**Oxford – BMS Translational Research Fellowship Programme 2022**

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/divisional-services/support-services-1/business-partnerships-office/researchalliances/oxford-bms-fellowship-programme/oxford-bms-fellowship-programme>

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# 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 fellowships 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' laboratories.

Fellowships are postdoctoral level with a duration of 3 years and are fully funded by BMS.

# BMS Areas of Interest

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

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

# 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. Please therefore be prepared to expect fellows to start from January the following year (2023).

New for 2022: Principle Investigators can have a maximum of 2 Oxford-BMS Fellowships running at any one time (though you can be a co-investigator on other fellowships if you are already lead investigator on 2 projects).

***Who can be a fellow?***

Fellows can be laboratory based or computational postdoctoral research scientists who are committed to translational science and are grade 7/8

**or**

Clinical fellows who are interested in obtaining experience with drug development in an industrially collaborative setting and are grade E64.

***Clinical Fellows***

* Salary top ups for clinical fellows exceeding E64 are at the discretion of and must be provided by the department.
* Clinical fellows may complete a DPhil as part of the Oxford-BMS Fellowship – please include college fees in your X5.

***When could I expect a fellowship to start?***

From January 2023

***How are the projects contracted?***

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

# How to apply – 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. The pre-application steps ensure that your proposal is in line with BMS areas of research interest. The submitted pre-application questions will be shared with BMS to identify the appropriate BMS scientist to discuss your proposal during a 45 minute virtual meeting in February/March 2022.

We encourage you to liaise with your department’s grants team about your pre-application steps, even though no budget information is required at this stage.

Pre-application steps summary:

* ***Pre-application questions (***[***form available on MSD website***](https://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/research/internal/funding-directory/oxford-BMS-fellowship/how-to-apply)***)***
* Fill and submit the pre-application questions to Amira Burshan by no later than Monday 24th January 2022 at 5pm.
* BMS will consider the pre-application questions
* Amira will be in touch in early February to introduce the BMS scientists who will discuss the pre-application with you
* PIs are responsible for arranging the virtual meeting with BMS
* Feedback will be provided following the meeting to guide you as to whether to apply to the programme or not.

***Stage 2 - Full application – Deadline Thursday 7th April 5pm***

Full applications should be made using the [application form downloadable from the website](https://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/research/internal/funding-directory/oxford-BMS-fellowship/how-to-apply). Please observe the page limitations specified in the form (see section 6 for more detail).

Full applications (and associated CV of named fellow) should be combined into one PDF. This along with the X5 costing should be emailed to amira.burshan@medsci.ox.ac.uk by the deadline of Thursday 7th April at 5pm.

***Departmental involvement and sign off***

Applicants should notify their grants team and/or departmental administrators before submitting an application. They will assist you in the creation of an X5 Trial costing for the fellowship project. This needs to be submitted with the full application. Furthermore, Heads 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. Note that application to the BMS Fellowship scheme do not require Research Services approval.

***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 Amira Burshan in advance of your application.

# Timeline and Deadlines



Seminars and Q&A to introduce the fellowships scheme are being held on:

* Wednesday 1st December 12 noon – [Join Zoom Meeting](https://medsci.zoom.us/j/94268076465?pwd=UlpJVjMrMnhKUlJpQlNGZngxN0t2Zz09) <https://medsci.zoom.us/j/94268076465?pwd=UlpJVjMrMnhKUlJpQlNGZngxN0t2Zz09>
* Friday 3rd December 12 noon – [Join Zoom Meeting](https://medsci.zoom.us/j/91707471445?pwd=MEw0MEQ2QjlDOGtvRk5HN2pDTTZOUT09) <https://medsci.zoom.us/j/91707471445?pwd=MEw0MEQ2QjlDOGtvRk5HN2pDTTZOUT09>
* Wednesday 15th December 12 noon – [Join Zoom Meeting](https://medsci.zoom.us/j/91960455263?pwd=MFErVFc3UDV0T3ZxdFlJZm5yWTcwQT09) <https://medsci.zoom.us/j/91960455263?pwd=MFErVFc3UDV0T3ZxdFlJZm5yWTcwQT09>
* Thursday 6th January 12 noon – [Join Zoom Meeting](https://medsci.zoom.us/j/92045060963?pwd=SnZQOHY3aG85QkU1Ynp1WTV6RW04Zz09) <https://medsci.zoom.us/j/92045060963?pwd=SnZQOHY3aG85QkU1Ynp1WTV6RW04Zz09>
* Tuesday 11th January 12 noon – [Join Zoom Meeting](https://medsci.zoom.us/j/98860240920?pwd=Nm5pVGtFYUVUVjRSRGZrZExHZ0pyZz09) <https://medsci.zoom.us/j/98860240920?pwd=Nm5pVGtFYUVUVjRSRGZrZExHZ0pyZz09>

Pre-application deadlineMonday 24th January 2022 at 5pm.

Full application deadline Thursday 7th April at 5pm.

# Full Application Form Guidance

Applicants must use the application form provided for the fellowship scheme. [The form can be downloaded from the call website](https://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/research/internal/funding-directory/oxford-BMS-fellowship#how-to-apply). 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, but excludes references.
* If you have a named fellow, **a CV of maximum 3 pages** should be included with the application (this is outside of the 5 page limit stated above)
* Please combine the application and CV into one PDF.

# Cost & Budget Guidance

* The budget should be created in GBP as a trial costing through the University’s X5 costing tool at 100% Full Economic Cost (this is due to our master agreement with BMS)
* Please choose Celgene Corporation as the funder and GBP as the currency
* 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 Amira Burshan** (MSD Business 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.**

# Review & Assessment

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

Should questions arise from BMS during the assessment process, applicants may be contacted by the MSD Business Partnerships 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 June/July. Once both parties agree the work plan, the project will move into contracting.

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)

# Contact

For all enquiries please contact Amira Burshan, Business Engagement Facilitator, Medical Sciences Business Partnerships Office.

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