

American Academy of Microbiology Colloquium Fellowship

Grantor: American Academy of Microbiology

Closes: 3/1/2012

Maximum: \$0.00

American Academy of Microbiology Colloquium Fellowship

Beginning in 2011, the American Academy of Microbiology (Academy) will provide a one-year fellowship to a recent microbiology PhD recipient. The Academy is the honorific leadership group within the American Society for Microbiology (ASM), the world's oldest and largest life science organization. The mission of the Academy is to recognize scientists for outstanding contributions to microbiology and provide microbiological expertise in the service of science and the public. To this end, each year the Academy convenes three to four colloquia to address critical issues in microbiology. Colloquium reports are used by governmental agencies, industry, educators and the scientific and lay communities.

The field of microbiology is broad and microbiologists have much to contribute to solving societal challenges in health, food, energy and the environment. Communicating the excitement and potential benefits of advances in microbiology is critically important to attract the next generation of students into the field, to educate and inform the public and to justify continued investment in microbiology research. In addition to academic researchers and clinicians, the field of microbiology needs individuals who are skilled in science communication and public outreach. The goal of the AAM Colloquium fellowship is to provide an opportunity for a recent microbiology PhD graduate to develop these skills. The fellow will work closely with the Academy Director on the colloquium program, participating in the entire process from choosing appropriate topics through proposal development and fund-raising to writing colloquium reports to publicity and dissemination.

Applicants for the fellowship should have a broad interest in the field of microbiology and a willingness to learn about topics outside their own area of expertise. Exceptional writing skills are essential. The fellowship will provide salary and some benefits. The fellowship term is one year.

Applications are due March 1, 2012.

Responsibilities:

The fellow will work with the Director on the Academy Colloquium program:

- developing novel colloquium ideas
- working with volunteers to develop submitted colloquium ideas
- identifying appropriate steering committee members and participants
- identifying funding sources and drafting inquiries and/or grant proposals
- attending colloquia and drafting session notes

drafting and editing colloquium reports

The fellow may also be asked to help with other Academy activities including the organization of General Meeting sessions, identification of candidates for Awards committees, monitoring the election to fellowship process and interfacing with other parts of the ASM.

Skills/qualifications:

Advanced degree in microbiology (PhD preferred)

Exceptional writing skills including the ability to write clearly and succinctly about complex scientific and technical topics for a general audience

Ability to assimilate and summarize information from the primary microbiology literature

Ability to follow, then quickly and accurately summarize group discussions

Ability to identify appropriate experts for colloquia, committees and other volunteer positions

Excellent people skills – experience working with expert volunteers would be a plus

Candidate must be prepared to travel; approximately 6 off-site meetings are anticipated during the one-year term of the fellowship.

How to Apply

Qualifications

Prospective fellows must be citizens of the United States, be members of ASM for at least one year and are expected to have completed their Ph.D. by the time the fellowship begins. Candidates are expected to show competence in some aspect of microbiology, have a broad background in science and technology, and have interest and some experience in applying scientific knowledge toward the solution of social problems. Candidates are expected to be excellent writers, articulate, literate, adaptable, interested in work on a range of microbiology issues, and able to work with a variety of people from diverse professional backgrounds.

Application

A complete application for the fellowship must include:

A letter from the candidate indicating a desire to apply and listing three references.

Three letters of references.

Reference letters should address: The reference's relationship to candidate; An evaluation of the technical accomplishments and relative standing of the candidate among his or her peers; The candidate's known interest and experience in applying his or her expertise to the solution of societal problems; The candidate's ability to communicate and to interact productively with individuals and groups; An assessment of the candidate's maturity and judgmental

ability; and An opinion about the candidate's professional future.

References should include individuals who can discuss not only the candidate's professional competence but also other aspects of his or her background interests which would make the applicant particularly qualified to serve as a Colloquium Fellow.

A statement from the candidate about his or her qualifications and career goals. The candidate's statement should not exceed 1,000 words. The statement should cover the following areas: Why the fellowship is desired; How the candidate is qualified for the Fellowship; and What outcome is hoped for relative to the candidate's career goals.

An updated C.V.

Applications, reference letters, and questions should be addressed to:

Colloquium Program Fellowship
American Academy of Microbiology
American Society for Microbiology
1752 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 942-9227
Fax: (202) 942-9353
Email: colloquia@asmusa.org

Applications due March 1, 2012.

Candidates selected for interviews must provide travel to and from Washington at their own expense. The candidate is responsible for soliciting the required references, providing the six guidelines for the reference response and seeing that the references are forwarded before the deadline.

Link: <http://academy.asm.org/index.php/component/content/article/294>