

**AMERICAN-ITALIAN CANCER FOUNDATION'S (AICF)
INTERNATIONAL, POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Deadline to Apply: February 28, 2024 at 11:59 PM EST.

Notification: All AICF Fellowship applicants will be notified of a decision on or before July 1, 2024.

- Eligibility for AICF fellowships is limited to Italian citizens applying for fellowships in the United States. Applicants who are currently living in the United States, cannot have resided in the United States for more than two years from the due date of the application.
- Applicants to AICF's International Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship Program must have received an advanced degree—a PhD, DSc or DVM— no more than three years prior to the due date of the application. Applicants with an MD must have received their degree no more than six years prior to the due date of the application or terminated their clinical training (Residency/Fellowship or Scuola di Specializzazione) no more than three years prior to the due date of the application. AICF's emphasis, however, is on funding post-doctoral researchers who will be completing their first full post-doctoral year of research during the AICF Fellowship period.
- Eligible applications for an AICF Fellowship include proposals for basic or translational cancer research, as well as clinical research.

Fellowships are awarded for a one-year period. A few selected fellowships may be considered for a second year award in the next application cycle.

Review Criteria for Applicants: Applications are reviewed by the Scientific Advisory Board to ascertain eligibility; incomplete applications will be rejected. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all requirements are fulfilled and all letters of recommendation are received by AICF by the stated deadlines.

Fellowship applications are evaluated for:

- Scientific merit and cancer relevance of the proposed research
- Credentials of the candidate
- Qualifications and experience of mentor
- Qualifications of the proposed training institution and of the research environment available to the candidate during the fellowship period
- Letters of recommendation

Fellowship Stipends and Expenditure Reports: Fellowship stipends of \$60,000 for the 2024-25 period are meant to cover most living expenses of the awarded candidate. The stipend excludes indirect costs that may be required by the host institution. Specifically, no fringe benefits can be charged to the fellowship award. The stipend is paid to the host institution in the form of a restricted grant to reimburse the Fellow for living expenses during the award. AICF requires an expenditure report at the end of the grant period and at the end of each year of the grant period in case a second year of funding is approved.

Fellowships are paid in installments throughout the award term, which typically begins on August 1st and concludes on July 31st, with the following schedule: August, November, February, May, July¹.

Publications: A PDF copy of all publications must be sent to AICF by e-mail. Final reports must also include a list of publications. All publications (including abstracts of presentations at scientific meetings) must carry the following acknowledgment:

“Supported by an American-Italian Cancer Foundation Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship, year...”

AICF Recognition: Host institutions are required to acknowledge their “American-Italian Cancer Foundation Fellow(s)” on their websites and in all printed materials related to the award.

Special Circumstances

1. **Early Termination of Research Project.** Should the Fellow and/or Mentor consider discontinuing the project or leaving the designated institution, AICF’s Executive Director must be notified immediately. Failure to comply with these requirements will jeopardize the possibility for future AICF support to the host institution. At the discretion of the Executive Director, the stipend may be retracted (all monies that had been received by the host institution up to that date must then be returned to AICF) or pro-rated, based upon the number of months completed and work performed during this period. When pro-rating is approved, the Fellow will be required to submit a report on his or her work during the months completed.
2. **Transfers.** If a transfer is requested, letters from the AICF Fellow requesting the transfer and the current and new mentor/host institution should be submitted to AICF at least two months before the transfer is to take place. The transfer request will be considered by the Executive Director and must include: a letter from the current mentor stating the reason for and approval of the transfer; a letter from the new mentor/institution agreeing to supervise the fellow’s project and describing the research environment.
3. **Late Start of Fellowship Term.** Fellowship terms begin on August 1st. In certain cases, AICF Fellows will be granted special permission by the Executive Director to begin their fellowship term at a later date, thereby extending the fellowship term by an appropriate number of months to encompass a one-year period. Request for a start date different than August 1st must be submitted to the Executive Director as soon as possible, and in any case prior to July 31st.

¹ The July installment is paid upon receipt of the fellow’s final research report and the institution’s financial report (due by July 31).

Definition of Terms

Basic Science Fellowship: experimental lab-based cancer research project aimed at understanding the biological mechanisms underpinning cancer.

Clinical Science Fellowship: patient data-based cancer research project aimed at finding new and better ways to detect, diagnose, treat, and prevent cancer.

Mentor: The senior researcher, clinician, or physician who agrees to act as the supervisor for the candidate's proposed project. The mentor is the primary representative of the host institution and is required to provide a description of the research environment and an overview of the relevance and importance of the proposed research project. It is the obligation of the mentor to direct the fellow's scientific development by providing guidance and training for the duration of the fellowship. The mentor agrees to act as AICF's contact person, unless another contact is named.

Host Institution: The cancer center, laboratory, or other administrative entity that employs the mentor and where the fellowship candidate's work is to be performed. Host institutions are not reimbursed for administrative costs or laboratory fees in conjunction with the fellow's work. Fellowship monies are paid to the host institution in the form of a restricted grant, and AICF Fellows are reimbursed for their living expenses, as needed; host institution representatives prepare a report on expenditures for AICF at the end of the grant period. The host institution is responsible for securing the appropriate immigration forms.

Sponsor: The senior professor, administrator or researcher in the institution where the fellowship candidate currently works/from which the candidate recently graduated. The mentor and the sponsor may be the same person, in cases where the sponsoring institution and host institution are the same; in this case, only one letter of recommendation from the sponsor/mentor is required. When the sponsoring institution and host institution are different, two letters of recommendation are required.

