Moore Inventor Fellows | 2024 Application Guidelines

“50 inventors to shape the next 50 years.”

The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation is pleased to announce the ninth competition for the Moore Inventor Fellows program. The foundation seeks to identify outstanding inventors and innovators 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 Fellows fellowship focuses on supporting scientist-inventors at a critical prototyping stage to capture opportunities that otherwise might be missed. We seek to provide freedom and support to promising inventors with the most compelling ideas to pursue creative and disruptive innovations.

Program Overview

Gordon Moore’s contribution to the development of microelectronics helped produce the exponential growth of the digital revolution. In the spirit of Dr. Moore’s passion for science and penchant for inventing, the foundation seeks to support people who create new tools, technologies, processes, or approaches with a high potential to accelerate progress in the foundation’s three main areas of interest: scientific research, environmental conservation, and patient care.

The foundation will provide nearly $34 million through 2026 to support 50 Moore Inventor Fellows. The fellowship focuses on early-career staff at select research universities, medical schools and selected non-academic environmental research and patient care institutions. Each eligible institution may nominate two people.

Each fellow will receive $200,000 per year from the foundation for three years. In addition, the foundation will provide the host institution with $25,000 each year to cover costs associated with administering the grant, resulting in a total three-year award of $675,000. Each host institution will be required to contribute $50,000 in annual direct support of the inventor’s work. This can be “in kind” as released time or access to special facilities for which there is normally a charge. We expect each fellow will be personally engaged in pursuing their invention and we require each fellow to devote at least 25 percent of their own time to their invention. Fellows may use the grant funds to support their own salary to create this opportunity. They may also hire research personnel and purchase services, equipment, or supplies.

Who and What We Seek to Fund

Candidates must be faculty, research scientists, postdocs or other full-time staff who can receive funding through their institutions. Candidates must be no more than 10 years past receiving the terminal advanced degree in their field (M.S., Ph.D. or M.D. received on or after 2014). Please see the Moore Inventor Fellows FAQ for more information regarding candidate eligibility and exceptions.

The scope of this call is intentionally wide: proposed projects do not need to fall within our current funding priorities but should be broadly within the program areas of foundation interest (science, environmental conservation and patient care). Patient care inventions should resonate with our focus on improving the experience and outcomes of patients with solutions that improve clinical diagnosis.

We aim to support inventions at an early stage that could lead to proof-of-concept of an invention or advance an existing prototype that tackles an important problem. We seek innovations that promise to make a long-lasting and meaningful impact by addressing underlying problems in their field, but a clear path toward commercialization is not a requirement. For this opportunity we are not interested in supporting fundamental research projects or projects already at a stage where significant venture capital is available. As with all our grants, we seek to measure progress toward a defined goal during the three years of support. The foundation's policy is that intellectual property that results from a grant 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 that project.

We recognize real invention can take surprising turns, so we seek creative individuals who have big ideas, deep knowledge, and the courage to take smart risks. We recognize inventors and innovators come from a diversity of backgrounds, disciplines and experiences and seek creative individuals across a broad array of academic programs and research institutions. Examples of such programs include but are not limited to environmental science and conservation, remote sensing, artificial intelligence, big data, climatology, emerging infectious diseases, biology, oceanography, engineering, physics, chemistry, materials science, neuroscience, and public health.

Nomination Procedure

We are sending letters of invitation letter to the presidents, chief research officers and other officials, and past points of contact of invited institutions. Each eligible institution can submit two nominations for consideration.

Eligible institutions should designate a point of contact who is authorized to submit the nominations and candidate applications. Please submit the contact form with the name and

information for the designated contact person to receive access to the application portal and updates about the 2024 Program.

Institutions may submit up to **two nominations** with the elements described below.

For more detailed information please read the Moore Inventor Fellow FAQ located on moore.org. If you seek more clarity, please reach out to the Moore Inventor Fellows team at inventors@moore.org.

Nomination and Application Requirements

All documents should follow a single spaced, 1-inch margin and 12-point font format. Please submit all documents as PDFs only.

Using the guidelines below, it is at your discretion of how you would like to present the content. Figures are allowed but count toward the page limits. Please strictly adhere to page limits.

