

The University of Pennsylvania has been invited to submit two (2) postdoctoral nominations for the 13th annual Regeneron Prize for Creative Innovation.

The Regeneron Prize for Creative Innovation is funded by Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc., recognizes and honors creativity and innovation by graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in the Biomedical Sciences. Together, the Biomedical Postdoctoral Programs and the Office of the Vice Provost for Research are conducting an internal competition to identify the two postdoctoral trainee finalists for Penn. **The submission deadline for the internal application is January 27, 2025. No late applications will be accepted.**

Note: The University may also nominate two graduate students. Contact provost-ed@upenn.edu for details on the graduate student competition.

Eligibility:

- **Appointment:** Must currently be in a full-time research training position (postdoctoral fellow, research fellowship) at the University of Pennsylvania
- **Research Focus:** Must be conducting biomedical research.
- **Originality:** Must certify that the project proposal is their original idea and does not appear in any publication or grant application where they are not the principal investigator.
- **Individual Proposals:** Joint or team proposals are not eligible
- For any sponsored research projects, the applicant must be eligible to serve as Principal Investigator for the project, unless otherwise noted in the LSO. Please see [Penn's PI Eligibility requirements](#) to ensure you are eligible.

Award information:

- A total unrestricted research award of \$50,000 over one (1) year. The award may be used in any way the winner chooses.
- **Finalist award:** \$5,000 for each finalist.
- **Institutional support:** \$5,000 donation to the home institution of the winners to support the institution's seminar series.
- **Research proposal:** The proposed research is not necessarily meant to be conducted, and the prize is not intended as a funding mechanism for research.
- **Onsite competition:** Finalists may be invited to visit Regeneron for the onsite competition, with travel expenses covered.

Application Materials –

All applications must be submitted through [InfoReady](https://upenn.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/1947725). PDF applications will not be accepted.

<https://upenn.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/1947725>

1. **Cover Page** (Autogenerated by InfoReady)
2. **Curriculum Vitae (CV)**
3. **Research Proposal of Dream Project** - 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.
 - Please note that preliminary data is not necessary
 - 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)
 - 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.
4. **Publication samples as evidence of scholarly achievement.**

Considerations from the Funder: Regeneron prioritizes research productivity when selecting awardees for the Regeneron Prize. Therefore, applicants' CVs and publications are crucial in the selection process. However, Regeneron acknowledges that similar productivity records do not always reflect equivalent scientific caliber, as mentors significantly influence high-profile publication records. The "dream" project component of the application helps the Selection Committee differentiate between applicants who excel due to their mentors and those who excel based on their own scientific merits

NOTE: If selected as a Penn nominee, all applicants will be asked to certify that the "dream" project proposal submitted is their original idea and does not appear in any publication or grant application where they are not the principal investigator. Project proposals found to the contrary may be disqualified. Proposals that embody incremental advances from current projects in their labs would also not qualify. Please also note that joint/team proposals are not eligible to be submitted for the Regeneron Prize.

Full announcement and guidelines can be found below. For questions or clarifications, please contact:

Joshua Darfler

BPP Administrative Director

joshua.darfler@pennmedicine.upenn.edu

We are pleased to announce the 13th Annual Regeneron Prize for Creative Innovation.

Mission: To recognize and honor creativity and innovation by graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in the Biomedical Sciences.

Prize details: Two (2) applicants are selected to receive the Regeneron Prize for Creative Innovation each year. These applicants must be either current PhD graduate students or postdoctoral fellows. Each winner receives a check for \$50,000, which can be used in any way the winner chooses. Finalists are each awarded \$5,000. In addition, the home institution of the winners will each receive a \$5,000 donation to support the institution's seminar series. Approximately 8-10 applicants will be selected for finalist status. Finalists may be invited to visit Regeneron for the onsite competition, travel expenses paid.

Nominations: Each institution may nominate no more than two (2) PhD students and two (2) postdoctoral fellows. Each submission must include a signed institutional endorsement form, see attached. Applicants must prepare a description of their "dream" project and submit their full academic CV along with evidence of scholarly achievement. The "Dream" Project guidelines are as follows (description attached):

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). References do not need to be included within the two-page limit, but any figures, etc. should be. Note that preliminary data is not necessary.
3. 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.

Complete applications will include the following:

1. Full academic CV
2. Institutional endorsement form signed by applicant and institutional endorser
3. Dream Project (up to 2 pages not including references, no smaller than 10-point font)
4. Publication samples as evidence of scholarly achievement

All applicants will be asked to certify that the "Dream" Project proposal submitted is their original idea, does not appear in any publication or grant application where they are not the principal investigator, and is not a continuation or extension of their own or their

principal investigator's current research. Project proposals found to the contrary may be disqualified. Proposals that embody incremental advances from current projects by the applicant or their lab also will not qualify. Please note that joint/team proposals are not eligible to be submitted for the Regeneron Prize. Regeneron reserves the right to not award a prize if the judges decide that no application meets the requirements or standards.

We will be sharing a link for nominees to submit applications to our online application portal shortly. Contact science.education@regeneron.com with questions. Deadline for submissions is Monday, March 3rd, 2025.

13th Annual Regeneron Prize for Creative Innovation

Guidelines for the “Dream” Project Proposal

Rationale and Overview:

One of Regeneron's primary criteria 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 an applicant'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 applicant to feel limited by time or resources for the research proposed. Novel research ideas and “out of the box” thinking is not only acceptable but encouraged. **The work should be entirely original, and therefore not a continuation or extension of the applicant's current work, or that of the applicant's PI.** While such work is of value, this prize seeks to reward original thinking, and therefore we will penalize entries that are simple extensions of current efforts. The proposal should describe a research project the applicant wishes they 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.

The Selection Committee will review proposals not only based on scientific merit but also on creativity and originality. The Committee is looking for novel work that is clearly different from applicants' current and previous work. To judge novelty, Committee members may search for and review publications from applicants' current labs, applicants' previous publications, and applicants' previous grant applications.

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 third 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.