ASTMH
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE & HYGIENE
ADVANCING GLOBAL HEALTH SINCE 1903

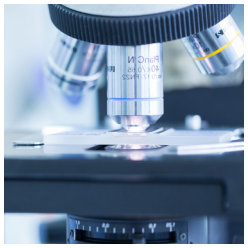
Burroughs Wellcome Fund

Post-doctoral Fellowship in Tropical Infectious Diseases

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

BURROUGHS WELLCOME FUND











Application Deadline
August 19, 2026

About the Burroughs Wellcome Fund/ ASTMH Post-doctoral Fellowship in Tropical Infectious Diseases

Established in 1999, the Burroughs Wellcome Fund/ASTMH Post-doctoral Fellowship in Tropical Infectious Diseases supports career development of physician-scientists focused on infectious diseases of low and low-middle income countries.

This unique fellowship provides funding for individuals to conduct research in tropical infectious diseases (and, on occasion, other clinical conditions unique to tropical medicine).

It is designed to stimulate or sustain interest in research in tropical infectious diseases by individuals who are planning academic career paths focused on clinical research in order to build a long-term academic presence for our field in the U.S. and Canada.

Application Deadline:
August 19, 2026

Table of Contents

About the Fellowship 2
Eligibility 4
Application Evaluation Criteria 4
Funding 5
Application Materials 6
Award Administration 10
Agreements and Reporting 10
Burroughs Wellcome Fund/
ASTMH Fellowship Committee 12

Burroughs Wellcome Fund

Fellowship at a Glance

- Open to individuals with an academic appointment of fellow who propose to perform research in tropical infectious diseases.
- Project should begin after June 2027.
- Two years of financial support at $65,000 US per year (see page 5).
- A minimum of three months of each funded year must be spent performing research overseas. The three-month time period does not need to be continuous.
- Preference given to ASTMH members (post-doctoral fee is $30).
- Notice of award in October 2026.

2025 Fellowship Recipients



Hanalise Huff, MD, MPH
National Institutes of Health



Robert (RJ) Williams, MD
University of North Carolina



Ruchira Khosavanna, MD
Yale University

Timeline

JULY 29
Application site opens

AUGUST 19
Application Deadline

OCTOBER 2026
Notice of Awards

Burroughs Wellcome Fund

Eligibility

Open to individuals from U.S. or Canadian accredited institutions who have a medical degree and an academic appointment of fellow, and who are proposing to perform research in tropical infectious diseases. In addition to post-doctoral infectious disease fellows, applicants who have completed training in other clinical specialties relevant to tropical medicine (e.g., internal medicine, pediatrics, OB/GYN) are encouraged to apply. The fellowship is NOT intended for students, pre-doctoral candidates, veterinarians, nurses, PhD scientists seeking post-doctoral opportunities, or faculty-level applicants. In addition, it is NOT intended to provide funding for overseas clinical electives or experiences.

Particular consideration will be given to:

- North American clinician-scientists enrolled in (or accepted by) a fellowship program approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and those accredited through the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.
- Applicants seeking support for their third (research) year of fellowship training.
- ASTMH post-doctoral student members.

A minimum of three months of each funded year must be spent conducting research overseas.

Applicants working toward board eligibility must obtain approval from their fellowship program director before applying for this award. If the period covered by this award is to be considered toward board eligibility, the recipient must have a continuity clinic at the overseas site (and the program director must notify the ACGME concerning the integration of this clinic into their fellowship program).

Application Evaluation Criteria

- Potential of this fellowship to influence the candidate's career.
- Excellence and promise of the proposed candidate and their work.
- Relevance of the proposed work to the amelioration of important tropical/geographic infectious diseases.
- Excellence and experience of home and overseas mentors.
- Adequacy of field populations/laboratory/epidemiologic facilities for the proposed work.
- Institutional commitment from the home and overseas institutions.
- Duration of three months at overseas site.

Burroughs Wellcome Fund

Funding

- The Fellowship consists of two years of support at $65,000 US per year to cover travel, stipend, fringe benefits, health insurance and capacity development at the overseas site.
- The Fellowship does not allow for indirect costs.
- Funds for Year One of the Burroughs Wellcome Fund/ASTMH Fellowship will be distributed to the applicant's home institution. Subsequent allocation of funds for Year Two for qualifing fellowship recipients will be the responsibility of the applicant's home institution.

Funding is available for two 12-month periods:

Year One

The award for Year One will be made during the fellowship (generally the final year). During Year One of the Fellowship, the recipient should commit at least 80% of their time to research and spend three months working in a tropical or developing area. The three-month time period does not need to be continuous.