1. Nomination Form | **Due Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 5:00 PM PT**
    - Name of candidate, brief description of invention, keywords describing invention.
    - Name of nominating institution, department, and contact information.
    - Institutional Statement of Support.
        - The nominating institution is required to commit to ensuring the nominee is able to spend at least 25% of their time on their invention and will receive $50,000 per year in direct support to the inventor's work. The point of contact should check the related box in the nomination form located in the Survey Monkey Apply portal.
        - We do not require a formal letter or documentation.

2. Complete Application | **Due Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 5:00 PM PT**
    - Statement of invention (2-page limit, including citations):
        - The first paragraph should clearly, and without jargon, describe the invention, the problem it seeks to address and its potential impact.
        - The statement of invention should also include the following information:
            - Description of invention, stage of invention, feasibility, and current funding
            - Importance to the Foundation's focus areas (Science, Patient Care, and Environmental Conservation), potential impact, risks, and approach to measuring success and progress over the 3-year fellowship.

    - Please describe any technical risks that might lower chances of success and what you will do mitigate these risks. For example, “If A doesn't work, we'll do B.”
- Curriculum Vitae (2-page limit):
    - Educational and professional background.
    - Key accomplishments, honors and demonstrated areas of expert knowledge.
    - Other background information relevant to this invention.
- Budget narrative that outlines how grant funds will be used (1-page limit)
    - The budget overview does not need to be overly detailed as the Foundation’s detailed budget template will be provided to the selected fellow when we internally process the awards in the spring, after the cohort is selected in May 2024.
- Letters of Reference (2-page limit per letter)
    - The letter of reference(s) should evaluate the applicant's promise and the invention.
    - It is your discretion to choose a recommender, noting that one letter should be from an individual within the nominating institution and one from another institution.

Selection Process

The selection process has two stages. In the first, each submission will be reviewed by foundation staff with advice from external reviewers. Applications will be selected in line with the goals of the Moore Inventor Fellows program and random selection may be used in tie break situations.

In the second stage, ten finalists will be invited to virtually present to a panel of advisors on the importance, plausibility, status, and possible impact of their proposed line of work (more information about presentation criteria will be included closer to Finalist Day). After these presentations, the advisory panel and foundation staff will make recommendations to the foundation president for the 2024 fellowships. Non-selected finalists will receive a consolation contribution of $25,000 to directly support their work.

Please see below for a detailed timeline of the selection process.

Details of the proposed invention will be held confidential, and members of the external reviewer cohort and advisory committee will sign nondisclosure agreements before reviewing any applicant materials. The foundation will collaborate with selected fellows and their host institutions on agreeable language to be shared in announcements of the award winners.

Applicants will be considered solely on their merits and awards will be made regardless of age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, national origin, religion, or disability.

Evaluation Criteria

In the first round, the following questions are used to evaluate each application:

- Rate the candidate's capabilities as an inventor.
- Rate the potential of the proposed invention to make a difference in the foundation's areas of interest: scientific discovery, environmental conservation, and/or patient care.
- Rate the potential for measurable progress within a 3-year period.

In the second round, the following questions are used to evaluate each application:

- Rate the candidate's capabilities as an inventor.
- Rate the potential impact of the proposed project.
- Rate the plausibility of the invention to achieve its stated impact.
- Rate the potential for measurable progress within a 3-year period.
- Rate the overall application, considering both the inventor and invention.

Program Timeline

September 19, 2023	2024 Program Announced
September 19, 2023	Point of contact form and Survey Monkey Apply portal open
October 12, 2023	Virtual Q&A with the Moore Inventor Fellows team
November 14, 2023	Deadline to submit formal nominations
December 13, 2023	Deadline to submit complete applications
April 12, 2024	Finalist invited to the presentation round
May 1, 2024	Finalist Presentation Day—virtual
May 2, 2024	Finalist notified of 2024 Cohort selection
October 4, 2024	2024 Moore Inventor Fellow Cohort announced

Eligible Institutions

Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Amazon Conservation Association
Amazon Conservation Team
American Museum of Natural History
Arizona State University, Tempe
Auburn University
Ballad Health
Baylor College of Medicine
Baystate Medical Center
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences
Binghamton University
Boston Children's Hospital
Boston College
Boston University
Boston University Medical Campus
Brandeis University
Brigham and Women's Hospital

