

# THE MOORE INVENTOR FELLOWS – 2020 GUIDELINES

“50 INVENTORS TO SHAPE THE NEXT 50 YEARS.”

The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation announces the fifth competition for [Moore Inventor Fellows](#). 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 program focuses on supporting scientist-inventors at a critical stage of research 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 work.

## **Program Overview**

Gordon Moore's contribution to the development of microelectronics helped produce the exponential growth of the digital revolution. In the spirit of 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 plans to allocate nearly \$34 million through 2026 to support 50 Moore Inventor Fellows. In 2020, the competition will focus on early-career staff at major research universities, additional institutions from among the top 50 National Institutes of Health-funded medical schools and universities, and selected non-academic environmental research and patient care institutions. Each eligible institution may nominate two people.

Each fellow will receive funding for three years at a level of \$200,000 per year from the foundation. In addition, 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. 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 undergraduates, graduate assistants or postdoctoral scholars 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 at eligible 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.).

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). The exception is for nominees proposing ideas and inventions that target patient care. Within this realm, we seek overlap with our current emphasis on improving the experience and outcomes of patients, including solutions in the areas of diagnostic excellence, medication safety in the community and community-based serious illness care.

We aim to support inventions at an early stage that could lead to proof-of-concept work on an invention or advance an existing prototype that tackles an important problem. We seek innovations with the promise of making a long-lasting impact by addressing underlying problems in their field, but a clear path toward commercialization is not a requirement. We are not interested in supporting projects that are 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 that 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 that 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 departments. Examples of such programs include, but are not limited to environmental science and conservation, oceanography, biology, engineering, physics, chemistry, materials science, neuroscience, public health and gerontology.

### **Nomination Procedure**

Letters of invitation have been sent to the presidents and chief research officers of invited institutions. Each eligible institution can submit two nominations for consideration. **Nominations must be received by 5:00 p.m. PT Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with full application materials due by 5:00 p.m. PT Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019.** Eligible institutions should designate a contact person who is authorized to submit the nomination. Please email [inventors@moore.org](mailto:inventors@moore.org) with the name and contact information of that designated individual no later than **Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019** to receive submission instructions.

Institutions can submit up to two nominations with the elements described below through the online application system, which will be accessible by the identified institutional contact for this program. Questions that are not covered in the [FAQ document](#) may be addressed to [inventors@moore.org](mailto:inventors@moore.org).

### **Nomination and Application Requirements**

1. Basic nominee information: **(Due Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019)**
  - A. Name of nominee, brief description of invention, keywords describing invention
  - B. Nominee institutional, department and contact information
  - C. Statement of the institution's plan to assure that the nominee has at least 25 percent of their time to devote to their invention and \$50,000 in annual direct support of the inventor's work
2. Candidate nomination packet to include the following materials: **(Due Friday, December 13, 2019)**
  - A. Statement of invention (no more than two pages, including citations; single-spaced, 12-point font with one-inch margins). The first paragraph should describe clearly

and without jargon the invention, the problem it seeks to address and its potential impact. The statement of invention should also include the following information:

- I. Description of invention
  - II. Importance to science, environmental conservation or patient care and experience
  - III. Stage of invention
  - IV. Current funding
  - V. Feasibility
  - VI. Approach for measuring progress during the grant term
- B. Summary CV (no more than two pages):
- I. Educational and professional background
  - II. Key accomplishments, honors and demonstrated areas of expert knowledge
  - III. Other background information relevant to this invention
- C. One-page budget narrative that outlines how grant funds will be used
- D. Two letters of reference that evaluate the promise of the applicant and the invention, one from an individual within the nominating institution and one from an individual from another institution. Letters should be no more than two pages.

### **Selection Process**

The selection process has two stages. In the first, each submission will be reviewed by foundation staff with advice from external reviewers. In the second, finalists make an in-person presentation on the importance, plausibility, status and possible impact of their proposed line of work to a panel of advisors. After these presentations, the advisory committee and foundation staff will make recommendations to the foundation president for the 2020 fellowships. Please see below for a detailed timeline of the selection process.

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 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 without regard to age, race, national origin, citizenship, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

All applications will be evaluated with the following criteria:

### **Inventor**

1. Demonstrated creative potential
2. Strong technical ability for the proposed line of work

### **Invention**

1. Importance of the invention in areas of interest to the Moore Foundation - science, environmental conservation or patient care
2. Invention at an early stage that requires this funding for rapid progress
3. Plausibility of this invention to achieve the stated impact
4. Ability of dedicated funding and time to propel this innovation to the next stage of development; commercialization is not a requirement
5. Strength of the institution's commitment to the applicant's invention activities

## **Timeline for Awards**

<b>Tuesday, September 3, 2019</b>	Requests for nominations sent to institutions
<b>Thursday, September 12, 2019</b>	Institutions to provide designated contact information
<b>Tuesday, September 17, 2019</b>	Online application system opens
<b>Friday, November 15, 2019</b>	Institutions to provide basic nominee information
<b>Friday, December 13, 2019</b>	All application materials due
<b>Week of March 30, 2020</b>	Finalists selected
<b>Week of April 20, 2020</b>	Finalist presentations due
<b>Week of May 4, 2020</b>	Finalist in-person presentations
<b>Week of May 11, 2020</b>	Decision made; institutions notified
<b>Fall 2020</b>	Fellows announced