

# Lilly Innovation Fellowship Award (LIFA)

## LIFA 2015 Program Guidelines

### *General:*

- The Lilly Innovation Fellowship Award (LIFA) is a competitive post-doctoral fellowship Award.
- The application process includes the following steps:
  1. Submission of the post-doctoral scientist's CV and a brief non-confidential preliminary research proposal for review. The purpose of this document is to ensure the submission adheres to the pre-competitive nature of the program and is in alignment with current research areas of focus under the LIFA (see Grand Challenges document). In addition, a Privacy and Consent release must be submitted along with above documents. A template to write a preliminary research proposal and a privacy and consent release form will be sent along with the invitation.

**Note:** *Under the new LIFA program, the post-doctoral scientist is not required to be a Lilly employee. The following research arrangements are available to accommodate a broader range of circumstances, and may be elected upon mutual agreement with the fellow's academic mentors.*

### Research Arrangements:

- 1) All research performed at academic institution in collaboration with Lilly mentor.
- 2) Research performed at academic institution, with a limited number of short-term (less than 6 weeks) "visiting scientist" trips to Lilly.
- 3) Research begins at academic institution and after pre-determined time point, the post-doctoral scientist will transition full-time to a Lilly research site to complete the project under the LIFA Agreement.

**Note:** *For research arrangements 1 and 2, the post-doctoral scientist will be an employee of the academic institution. However, in research arrangement 3, the post-doctoral scientist will be an employee of the academic institution while at that location and then a Lilly fixed duration employee while at a Lilly site.*

2. Selection of applications with appropriate pre-competitive status and alignment with current research interests.
3. If selected, a Lilly mentor will be assigned to complete the research proposal with the applicant and academic mentor. The final application package will include the completed LIFA application and letters of recommendation by the published deadline; application must be submitted via the invited Dean's Office.



4. Merit review of the application, resulting in selection of Lilly Innovation Fellowship awardees. The application will be judged on the strength of the candidate, the strength of the research proposal, and the track record of the academic mentor.
  5. Execution of a LIFA Agreement between the sponsoring academic institution and Eli Lilly and Company by the published deadline.
- All applications are subject to LIFA Program guidelines, and undergo a rigorous merit-based LIFA application review process. Only a subset of applications is selected.
  - Research conducted by the LIFA post-doctoral scientist must be precompetitive in nature.\*\* It is expected that the LIFA post-doctoral scientist will publish their research findings in top-tier, peer-reviewed journals.
  - The applicant is expected to be within 4 years of having completed their first advanced degree in science (e.g., Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent degree)
  - Recent or prospective graduates are eligible to participate provided their doctoral degree is awarded by May 31, 2016.
  - All applicants must have the commitment of an academic mentor who will support them.
  - LIFA Fellowship offers will be sent in June 2016. If selected to receive a LIFA fellowship, the applicant must be associated with an academic mentor's laboratory and available to start the program no later than August 2016.
  - An applicant's post-doctoral position with the university must not be contingent upon receiving LIFA funding.
  - LIFA provides post-doctoral funding for a maximum of 4 years. Ongoing LIFA projects are reviewed annually and LIFA funding is renewed based on progress against the research plan.

\*\* LIFA applicants pursuing research projects in chemistry may pursue precompetitive projects only. To avoid any doubt, precompetitive chemistry project objectives may not include the creation of pharmacologically active novel molecular entities (NMEs) and may not create structure-activity relationships (SAR).

***For the Academic Institution:***

- The LIFA fellowship is contingent upon execution of the LIFA Agreement between the academic institution and Eli Lilly and Company.
- The LIFA Agreement shall not be contingent upon any other agreement between the academic institution and Eli Lilly and Company.
- Lilly will fund salary and benefits of the Post-Doctoral Scientist at the institutional rate through a payment directly to the institution while the post-doctoral scientist is working at the institution or on short-term "visiting scientist" trips to Lilly (research arrangement 1 and 2). Funding amount includes an annual travel stipend.

The Lilly logo is written in a red, cursive script font.

- Under research arrangement 3, the LIFA post-doctoral scientist will become a fixed duration employee of Eli Lilly and Company thereby receiving salary, benefits and travel pursuant to their employment.
- The institutional payment in support of the LIFA award is for the benefit of the LIFA post-doctoral fellow. The institutional payment may not be used to pay any portion of a faculty member's salary. In the event the post-doctoral scientist relocates to Lilly (research arrangement 3), **all institutional payments will be discontinued.**
- The LIFA program does not pay for the international relocation of post-doctoral scientists.
- The LIFA Agreement is a template agreement vetted and endorsed by dozens of academic institutions. It is expected that the academic institution sponsoring the LIFA applicant will accept the terms of the agreement with no more than minor modifications. Eli Lilly and Company reserves the right to discontinue further consideration of a LIFA application in the event that the academic institution requires major changes to the Training Partnership Agreement.
- The maximum duration permitted for negotiation and execution of the Training Partnership Agreement is sixty (60) days.

Additional information can be found at [www.lilly.com/LIFA](http://www.lilly.com/LIFA). If you have any additional questions, we encourage you to contact us at [LIFA@Lilly.com](mailto:LIFA@Lilly.com).