Brown University
California Academy of Sciences
California Institute of Technology
Carnegie Institution of Washington
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Children's Hospital of Los Angeles
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Claremont Graduate University
Clark Atlanta University
Clark University, Clark Labs
Clemson University
Cleveland Clinic
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University, Fort Collins
Columbia University
Conservation International
Conservation Strategy Fund
Conservation X Labs
Cornell University
CUNY Graduate School and University Center
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Dartmouth College
Dartmouth University
Delaware State University
Desert Research Institute
Drexel University
Duke University
Emory University
Emory University School of Medicine
Environmental Defense Fund
FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute
Field Museum of Natural History
FlipLabs / Future of Fish (Impact Assets)
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
Florida Institute of Technology
Florida International University
Florida State University
Fordham University
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Geisinger
George Mason University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia State University
Gladstone Institute
Gulf of Maine Research Institute
Hampton University
Harvard University
Howard University
Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai
Indiana University
Indiana University School of Medicine
Institute of Advanced Study
Intermountain Healthcare
Iowa State University
Island Conservation
J Craig Venter Institute, Inc.
Jackson State University
Johns Hopkins Medicine
Johns Hopkins University
Kaiser Permanente
Kansas State University
Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College
Marine Biological Laboratory
Massachusetts General Hospital
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Mayo Clinic
Medical College of Wisconsin
Medical University of South Carolina
MedStar Health
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Michigan State University
Mississippi State University
Montana State University

Montclair State University
Monterey Bay Aquarium Foundation
Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
Morgan State University
National Aquarium
National Geographic Society
Nationwide Children's Hospital
New England Aquarium
New Jersey Institute of Technology
New York Botanical Garden
New York University
New York University Grossman School of Medicine
North Carolina A&T State University
North Carolina State University at Raleigh
Northeastern University
Northwell Health
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
Oklahoma State University
Oregon Health and Science University
Oregon State University
Penn State Health (Hershey Medical Center)
Pennsylvania State University
Prairie View A&M University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Radiant Earth Foundation
Rainforest Alliance
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rice University
Rocky Mountain Institute
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Salk Institute for Biological Studies
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Smithsonian Institution
Southern University and A&M College
Stanford University
Stroud Water Research Center Inc.
SUNY, Stony Brook University
SUNY, University at Albany
SUNY, University at Buffalo
Syracuse University
Temple University
Tennessee State University
Texas A&M University
Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi
Texas Christian University
Texas Southern University
Texas Tech University
The Botanical Research Institute of Texas
The Conservation Fund (The Freshwater Institute)
The National Center for Genome Resources
The Nature Conservancy
The Scripps Research Institute
Tufts Medical Center
Tufts University
Tulane University
University Hospitals
University of Alabama
University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of Arizona
University of Arkansas
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Merced
University of California, Riverside
University of California, San Diego
University of California, San Francisco
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Central Florida
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Colorado, Denver
University of Connecticut

University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of Houston
University of Idaho
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Urbana, Champaign
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Kentucky
University of Louisville
University of Maine
University of Maryland, Baltimore (School of Medicine)
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Maryland, Eastern Shore
University of Massachusetts Medical School
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Memphis
University of Miami
University of Miami School of Medicine
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
University of Mississippi
University of Missouri, Columbia
University of Nebraska, Lincoln
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
University of Nevada, Reno
University of New Hampshire, Main Campus
University of New Mexico, Main Campus
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Texas
University of Notre Dame
University of Oklahoma, Norman Campus
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Campus
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
University of Rochester
University of South Carolina, Columbia
University of South Florida, Main Campus
University of Southern California
University of Southern Mississippi
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
University of Texas at Arlington
University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas at Dallas
University of Texas at El Paso
University of Texas at San Antonio
University of Texas, MD Andersen Cancer Center
University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center
University of Utah
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin, Madison
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Wake Forest University
Washington State University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wayne State University
Weill Medical College of Cornell University
West Virginia University
Wildlife Conservation Society
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Woodwell Climate Research Center
World Resources Institute
World Wildlife Fund (WWF US)
Yale University