Year Two

The award for Year Two will be made once the recipient has entered a stable, entry-level faculty position. Year Two carries the same requirements as Year One: commit at least 80% of their time to research and spend three months working in a tropical or developing area. The three-month time period does not need to be continuous.

Apply online beginning July 29.

Application Deadline – August 19, 2026

Only completed applications will be forwarded to the review committee.

Award Notice

Applicants will be notified of decisions in October 2026.

Application Materials

Applicants are encouraged to gather all application materials prior to submitting online. Although it is possible to edit the application prior to the August 19 deadline, the submission process will be smoother and more efficient if the application packet is completed in one session.

1. CV and Bibliography Information

- Date/place of birth/citizenship/visa status.
- Education – schools, dates and degrees earned.
- Residency, if applicable – include department and dates.
- Post-doctoral fellowships, if applicable – include department and dates.
- Other training.
- Chronological listing of employment experience and honors.
- Titles, authors and complete references to all publications.

2. Applicant Letter (3,000 character limit)

Include in the applicant letter:

- Description of how the Burroughs Wellcome Fund/ASTMH Fellowship will enhance career development in tropical medicine.
- Summary of research project to be undertaken for the fellowship period.
- Personal career goals and how this project fits into those goals.
- Project start and end dates.

3. Research Proposal (8 pages maximum)

- Background, rationale and specific aims (1-2 pages)
  - Indicate how the project supports the **mission and goals of ASTMH**
  - Indicate how the project will advance the candidate's academic career
- Research strategy (3-5 pages)
  - Research design – Describe the work that will be done in the overseas site and explain why it needs to be done abroad (as opposed to domestic setting)
  - Data interpretation
  - Expected outcomes
  - Feasibility
  - Potential obstacles/alternative strategies
  - Timeline
  - Mentorship, career development and future directions
- References

4. Home Institution Sponsor/Mentor Letter, CV and Approval Documentation (3 pages maximum)

This letter should include:

- Details of the applicant's qualifications and proposed role on the research project.
- Detailed information regarding the overseas location, resources available (staff and facilities), duration of applicant's stay, plans for onsite mentoring and overall institutional commitment.
- Describe the promise of the proposed candidate and their work, as well as the applicant's potential to become a faculty member.
- Describe the career trajectory of the applicant and explain how the Burroughs Wellcome Fund/ASTMH Fellowship will support their career development.

Upload the following documents with the home institution sponsor/mentor letter:

- Home institution sponsor/mentor curriculum vitae.
- Documentation of appropriate Institutional Review Board approval (of both the home and overseas sites) for the research project.

5. Overseas Institution Sponsor/Mentor Letter, CV and Approval Documentation (2 pages maximum)

This letter should include:

- Details of the applicant's proposed role on the research project, specifically stating that the overseas sponsor has reviewed the proposed project and the qualifications of the candidate.
- Confirmation that the project is feasible, important and practical in the time period allotted.
- Confirmation that the sponsor, working closely with the home institution's sponsor/mentor, will be responsible for in-country oversight of the candidate.
- Detailed information regarding the overseas location, resources available (staff and facilities), duration of applicant's stay and plans for onsite mentoring.

Upload the following documents with the overseas sponsor/mentor letter:

- Overseas institution sponsor/mentor curriculum vitae.
- Documentation of appropriate in-country Institutional Review Board approval for the research project.

Applicants must upload the letter, curriculum vitae and IRB documentation from the home institution sponsor as a single PDF or Word file to the application site. Applicants are encouraged to obtain these documents from the home institution before beginning the application.

Burroughs Wellcome Fund

6. Program Director Letter (2 pages maximum)

This letter should include:

- Documentation of the applicant's enrollment in a fellowship program.
- Confirmation that this fellowship will fund research that is part of the institution's fellowship program.
- The letter should clearly state whether the time period funded by this award would count toward Board Eligibility. If so, then the program director must notify the Executive Director, Residency Review Committee for Internal Medicine, ACGME, 515 N. State St., Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60610: (1) that a weekly continuity clinic has been established at the overseas site, and (2) how this clinic integrates into the home fellowship program. The letter should detail hours, location, patient population, clinical oversight, mentoring, etc. It is the responsibility of the candidate and program director to assure that ACGME requirements are met.
- Upload a copy of the letter to the ACGME with this program director letter. A copy of any subsequent pertinent correspondence between the ACGME and program director will be required before funds are distributed.

