

ARNOLD W. STRAUSS AWARD

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS for RESEARCH FELLOWS

Submission Deadline: Wednesday , May 1, 2024 (by 11:59 PM)

1. BACKGROUND

The Arnold W. Strauss Fellow Award sponsored by the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA), is a one-year \$10,000 funding opportunity awarded to three research fellows (PhD) based upon the merit of applications. It was instituted in 2014 in honor of Dr. Arnold Strauss' tireless efforts at advocacy and championship towards higher education at Cincinnati Children's.

2. PURPOSE OF FUNDING

The anticipated outcomes of the Arnold W. Strauss Fellow Awards are the successful transition to a NIH F32 or K award (or an equivalent award from foundations or industry if you are ineligible for NIH funding) and publications in peer-reviewed journals. A clear plan for how the applicant will achieve these outcomes should be included in the career development plan. Funding of all research areas will be considered. With this in mind, this Strauss application has been modeled after the [NIH F32 application](#) to facilitate rapid submission for national awards.

3. FUNDING AMOUNT

The funding amount of \$10,000 must be spent within FY24, beginning on July 1, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2025

4. ELIGIBILITY

First and second year **postdoctoral research fellows at CCHMC** are eligible (start date *after* July 1, 2022). Domestic *and* international applicants are eligible to apply

If your position at CCHMC is your second postdoctoral experience, you will have to convince the reviewers that you are not yet ready to apply for independent positions and that your second postdoc will prepare you for an independent position by providing you with opportunities for substantial new training. It is important to justify your choice of a lab in which to do a second postdoc in terms of how the research relates to what you did in your first postdoc and to your career goals. You are not eligible if you have current independent grant funding, such as an NIH F32/T32, American Heart Association, or Pelatonia award. Previous Strauss award recipients are ineligible for a second award.

5. KEY DATES

Call for Applications:	Friday, March 1, 2024
Submission Deadline:	Wednesday, May 1, 2024 by 11:59 PM
Award Notification:	Recipients and all other candidates will be notified mid-June
Award Start Date:	July 1, 2024
Award End Date:	June 30, 2025

6. CONFIDENTIALITY

All applications and evaluations are considered confidential and are available to scientific reviewers and the administrative personnel of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs only.

7. APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Arnold W. Strauss Fellow Award applications must be received by **11:59 PM on Wednesday, May 1, 2024**.

Research (postdoctoral) Fellows should submit a single PDF of their completed application to **Lisa Privette Vinnedge, PhD**, Director, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs at Lisa.Privette@cchmc.org by the above date and deadline.

FULL APPLICATION (Supplementary data and appendices will NOT be accepted**)**

Submitted applications must contain the elements in the order specified below and follow [NIH formatting guidelines for font and spacing](#):

- I. **Face Page** ([Use standard NIH format](#)) No signatures are required
- II. **Biographical Sketch** ([use standard NIH format for fellows](#))
 - a. Applicant's Biographical Sketch (5 page max. [use fellowship form](#))
 - b. Mentor's Biographical Sketch (5 page max. [use non-fellowship form](#))
- III. **Career Development and Mentoring Plan** (1-2 pages max)
 - a. Candidate's research background, career goals and objectives (0.5 page max)
 - b. Career development and training activities during the award period
 - c. Plan for submission of an NIH fellowship grant or equivalent foundation grant, and how this work will support future grant applications
 - d. Description of a mentoring plan with the primary mentor and the scientific advisory committee. Include the role each committee member will play in the scientific and career development of the applicant
- IV. **Research Plan*** (4 page max.)
 - a. Hypothesis and Specific Aims (< 1 page)
 - b. Significance and Rationale
 - c. Approach
 - d. Literature cited (not included in page limit)
*Preliminary data may be included in the research plan but is not required.
- V. **Budget and Justification** (Half page max.)
 - a. Justification for one year of \$10,000 funding
 - b. Cannot include salary for applicant/PI or indirect costs
 - c. Budget can be used for supplies, travel, Core services, workshops, computers/software, recruitment incentives for human subjects, and/or salary for staff working on the project.
- VI. **Human Subjects** (if applicable – Include all sections required for a NIH application). Note: *Applicants that include human subjects research must already have IRB approval to conduct the proposed studies*. If an IRB protocol is currently pending, please include the date it was submitted and to which IRB (UC or CCHMC) it was submitted to.
- VII. **Vertebrate Animals** (if applicable; Include all NIH-required sections and protocol number)
- VIII. **Scientific Mentor Information** (1 page)

The mentor (or co-mentors) must document their role and willingness to participate in the project, and explain how they will contribute to the development of the applicant's research career by addressing the following:

 - a. Provide information on mentor's research qualifications and previous experiences as a research mentor.
 - b. Alignment of the applicant's research plan with existing research programs.
 - c. Plan for scientific mentoring and support of the applicant and how this will position the applicant for successful independent research.

8. SELECTION CRITERIA

An NIH style study section consisting of scientists representing the major research Divisions at CCHMC will review applications for scientific merit and appropriateness for funding. Each application will be reviewed by 2-3 reviewers. *At least one reviewer will be in a field similar to the applicant, but the other reviewers will likely be from other research divisions at CCHMC.* This diverse panel of reviewers will determine the final awardees. All applications are scored based on the NIH 9-Point Rating Scoring System.

Throughout the review process, the study section will concentrate on the following criteria:

- a. **Proposal Worthiness.** Does the proposal seem worthy of being funded? Does the applicant have a strong commitment to research, a clear mentorship structure in place and a distinct plan for their research proposal?
- b. **Significance.** Does the research plan address an important and relevant problem to the stated career objectives? Has the applicant presented strategies to ensure a rigorous, robust and unbiased approach, as appropriate for the work proposed?
- c. **Approach.** Is the hypothesis clear and well developed? Is there a reasonable chance of completion within the time frame of the grant (1 year)? Do the techniques in the scientific approach align with the candidate's career development and learning goals?
- d. **Probability of Aims.** What are the probabilities that the researcher will achieve the specific aims of the project? Do specific aims seem feasible in the amount of time allotted?
- e. **Budget.** Is the budget appropriate and justified for the research proposed?
- f. **Mentor(s).** Does the mentor(s) have background knowledge and experience related to the proposed project, with evidence of ability and commitment to mentoring? Will the research experiences in the mentored phase prepare the candidate to successfully implement the research project?
- g. **Candidate and Career Development:** Does the candidate have a prior history of both academic success and research success? Is there a thoughtful and detailed career development plan that addresses candidate's strengths and weaknesses, as well as learning goals, to strengthen path to independence?
- h. **Future Funding.** Does the applicant have the potential for becoming an independent investigator who will successfully secure subsequent external funding? Does the applicant explain how the work from this proposal will provide preliminary data for future extramural grant applications?

9. AWARD NOTIFICATION

Applicants will be notified of funding decisions in mid-June. All funding will be activated on July 1, 2024 and will conclude on June 30, 2025. Strauss Award funds cannot be deferred and must be spent in FY25 and cannot be extended beyond June 30, 2025.

Additionally, all applicants regardless of award status, will receive a 1-on-1 consultation with a panel member to:

- Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the applicant's proposal.
- Receive critiques and opinions of how best to move forward with the proposal.

10. REPORTING

Awardees are required to submit a Mid-Year Progress Report six-months after the award start date and a Final Progress Report within 60 days after the award completion date.

For questions regarding this application, please contact:

Lisa Privette Vinnedge, PhD

Director | Office of Postdoctoral Affairs

Assistant Professor | Division of Oncology

Office 513.636.1155

Lisa.Privette@cchmc.org or Postdocs@cchmc.org