
SVEC FELLOWSHIP



Objective

The goal of CASSS Frantisek Svec Fellowships for Innovative Studies is to provide resources to graduate students and post-doctoral researchers so that they may explore and blend a range of possible 'out of the box' or cross-disciplinary training or innovative learning opportunities in the broad fields of biopharmaceutical science and technology – and thereby help build their capacity to be future leaders in biopharmaceutical development. The fellowship honors and embraces the legacy of Frantisek Svec who set a high bar for scientific creativity, excellence, and service during his distinguished scientific career.

Eligibility

Graduate students currently enrolled in a degree-granting program and post-doctoral researchers working in either academic or industrial laboratories studying a discipline relevant to biopharmaceutical sciences are encouraged to apply. The relevant disciplines include protein and nucleic acid therapeutics, vaccines, cell therapy, and gene therapy, etc. – as well as the application of chromatographic and electrophoretic separation methods within the field. The competition for the Svec Fellowships is open to graduate students and post-doctoral fellows worldwide who likewise, may apply to conduct their fellowship anywhere in the world.

Evaluation Criteria

Successful fellowship proposals will request support for *innovative* learning opportunities that *creatively* seek to *expand the scope* of applicants' current activities. The scientific rationale of the proposed project must be clearly and compellingly articulated. Fellowship funds must be applied to academic and scholarly purposes, not commercialization of discoveries of their current research. Examples of suitable activities include (but are not limited to) enrollment in training courses (e.g., a Cold Spring Harbor training course), extended study of a discipline new to the applicant in an academic or industrial laboratory, an internship with a pharmaceutical regulatory agency or health care delivery organization. The proposed project should be realistic in scale – e.g., attend a specialized training program not launch a 6-month research expedition to Antarctica. Applicants should note that the above examples are just that, examples. You are encouraged to think outside the box and design novel learning activities that will both serve your own development and potentially provide models for future training programs.

Applicants may apply for up to \$5,000 to be used to pay enrollment fees, travel, living expenses, and materials that support the objective of the fellowship application. Funds may not be used to pay institutional overhead at the applicants' current institution.

If the proposal includes work or study at another laboratory or institution, a letter of acceptance or permission from the site of the fellowship must be included with the application.

Responsibilities of the successful fellowship awardee

Along with supporting your innovative studies, our goal is to introduce you to the CASSS community of scientists. Each awardee will craft a single page summary of what was accomplished during their fellowship (goals, milestones, what was accomplished or not and why/why not) and provide an accounting of how the funds were spent. We look forward to all awardees must participate (e.g. present a poster or talk, co-lead a workshop, or facilitate a round-table, etc.) in a CASSS sponsored conference within 18 months of the conclusion of their project. The fellowship includes waived registration at said conference and reasonable travel and lodging reimbursement (which is not part of the original fellowship award). At the conference, the awardee will be assigned a conference "mentor" who will help introduce the awardee to the CASSS community, be recognized as a Svec Fellowship recipient, and invited to the conference activities such as a speaker networking dinner.

Application process

Completed applications will be submitted as a single pdf file through the CASSS application portal <https://www.casss.org/page/Fellowships>

The application must include a project description (not to exceed two pages) which describes the scientific rationale, how the project is responsive to the program objective, the applicant's qualifications to carry out the project and how the applicant will apply the knowledge gained through completion of the project to her/his future professional activities. In addition to the project description, the applicant should include:

- A two-page *curriculum vitae* detailing degree(s) held or in progress and summarizing related publications, presentations and other relevant information.
 - A letter of recommendation from the applicant's direct advisor or supervisor.
 - If the recipient plans to spend time in another laboratory, a letter from the responsible individual of the laboratory or organization summarizing their willingness to host the applicant for the duration of the proposed study and the resources available that will facilitate its success.
 - A brief enumeration of the proposed expenditure of the awarded funds.
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