7. Institutional Review Board Approval

- If research involves human or animal subjects, include a copy of current approval letters (or documentation that such approval is in process or will be sought) from both home and overseas sites.
- Funds will be disbursed in advance of IRB approval, when necessary, with the understanding that research will not be undertaken without documentation of IRB approval from both locations, if required.

Applicants must upload the letter, curriculum vitae and IRB documentation from the home institution sponsor as a single PDF or Word file to the application site. Applicants are encouraged to obtain these documents from the home institution before beginning the application.

8. Budget

Total funds available: $65,000 US for Year One of fellowship;
$65,000 US for Year Two of fellowship

- Budget should indicate funds for stipend, fringe benefits, health insurance, supplies, communications, travel expenses and capacity development at the overseas site.
- Indirect costs are not allowed.
- A detailed budget statement of how funds were used will be due 30 days after completion of each fellowship year.

Applicants must upload the budget as a single PDF, Word or Excel file to the application site.

Burroughs Wellcome Fund

9. Other Support

- A summary of all funds or resources (whether federal, non-federal or institutional) that are available or pending to the applicant. This summary should include all active or pending funding sources available to the home institution sponsor.
- If other support is available to the applicant or to the sponsor, especially if it is available for scientific projects related to the research proposed for the Burroughs Wellcome Fund/ASTMH Fellowship, the applicant and sponsor must state the specific need for additional funding support from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund/ ASTMH Fellowship.
- If no funding support is available or pending to the applicant or home institution sponsor, this information should be included in the statement of "Other Support."
- Applications will not be considered without a statement of "Other Support" from both the applicant and the home institution sponsor.

Indicate the following for each source of support:

- Name of funding organization
- Title of grant
- Years of support
- Duration of support
- Yearly direct costs
- Amount of active funding
- Source and identifying number
- Principal investigator
- Applicant's role on the project
- Percentage of time spent on the grant
- Dates and costs of entire project
- Dates and costs of current year
- Specific aims of the project
- 1-2 sentence summary of the research focus of the grant

Applicant must upload the documentation regarding other support for both themselves and the home institution sponsor as a single PDF or Word file to the application form.

Application Checklist

- ✓ CV and bibliography information
- ✓ Applicant letter including personal statement of interest
- ✓ Research proposal
- ✓ Home institution sponsor/mentor letter
- ✓ Overseas institution sponsor/mentor letter
- ✓ Program director letter
- ✓ Institutional Review Board approval
- ✓ Budget proposal
- ✓ Other support
- ✓ **Preference given to ASTMH Member**
- ✓ Applicant photo (2-inch x 2-inch JPEG file, head shot preferred)

Finalizing the Application

After entering all information and all document uploads have been made, applicant should proceed to the REVIEW SUBMISSION page and scroll to the bottom. If all information has been entered correctly, a drop-down menu will display at the bottom of the page. Applicant should select the COMPLETE response in the drop-down menu and hit SAVE. The application will then be complete and ready for review by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund/ASTMH Fellowship Committee.

Award Administration

Awards for Year One of the Burroughs Wellcome Fund/ASTMH Fellowship will be made to the recipient's home institution, which will be responsible for administering this fellowship. Subsequent allocation of funds for Year Two for qualifying fellowship recipients will be the responsibility of the recipient's home institution.

Agreements and Reporting

Recipients agree to list the Burroughs Wellcome Fund/American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Post-doctoral Fellowship in Tropical Infectious Diseases as a funding source for any publication generated by research funded by this fellowship.

Fellowship recipients agree to allow ASTMH to use their name and photo in Society publications, website and other communication vehicles for educational and professional development purposes, and not for solicitation purposes.

Fellowship recipients are required to submit annual reports outlining the fellowship experience, lessons learned and impact on career development, as well as a budget summary indicating use of funds. Periodically, recipients may be invited to present their reports at the Society's Annual Meeting. Reports should be submitted to Rhonda Schultz, Manager, Board and Fellowships, **rschultz@astmh.org**.

Recipients agree to provide ASTMH with interim reports outlining progress to date on research project, as well as budget summaries.

Burroughs Wellcome Fund/ ASTMH Fellowship Committee

Peter F. Billingsley, PhD, ***Chair***
The Vital Narrative

Jessica Lin, MD, MSCR
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Matthew Laurens, MD, MPH
University of Maryland School of Medicine

Victoria McGovern, PhD, FASTMH*
*Burroughs Wellcome Fund (non-voting member)

ASTMH is grateful to the

BURROUGHS WELLCOME FUND

for their continuing commitment and support.

Questions about online application process:
Rhonda Schultz
Manager, Board and Fellowships
Direct: +1-703-650-5831
Fax: +1-571-351-5422
rschultz@astmh.org