

The Moore Inventor Fellows – 2016 Guidelines

"50 Inventors to shape the next 50 years."

The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation is launching a competition to identify outstanding inventors who harness science and technology to enhance the conduct of scientific research, strengthen environmental conservation, or improve the experience and outcomes of patient care.

The Moore Inventor Fellowships will focus on investment at a critical stage of research to capture opportunities that otherwise might be missed. We seek to provide freedom and support to the most promising inventors with the most compelling ideas to pursue creative work.

Program Overview

Gordon Moore's contribution to the development of microelectronics helped produce the exponential growth of the digital revolution that continues today. In the spirit of Moore's passion for science and penchant for inventing, the foundation seeks to invest in people who create new tools and technologies with a high potential to accelerate progress in the foundation's areas of interest: scientific research, environmental conservation and patient care.

The foundation anticipates investing \$33.75 million to support a total of 50 Moore Fellows, with the first five awards made in 2016. Initially, the competition will focus on inventors at Association of American Universities member research universities in the United States and 16 additional institutions from the top 50 National Institutes of Health-funded medical schools that are not AAU members. The eligibility pool may be expanded in subsequent years.

Each fellow will receive funding for three years at a level of \$200,000 per year from the Moore Foundation. In addition to funds for the fellow, the foundation will provide the host institution with \$25,000 each year to cover costs associated with administering the grant award, resulting in a total three-year award amount of \$675,000. Host institutions will be required to make a contribution of \$50,000 in annual direct support of the inventor's work. We expect the fellows to use the grant funds as they see fit to develop their inventions while engaged at least halftime in the pursuit of this work. Grant funds may be used to buy out of other time commitments, support portions of salary, hire undergraduate or graduate students, purchase equipment, supplies and other needs that enable the fellows to focus on their inventions.

Who (and What) We Seek to Fund

Candidates must be faculty or staff members at eligible institutions. We seek ideas grounded in science that promise to transform activity in an area of interest to the foundation: natural science, environmental conservation and patient experience and care. We seek a combination of demonstrated promise of the individual and a compelling idea in which marked progress toward a defined goal can be measured during the three years of support. We aim to support ideas at an early stage that could lead to proof-of-concept or advance an existing prototype toward application.

We recognize that real invention can take surprising turns, so we seek creative individuals who have big ideas and the deep knowledge and courage to take smart risks. We are not interested in supporting ideas that are already at a stage at which significant venture funding is available. A clear path toward commercialization is not a requirement; potential impact on scientific research, conservation, or patient care is essential.

These awards aim to provide the time and creative space for exceptional individuals to pursue their invention. We seek individuals within institutions that demonstrate the organization's commitment by sharing in the support of the fellow's work and providing adequate time for it.

Nomination Procedure

Letters of invitation have been sent to the presidents and chief research officers of AAU universities and additional medical schools within the U.S. Each eligible university can submit two nominations for consideration. Nominations must be received by 5:00 p.m. PDT **May 1, 2016**. The Office of the President of eligible institutions may designate a contact person who has authorization to submit on behalf of the university. Please email inventors@moore.org with the name and contact information of the designated individual.

Candidates **must be within ten years of receiving the terminal degree in their field** (e.g., Ph.D. or M.D.) They can be tenure-line faculty, teaching faculty, research scientists, postdocs or other full-time affiliates of the university. Candidates will provide a two-page summary of their proposed invention, which should include a description of the potential for impact in an area of interest to the foundation. Along with their nominations, Universities should provide (1) a two-page overview describing why the nominee is the best person to advance their proposed invention, (2) a brief description of the institution's internal process used to advertise, solicit and select applicants and (3) a statement of support for this nominee. Institutions should submit up to two nomination packets through the online application system: <https://www.moore.org/inventors>. Any questions not covered in the online FAQ section may also be addressed to inventors@moore.org. See below for more details on the nomination packets.

Selection Process

Foundation staff and an advisory committee will review nominations, after which management will make a recommendation to the foundation's Board of Trustees. In 2016, five individuals will be selected as the inaugural Moore Inventor Fellows. We recognize the value of diverse perspectives and experiences and seek a broad and diverse pool of inventor applicants. Applicants will be reviewed on their merits and awards will be made without regard to age, race, national origin, citizenship, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or physical disability.

The selection process will have two stages. In the first stage, each eligible institution can submit up to two nomination packets, which will be reviewed by the foundation and an advisory committee. Approximately 10 percent of the initial applicant pool will then be invited to enter the second stage. These finalists will be asked to provide additional information and make a presentation (either in person or via video teleconference) on the importance, plausibility, status and possible impact of their proposed line of work, and respond to

questions from a panel of advisors about their proposed project. Following this stage, the advisory committee and foundation staff will make recommendations to the foundation management for the five 2016 fellowships.

Timeline for Awards

January 20, 2016	– Requests for nominations sent to university presidents
May 1, 2016	– All application materials due
June 15, 2016	– Second stage candidates selected, additional information solicited
August 30, 2016	– Second stage information due
October 15, 2016	– Fellows announced

Nomination and Application Requirements

1. University nomination overview, to include:
 - a. Name of nominees, with nominee institutional, department and contact information.
 - b. Two-page university overview
 - i. Summarizing solicitation and selection procedures, and
 - ii. Statement of why the candidate is the best choice for nomination. This statement should include the present status of funding for the idea and a specific description of how awarding a Moore Inventor Fellowship will advance this idea.
 - iii. Clear articulation of the university's commitment to the nominee if grant is awarded.
2. Candidate nomination packet to include:
 - a. Summary CV to include (no more than two pages):
 - i. Educational and professional background
 - ii. Key accomplishments, honors and demonstrated areas of expertise
 - iii. Other background information relevant to stated invention
 - b. Statement of invention describing idea, importance, stage of invention, current funding, feasibility, potential impact in the area of science, environmental conservation, or patient care and experience. This should be no more than two pages (single-spaced, 12-point font and one inch margins)
 - c. One-page budget narrative that outlines how grant funds will be used
 - d. Three letters of reference that speak to promise of applicant and idea. At least one must come from outside the nominating institution.

Evaluation Criteria:

All applications will be evaluated with the following criteria:

Inventor

- Demonstrated creative and technical potential
- Strong relevant technical ability for the proposed line of work

Idea

- Potential impact of the invention in areas of interest to the Moore Foundation - science, environmental conservation, or patient care
- Idea is in an early stage that requires this funding for rapid progress
- The idea has potential for measurable progress within the three-year grant period
- The plausibility of this invention to achieve the stated impact
- The ability of dedicated funding to propel this innovation to the next stage of development
- Strength of university's stated commitment to applicant's invention activities

All information on the details of the proposed invention will be held confidential and members of the advisory committee will sign nondisclosure agreements before reviewing any applicant material. The foundation will work with fellows on agreeable language that could be shared publicly about the competition and in announcements of the award winners.

The foundation's policy states all intellectual property must be managed and disseminated in a manner that leads to the greatest impact. Each award will include IP terms to reflect the needs of each project. The foundation may also publish anonymized and aggregated demographic information regarding the people nominated by the institutions, as well aggregated information on the university nomination process.