



ADM Rafael L. Bowen Early-Stage Investigator Collaborative Research Award

Background

The Academy of Dental Materials invites applications from members **currently in an early-stage investigator status** (defined below) for a sponsored Fellowship in dental materials science. This award is being made to support those early-stage investigators conducting research directly related to dental materials, to educate and interconnect our field of science, as outlined in our mission statement (please, refer to the bylaws document, article II, “Objectives of the Academy”). The intention of this award is to promote excellent science by sponsoring new collaborative research projects. Higher priority scores will be given to those projects creatively linking labs and personnel from different institutions, and who have not previously worked together.

It is intended that the awarded candidate will spend at least six months at a research facility outside the institution where s/he has obtained his/her PhD degree. The Fellowship will be awarded every two years. Proposals are welcome from candidates from all geographical regions (North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia/Pacific and Africa). In each funding cycle, awards will be preferably given to candidates from a region different from the previous award (in a rotation manner) as long as there are qualified proposals. Each Fellowship consists of a lump sum of \$20,000 (USD) to cover expenses associated with the proposal. Allowable items are listed under the “budget justification” tab. Upon completion of the award period, recipients are required to present their research at a subsequent ADM meeting no later than 2 years after the start date, by submitting an abstract for a poster or an invited oral presentation.

The Fellowship is in memory of **Rafael L. Bowen. Eligibility**

Eligibility

A maximum of two applications per host institution (academic or industry) will be accepted for review. The host institution is responsible for selecting the applications it will submit, in case there are more than two. Candidates must be accepted by a faculty member (mentor) at the host institution, where the project will be conducted. Each faculty member (mentor) can only accept one candidate under the ADM Fellowship award per funding cycle. A faculty member may serve as mentor for a different candidate in subsequent funding cycles.

Candidates **MUST** be a current ADM member at the time of the award.

Mentors at the host or home institutions must be an ADM member in good standing for at least 5 years.

Candidates must be within five years of obtaining his/her PhD at the time the proposal is submitted and must not have held any type of independent faculty or research scientist position at any given time prior to the application.

Candidates must be able to accept the award and fulfil its terms to completion. Reasons for rejecting applications or recipients of the award may include but are not limited to: existence of concurrent funding awards with exclusion clauses, inability to commit to the specified timeline from the award announcement, inability to secure appropriate visas, etc.

If the Awardee is unable to accept the award for any reason, the ADM Award Committee reserves the right to consider other short-listed applicants.

Timelines

The call for applications opens February/March, with applications due in June/July. The review takes place from July to September. The awardee will be announced during the ADM Annual meeting (usually October). The fellowship should start within 6 months of the announcement of the award. However, due to potential visa issues, and relocation arrangements (assuming the mentor and the mentee are from different countries), a grace period of up to an additional 6 months is granted for the start of the project.

Review

The ADM Early-Stage Investigator Award Review Committee will coordinate review of the proposals. The committee will send each proposal for evaluation by experts on the subject of the proposal. Three reviewers, free of conflict of interest with the application, will give a numerical rating to each proposal based on its scientific merit. The scores of all reviewers will then be averaged to give an overall priority score, which will be used as the basis for funding decisions. The final result of the awards will be decided on the basis of the new collaboration, creativity of the project, feasibility within the fellowship granted period, and its significance to the advancement of knowledge in the field of dental biomaterials.

Additional Criteria for Evaluation: Presence of a testable hypothesis, suitability of methods and facilities, significance of problem, level of innovation, likelihood of success, clarity and style, and candidate potential.

Proposal

Each submission must be typed in Arial font (maximum font size 11), with sections 1-2 double spaced and sections 3-4 single spaced. PROPOSALS LONGER THAN 6 PAGES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Each proposal must include the following:

1. Specific Aims

State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved. List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed, e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology.

2. Research Strategy - Include Significance, Innovation and Approach

i. Significance: Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses. Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields. Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.

ii. Innovation: Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or intervention(s) to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation or intervention(s). Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions.

iii. Approach: Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project, including how the new collaboration will provide a platform to meet those aims. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted as well as any resource sharing plans as appropriate. Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims. If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high-risk aspects of the proposed work. Point out any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and precautions to be exercised.

3. Resource Information.

Facilities and equipment available at the institution to be used for the research project.

4. Other support.

For applicant and support faculty, disclose any other funding the support faculty might have at his/her disposal, even if it does not correlate to the project being submitted. This will help determine feasibility of the proposed project, in conjunction with the resource information in item 3.

Required Documents uploaded separately

1. Support letter from the applicant's mentor (host institution): indicates the school's and the mentor's support of the proposed research. The mentor's letter must indicate that the proposal is primarily the work of the candidate. Faculty advisors are asked to limit research proposals to one fellow per faculty advisor. The sponsor should provide current and anticipated funding status to support the candidate beyond ADM funds.
2. Support letter from the mentor in the institution of origin (home institution, if applicable): in case of projects involving more than one institution, a letter from the mentor in the home institution is required, highlighting the collaborative nature of the project and the mutual benefit to both institutions.
3. Cover letter from the applicant: explains motivations and reasons to have the research experience and what the plans are after completion of this phase of their training.
4. Curriculum vitae: (of up to but not exceeding two pages), outlining the fellow's career up to the time of the application, including up to a maximum of five publications most relevant to the project.
5. The mentor's biographical sketch (not to exceed two pages) must also be included. Include mentor in the host and home institutions.
6. Project file (6 pages maximum).
7. References must be included (does not count towards the 4-page limit).
8. Human Subjects: (IF APPLICABLE) Documentation that your project has been approved by the appropriate Institutional Review Board.
9. Vertebrate Animals: (IF APPLICABLE) Documentation that your project has been approved by the appropriate Institutional Review Board.
10. Budget justification: allowable expenses include, but are not limited to, reagents and laboratory supplies, fee for use of equipment not available for free to the awardee, travel expenses, meeting registration, and awardee stipends. The funds do not include indirect costs. Salary for faculty and staff are not allowable expenses. An itemized budget should be submitted with the application, with a brief justification for each of the items.
11. Facilities and resources: describe the equipment, physical space and resources available for the execution of the project.

Terms and Conditions

The maximum funds of USD \$20,000 do not include additional monies for overhead costs. The funds are awarded to the institution, which will administer and disburse the funds to the investigator.

Reporting requirements: the candidates will be required to present a report on the study up to 2 months after the end date of the project. The report must include a summary of the results, discussion of the roadblocks and solutions attempted, and impact on the field. Prospects for future studies and publications originating from the project should be included. Any publication generated from studies conducted during the period of funding should include acknowledgement to ADM Post-doc Fellowship. There is an expectation for a presentation at the annual ADM meeting, in the form of a poster or 15 min talk (registration for the meeting will be waived).

Any output research from the Award, which is published (journals, books, press-releases, patents and related intellectual property, or any published information in the public domain) must include an acknowledgement to the ADM Early Investigator Award.

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