medical Sciences Division, BMS has co-developed and provided support for a Translational Research Fellowship Programme funding 3-4 awards per year.

The goals of this scheme are to stimulate new scientific discovery and translation and to facilitate skills and people transfer between researchers in academia and industry. The programme offers fellows an opportunity to gain exposure to the field of commercial drug discovery and development. Fellows will have an assigned company mentor and where appropriate be encouraged to spend some time based in BMS's laboratories.

2. BMS Areas of Interest

The proposed fellowship needs to align with BMS's fields of interest as listed below.

1. Novel targets, biomarkers, cellular therapeutic approaches, or translational models in one of the following areas:
 - i. immuno-oncology;
 - ii. neurodegenerative and neuroinflammatory diseases including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, ALS, FTD and MS;
 - iii. fibrosing disorders including IPF, NASH, scleroderma, and Renal Fibrosis;
 - iv. rheumatic and dermatologic disorders including RA, SLE, spondyloarthropathies, psoriasis and atopic dermatitis; or
 - v. hematologic disorders including AML, Myeloma, DLBCL.
 - vi. chronic heart failure (either with preserved or reduced ejection fraction) (please monitor the website for updates).
2. Methods for evaluating biochemical, cellular, tissue and phenotypic consequences of modulating epigenetic targets.
3. Methods for immuno-phenotyping of human subjects in oncology and autoimmunity
4. Novel imaging approaches to measuring disease activity in the above areas.

3. General Guidance

Who can apply?

Applications need to be made by the Principle Investigator (PI) (and not by the prospective fellow). You can apply with or without a named fellow at the time of application. If you do not have a named fellow on your application and you are successful, we strongly recommend waiting until the contracting of the project agreement with BMS is finalised and

signed by all parties before recruiting for a fellow. This contracting process can take around 12 weeks from notification of the award.

Start Dates

- For projects **with a named fellow** - you could expect to have a project start date of 01 October 2020.
- For projects **without a named fellow** – you could expect a project start date of 01 January 2021 – with recruitment for the fellow beginning once contracting is complete.

Contracting

We endeavour to ensure the contracting process is as smooth and fast as possible and provide guidance at the notification stage as to how you can help to move the project through contracting efficiently.

4. How to apply – a 2 stage process

Stage 1 - Pre-application questions and meeting with BMS

The Oxford-BMS Fellowship Programme strongly encourages you to take **pre-application steps** before submitting your application in IRAMS. The pre-application steps ensure that your proposal is in line with BMS's areas of research interest. The submitted pre-application questions will be shared with BMS to identify the appropriate BMS scientist to discuss your proposal with in person on 12th March 2020.

Meeting slots will be allocated with as much notice as possible and we greatly appreciate your flexibility in making the allocated slot as we will endeavour to hold all 1:1 meetings on one day. If you are unable to attend a meeting on this day we will try to obtain some feedback on your proposal in writing.

Meeting Date: 12th March

Times: 09:00-17:00 (you will be allocated a 45 minute meeting)

Venue: Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, Old Road Campus

Pre-application steps summary:

- Fill and submit the pre-application questions (listed below) to Charlotte Bell by no later than 17 Feb 2020
- Ensure attendance at the BMS 1:1 meeting on 12 March 2020 to discuss the planned proposal
- Clear all non-standard costs (see section 7) with Charlotte Bell in advance of your submission

Pre-application questions (form available on MSD website – [link here](#)):

- a. What is your proposed research project? (300 words)
- b. How does your proposed project align with BMS's key science areas? (200 words)
- c. Why would BMS be a strong partner for your proposed project? (200 words)

Stage 2 - Full application

Full applications should be made through IRAMS. The full application form should be uploaded to the system and page limitations specified in the form need to be respected (see section 6 for more detail). Please be aware that only one single PDF can be uploaded to IRAMS - multiple PDFs will need to be combined. Furthermore, a basic budget breakdown needs to be filled in the online application form (see section 6 for more detail).

External Collaborators

If you are considering external co-applicants or collaborators (particularly in case of external organisations being allocated a budget portion in your work plan), please get in touch with Charlotte Bell (charlotte.bell@medsci.ox.ac.uk) in advance of your application.

Departmental involvement and sign off

Applicants should notify their departmental administrators before submitting an application and an X5 costing needs to be created for the fellowship project in order to complete the budget table on IRAMS. Furthermore, Head of Department as well as departmental administrator signatures are required in the application form. **Please make sure that your Department administrator is aware of the financial stipulations in sections 6 and 7 of this document.**

5. Timelines, Processes and Deadlines



Promotional seminars to introduce the fellowships scheme and to answer any questions that prospective applicants might have are being held on:

- Monday 3rd February – 12 noon, BioEscalator, Old Road Campus - [register here](#)
- Tuesday 4th February – 12 noon, Sherrington Building 2nd Floor Seminar Room – [register here](#)

6. Full Application Form Guidance

Applicants must use the application form provided for the fellowship scheme. The form can be downloaded from IRAMS. The following points need to be adhered to:

- Head of Department as well as Departmental Administrator (or Grants Manager) **signatures** need to be provided on the first page of the application form (electronic signatures are accepted)
- A **maximum of 5 pages** for the project proposal. The 5-page limit includes graphs, figures and references

- If you have a named fellow, a **CV of maximum 3 pages** should be included in the application

Please be aware that the IRAMS system only allows one upload per application. Multiple PDFs therefore need to be combined.

Should questions arise from BMS during the assessment process, applicants may be contacted by the MSD Industry Partnering Office to request more information or clarification.

If successful, applicants will be required to liaise with BMS to jointly review, adapt and confirm the work plan in late June/early July. Once both parties agree the work plan, the project will move into contracting.

7. Cost & Budget Guidance

- The budget needs to be created in GBP through the University's X5 costing tool at 100% Full Economic Cost (this is due to our master agreement with BMS)
- Fellowships are for **3 years** and include one Grade 7 or 8 scientific fellow or one Grade E64 clinical fellow
- Non-staff costs include a maximum of £20,000 consumables per year and £5,000-travel costs per year (covers travel to BMS and to conferences)
- DPhil fees may be covered for a clinical fellow
- **For any anticipated deviation** from the above standard budgeting of the fellowship, **applicants must contact Charlotte Bell** (MSD Industry Partnerships Office) in advance of your submission. These deviations could include:
 - Higher consumables costs
 - Use of specialized facilities or equipment
 - Animal costs
 - Visa costs
 - Costs linked to IP
 - Publication costs
- Recruitment advertising costs and Principle Investigator costs **are NOT eligible**.

Cost information should be entered into the Financial Details table of the IRAMS online application tool. Please do not attach your X5 costing admin output to the application.

8. Review & Assessment

Fellowship proposals are reviewed by a Joint Steering Committee. Project assessment and selection are driven by strategic alignment with BMS's portfolio, scientific excellence and internal BMS expertise to provide mentorship to projects.

Following the notification of an award, successful applicants are required to liaise with allocated BMS scientist/project mentors to ensure the work plan and timelines are acceptable to both parties, prior to the project agreement (contract) being signed.

Steering Committee members:

- Professor Sir Marc Feldmann (Oxford)
- Professor Fiona Powrie (Oxford)
- Professor Chas Bountra (Oxford)
- Professor Irene Tracey (Oxford)
- Dr. Rupert Vessey (BMS)
- Dr Leon Carayannopoulos (BMS)
- Dr James Carmichael (BMS)
- Dr Anjan Thakurta (BMS)

9. Contact

For all enquiries please contact Charlotte Bell, Industry Partnerships Manager, Medical Sciences Industry Partnerships Office.

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