



Updated: October 12, 2021

APPLICATIONS WILL BE OPEN OCTOBER 15th AND CLOSE NOVEMBER 17th BUT APPLICATIONS WILL BE EVALUATED AS THEY COME IN SO APPLY EARLY!!

The CBC Entrepreneurial Fellows (EF) Award program identifies and supports the professional development of junior life sciences researchers who are keen to develop the skills and experiences needed to move translational projects from a university lab toward commercialization and potentially into a Chicago-based biotech start-up. The program exposes Fellows to a breadth of real-world experiences across the CBC institutions and connects trainees to a network composed of the Chicago biomedical community.

The CBC and the Entrepreneurial Fellows program is on a mission to create a diverse, equitable, and inclusive biotechnology and life sciences community for all and we especially encourage people of color and women to apply. We are developing our interview process and program to ensure that all feel welcomed and included.

The Entrepreneurial Fellowship

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What it is:

The CBC Entrepreneurial Fellows will:

- Be recent MS, PhD, MD, or MD/PhD recipients or will have recently completed an initial post doc in the biomedical sciences (no more than 4 years from terminal degree conferral),
- Have a strong interest and passion for driving innovative and transformational biomedical research from the university toward clinical and ultimately commercial applications,
- Be exposed to fundamentals of early stage drug development and the business of biotech
- Support the identification and program management of research programs at NU, UIC and UChicago that have therapeutic and commercial potential,
- Have an active and central role in the development, refinement and implementation of CBC funded awards focused on translational research including:
 - The development and refinement of proposals from university faculty,

- The collection and assessment of data supporting the unmet medical need and commercial opportunity of the proposed therapeutic or diagnostic,
- The development of work plan which advances the science toward pre-clinical proof-of-concept while assessing and addressing drug discovery/development risks.

The CBC Entrepreneurial Fellows will gain a network by:

- Working with the CBC Executive Director and Associate Director of Entrepreneurship,
- Partnering with our member institution tech transfer and entrepreneurship offices: (1) NU Innovation and New Ventures Office (INVO) (2) UIC Office of the Vice Chancellor for Innovation and Office of Technology Management (OTM) (3) UChicago Polsky Center,
- Integrating with members of the EF Advisory Board and industry mentors,
- Working with university faculty and experts in the greater Chicago bioentrepreneurship community.

The Fellows will participate in CBC-sponsored events such as CBCAN (CBC Accelerator Network), CBC scientific symposia and workshops, and CBC Award review sessions. Fellows will actively engage with each other to share learnings and experiences, and to explore opportunities for synergistic collaborations in areas of common interest.

What you will do:

- Work with CBC university investigators in preparing proposals with translational potential to CBC Award programs and other funding organizations.
- Work with faculty members on projects with translational potential. Fellows will be exposed to all aspects of drug discovery and early development including:
 - Development of investment thesis and competitive positioning,
 - Development of robust project plans, timelines, project budgets and resource allocations, generate project mitigation plans, competitive landscapes analysis, clinical strategies and regulatory strategy.
- Interact with Deerfield Management funded projects through Lakeside Discovery (NU) and West Loop Innovations (UIC) to accelerate the translation of transformative biomedical technologies.
- Coordinate intellectual property review of projects with Tech Transfer staff and Office of Sponsored Research to generate reports on patent status and potential encumbrances.
- Work with project team members to ensure the project plan incorporates all necessary regulatory requirements for documentation for drug safety, toxicology and manufacturing of clinical candidates.
- Cultivate a drug discovery culture at the CBC universities and beyond by participating actively in CBC-sponsored events, symposia, workshops and review panels.

Forming interactions/meetings between Fellows to provide overviews of current projects, sharing knowledge and discussing ways to move translational projects forward.

What you need:

- Recent MS, PhD, MD, or MD/PhD recipient or recently completed an initial post doc in the biomedical sciences (biology, molecular biology, biophysics, chemistry, chemical biology or related fields) with a strong interest and passion for driving innovative and transformational biomedical research from the university lab toward clinical and ultimately commercial applications.

- A broad interest in translational research, with a primary focus on development of therapeutics or associated diagnostics and biomarkers.
- Prior exposure to contemporary drug discovery/development is desirable, but a profound interest in furthering this exposure is essential.
- Strong verbal and written communication, along with outstanding analytical skills are critical.
- Detail oriented with strong organization and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work independently and on a self-directed basis, but also as a high-functioning member of a team.

What you get:

- Highly competitive salary with fringe benefits
- Funds are available for travel associated with program responsibilities
- Office space will be provided and shared with additional EFs
- Appointments are for 12 months but are renewable for an additional 12 months by mutual agreement
- A bird's eye view of the pipeline of early stage biomedical applications
- An unparalleled network of peers and mentors in the bio-entrepreneurship space

What you will send in:

- **Cover Letter (no more than two (2) pages)** which should include an answer to the questions: (1) why biotech/ bio-entrepreneurship, (2) why Chicagoland, (3) how the EF program will help your future career goals. We encourage applicants to use insights from your own journey and graduate career. As applicable, please refer to specific, recent advances in the biotech commercial space that you consider exciting. Include your graduation date or anticipated graduation date as well as availability to begin Fellowship.
- **Curriculum Vitae**
- Names, titles and contact information of **three references** to provide letters of recommendation

All materials listed above must be assembled into a single PDF document in the order listed. Name the PDF file with your last and first name (e.g. last_first.pdf). Formatting of all documents should be in 11-point font, single spaced, 0.5-inch margins, and standard letter size (8.5" x 11"). Embedded figures are acceptable.

How to get it to us:

Completed applications must be submitted online (go to CBC webpage → CBC Award Programs → EF program).

How we choose:

- Applications will be reviewed to build the most diverse, inclusive class that can be assembled.
- After an initial round of screening, select candidates will be invited to interview with members of the selection committee.
- These candidates will be asked to give a 15-20-minute presentation consisting of no more than 3 slides focused on any scientific project of the applicants choosing
 - Delivered in easy to understand lay language
 - Concluding with commercial potential or lack thereof (if the project has no commercial potential, be prepared to explain why not)

When you start:

- Mid to late January 2022

Questions about the CBC EF program or application process, should be directed to **Nancy Tyrrell** Nancy.tyrrell@northwestern.edu or **Michelle Hoffmann**, michelle.hoffmann@northwestern.edu

Questions about the webform should be directed to ckitch1@uic.edu