

To: Penn BPP Postdocs  
Re: Regeneron Prize for Creative Innovation for Postdocs  
Dream Project

The University has been invited to submit 2 postdoctoral nominations for the Regeneron Prize. The Regeneron Prize (guidelines attached) recognizes and honors Excellence in Biomedical Science conducted by postdoctoral fellows conducting research in biomedicine, broadly defined. Only Penn postdocs are eligible for this competition.

Please note that the BPP deadline for the internal competition is January 19, 2022.

The Office of Biomedical Postdoctoral Programs (BPP) will submit BPP nominations to the Office of the Vice Provost for Research who will conduct the final review to identify the two postdoc nominations for the University. Penn postdocs that do not belong to BPP will submit their application to the Office of the Vice Provost for Research.

**Prize Amount:** \$50,000 to the postdoc and \$5,000 to the prize winners department to support a seminar series.

**BPP and Office of the Vice Provost for Research guidelines:**

- Postdocs must be in the field of *biomedicine*, broadly defined
- BPP can nominate two postdocs
  - Each postdoc applicant is required to submit the following:
    - Title page with postdoc's name, postdoc's department, email address, phone number, proposal title and faculty mentor;
    - 2 page single-spaced research proposal as per the Regeneron guidelines (attached)
    - A "dream project" research proposal as described below and on attachment:
    - The proposal should clearly define a specific, experiment or series of experiments, and include a rationale, basic methodology/design (citing literature is fine), and discussion of how the experiment's results would advance the field.
    - The proposal may wish to include a background/rationale section, a specific aims section, an experimental design/methodology section, and a caveats/conclusions section (similar to a research proposal one might prepare for a funding source)
    - Note that preliminary data is not necessary. Dream project proposals should not simply be a small step from the projects in their PI's lab that could have arisen in lab meetings, etc., but rather are the trainee's original ideas.
    - The proposal can assume that applicants have access to the rich resources and technologies available at cutting edge biotechnology companies such as Regeneron. This includes access to most equipment used in biomedical research, any necessary supplies or reagents, and advanced genetic and/or protein engineering capabilities.

- Proposal must be no more than two single-spaced pages (no smaller than 10-point font). References do not need to be included within the two-page limit, but any figures, etc. should be
- Current CV
- Pdf of up to 3 publications
  
- Materials should be submitted in a single file in the order above to [postdoc@penmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:postdoc@penmedicine.upenn.edu) Subject line of email message should be “Regeneron Prize: Postdoc Surname\_Postdoc first name”, eg. Regeneron Prize: Smith\_Jane
- Deadline for the internal competition is January 19, 2022.

*Finalists will be notified by the Office of the Vice Provost for Research.*

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Regeneron Prize for Creative Innovation**

**Guidelines for the “Dream” Project Proposal**

Rationale and Overview:

One of Regeneron's primary criterion for selecting Regeneron Prize awardees is research productivity. As such, the CVs and publications of the applicants will be very important components of the selection process. However, Regeneron recognizes that two trainees with similar records of productivity may not be equivalent in scientific caliber. A trainee's mentor plays a big role in the development of a high-profile publication record.

The “dream” project component of the Regeneron Prize application is designed to be a differentiating exercise that allows Regeneron's Selection Committee to distinguish between applicants who have excellent research records because of their mentors and those who have excellent research records because of their own scientific merits. The research that is proposed is not necessarily meant to be conducted, nor is the prize meant as a funding mechanism for research. ***The prize is a cash prize to the trainee***, and the trainee may use the money in any way he or she wishes. It is a personal prize for the personal use of the awardee.

The “dream” project proposal is a mechanism for evaluating a student's scientific clarity, elegance, precision, and creativity. There is no need for preliminary data (although it isn't prohibited), and there is no need for the student to feel limited by time or resources for the research proposed. Novel research ideas and "out of the box" thinking are not only acceptable, but encouraged. The proposal should describe a research project the applicant wishes he/she could conduct (i.e. a "dream" project), and be performable within the fundamental limitations imposed by today's technologies (e.g. don't propose cloning Albert Einstein). Finalists may be invited to Regeneron for the onsite competition as the final step in the selection of the Regeneron Prize winners, and they should be prepared to explain and defend aspects of their proposal at that time. The intent of the proposal isn't to conduct the research, it is to evaluate the applicants' research prowess.

Dream Project Proposal Guidelines:

The only ***rigid rules*** for the proposal are:

- 1) The research proposed must be within the field of biomedicine, broadly defined
- 2) The proposal must be no more than two single-spaced pages (no smaller than 10-point font)
- 3) References do not need to be included within the two-page limit, but any figures, etc. should be. Please note that preliminary data is not necessary
- 4) The proposal should clearly define a specific, experiment or series of experiments, and include a rationale, basic methodology/design (citing literature is fine), and discussion of how the experiment's results would advance the field

Other guidelines for the proposal, which are ***guidelines ONLY***, are:

- 1) The proposal may wish to include a background/rationale section, a specific aims section, an experimental design/methodology section, and a caveats/conclusions section (similar to a research proposal one might prepare for a funding source)
- 2) The proposal can assume that applicants have access to the rich resources and technologies available at cutting edge biotechnology companies such as Regeneron. This includes access to most equipment used in biomedical research, any necessary supplies or reagents, and advanced genetic and/or protein engineering capabilities

Some applicants may be invited to conduct their research, or related research, at Regeneron. There is, however, absolutely no requirement that they accept this invitation – the prizes will be awarded before any such offers would be made.

Note: By submitting your proposal, Regeneron obtains no ownership rights in and to any of your proprietary data, results, or other information contained therein or any intellectual property that you may seek to obtain resulting directly from such information. By submitting your proposal, you acknowledge that its contents are not confidential information of any party and that Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (and its affiliates) will in no way be restricted from pursuing its own research, development and commercial activities, which Regeneron may have previously initiated or may initiate in the future, including, without limitation, activities in areas relating to the subject matter of your proposal.