Letters of Recommendation: Letters sent directly to AICF from individuals recognized in the field of inquiry the candidate has proposed, and who are in a position to evaluate the candidate's qualifications and the relevance/importance of the proposed research project.

FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The completed fellowship application must be e-mailed by 11:59 PM EST on February 28, 2024 to fellowship@americanitaliancancer.org. All application documents must be submitted as ONE (1) PDF file, named in the following format: Last Name, First Name. Documents need to be ordered in the same way as the list below.

The application should consist of the following:

1. Completed application form.
2. Curriculum vitae and candidate's bibliography (one-page version as well as extended version).
3. A letter from the candidate describing how the proposed research and training will affect his/her future career and line of independent research, and stating the candidate's independent thinking, his/her ability/independence from the mentor in formulating the hypothesis that drives the research proposal and organizing the experimental plan (one-page maximum).
4. For candidates who are already living in the United States, answers to questions about their current position and a copy of their dated contract with the host institution.
5. The mentor's biosketch.
6. The research proposal (a 150-word maximum version and an extended version not to exceed two pages) that includes:
 - a. Summary of the proposed research project, including specific aims and methodology.
 - b. Statement outlining the potential significance of the proposed research project.
 - c. The extended version may include references and a bibliography that will not count towards the 2-page limit.

Please note research projects should remain in the scope of a one-year fellowship and include specific details of the candidate's contribution to the proposed project.

7. Copy of all academic transcripts, for both undergraduate and graduate studies, with all courses and assigned grades. Transcripts in Italian are accepted.
8. Copy of certificate of the highest degree attained.
9. The last page of the application, to be completed by the host institution.

For items 2, 3 and 6, please use the following formatting guidelines:

Times New Roman font, size 12

1 inch margins

In addition, the following supplementary information is required to be emailed directly by the person recommending the candidate to Executive Director Cristina Aibino at fellowship@americanitaliancancer.org

- One letter of recommendation from the sponsor/mentor (when they are the same person) or two separate letters of recommendation from the sponsor and mentor (when they are two different people) on institutional letterhead. In their letters, mentors/sponsors should clearly state the goals and anticipated project outcomes they set for the candidate.
- Two additional letters of recommendation on institutional or business letterhead.

AICF FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete the following application with all supplementary materials and return by email in **ONE (1) PDF file named in the "Last Name, First Name" format to fellowship@americanitaliancancer.org by 11:59 PM EST on February 28, 2024.**

CANDIDATE INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY): _____ Place of Birth: _____

Citizenship: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Permanent Home Address: _____

Current Mailing Address (if different from above): _____

How did you hear about this fellowship opportunity?: _____

If you are currently living in the United States, how long have you lived in the United States?

YEAR(S) MONTH(S)

EDUCATION

Institution

Degree/Field

Degree Month/Year

PROJECT TITLE:

HOST INSTITUTION

Name of Mentor	Title
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Host Institution

Street Address

City	State	Zip	Country
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Telephone	Email Address
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SPONSORING INSTITUTION

Name of Sponsor	Title
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Sponsoring Institution

Street Address

City	State	Zip	Country
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Telephone	Email address
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REQUIRED INFORMATION

- Curriculum vitae, including research and professional experience. List in chronological order positions held, professional experience, and citations of publications (in chronological order and with full bibliographic information, including titles, pages, publisher, etc.). Include a one-page version and an extended version.
- A letter from the candidate describing how the proposed research and training will affect his/her future career and line of independent research, and stating the candidate's independent thinking, his/her ability/independence from the mentor in formulating the hypothesis that drives the research proposal and organizing the experimental plan (one-page maximum).
- Applicants who are already living in the United States must also provide the following information:
 - How is your position being funded at the present time?
 - What are your plans if you do not receive the AICF fellowship?
 - A copy of the dated contract with the host institution
- The mentor's biosketch

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Please submit two versions of your proposal: a short version of 150 words or less and an extended version not to exceed two pages. Please note research projects should remain in the scope of a one-year fellowship and include specific details of the candidate's contribution to the proposed project.

The proposal should include:

- a. Summary of the proposed research project, including specific aims and methodology.
- b. Statement outlining the potential significance of the proposed research project.
- c. The extended version may include references and a bibliography that will not count towards the 2-page limit.

ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPTS

- Copy of all academic transcripts, for both undergraduate and graduate studies, with all courses and assigned grades. Transcripts in Italian are accepted.
- Copy of certificate of the highest degree attained.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Each letter should be emailed by the person who is recommending the candidate to Executive Director Cristina Aibino at fellowship@americanitaliancancer.org

- One letter of recommendation from the sponsor/mentor (when they are the same person) or two separate letters of recommendation from the sponsor and mentor (when they are two different people) on institutional letterhead. In their letters, mentors/sponsors should clearly state the goals and anticipated project outcomes they set for the candidate.
- Two additional letters of recommendation on institutional or business letterhead

TO BE COMPLETED BY MENTOR AND HOST INSTITUTION:

Candidate's Name: _____

Name of Administrative Officer at Host Institution

Signature

Date

Name of Mentor

Signature

Date

Please attach a statement of acceptance on business letterhead, including:

- (1) A brief summary of the research environment;
- (2) Advanced training opportunities for the candidate;
- (3) Description of funding opportunities available to the candidate at the institution;
- (4) Ways candidate will be recognized as the "American-Italian Cancer Foundation Fellow" by the host institution during the fellowship period;
- (5) Affirmation that the candidate will be able to attend at least one international meeting. Please list the meeting(s) candidate may expect to attend.

Statement of acceptance should not exceed 500 words.

Please email directly to Cristina Aibino, Executive Director at:

fellowship@americanitaliancancer.org