



2017 Georgia Biosciences Fellowship Program

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

CRDF Global and the Georgian Research and Development Foundation (GRDF) are pleased to announce the 2017 **Georgia Biosciences Fellowship Program (GBFP)**.

GBFP is a non-degree-seeking program that provides the opportunity for highly qualified Georgian biological scientists, researchers and experts at the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC), Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture (LMA), and the National Food Agency (NFA) to spend three to four months working alongside biological scientists, researchers and professionals at a U.S. university. All applicants are required to have advanced English language proficiency.

During their fellowships, selected Georgian scientists, researchers, veterinarians, and epidemiologists will enrich their technical laboratory capabilities and develop valuable professional skills. The fellowship will combine technical training in biological sciences and collaborative biological research within a U.S. university. Upon return to Georgia, fellows will use newly acquired skills and knowledge to contribute to building infectious disease prevention, diagnostics, research, and surveillance and epidemiological reporting capacity in Georgia.

Selection Topics and Program Priorities

The fellowship is open to early career researchers (graduate students in final year of program, post-doctoral fellows, and researchers within 5 years of their terminal degree) working at the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC), Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture (LMA), and the National Food Agency (NFA), or affiliated laboratories within their institutional networks.

Selection preference will be given to applicants in the biological sciences, either within the public health sector or animal health sector, who demonstrate current work and/or academic research experience with the pathogens listed in Appendix 1. Applicants should also have clearly demonstrated experience with one or more of the following general areas:

- Especially dangerous human, animal and zoonotic infectious diseases
- Research focused on pathogens of security concern
- Modern infectious disease diagnostic techniques
- Epidemiological surveillance and reporting of especially dangerous infectious diseases of humans and animals
- Application and institutionalization of internationally accepted principles and best practices of biosafety, biosecurity and bioethics
- Application and institutionalization of One Health principles and approaches
- Detection, diagnostics and reporting of especially dangerous infectious diseases caused by pathogens of security concern

Applicants must hold, at minimum, Bachelor of Science degree; applicants with Masters of Science or PhD degrees are preferred. Current employees of the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC), Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture (LMA), and the National Food Agency (NFA) and affiliated laboratories pursuing graduate or doctoral degrees at Georgian universities may be considered for program participation.

CRDF Global and GRDF will award up to three fellowships. Selected fellows are expected to return to Georgia upon completion of their fellowships. CRDF Global anticipates that fellows will continue working at the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC), Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture (LMA), and the National Food Agency (NFA) and share their skills and knowledge with their colleagues and contribute to building Georgia's capacity to detect, diagnose, and report epidemic and endemic, man-made and especially dangerous pathogens.

Timeline

May 27 – Cwi wu'3, 2016	Application submission period
August 2016	Fellowship phone interviews
September 2016	Fellow selection announcement
September 2016 – February 2017	Logistical arrangements
January-February 2017	Fellowship start
May 2017	Fellowship end (latest)

Program and Funding Details

Applicants are required to submit an approval and a Letter of Support from their supervisor along with the application in order to be considered for the fellowship program. The Letter of Support must be on institutional letterhead from their supervisor and should highlight the priority area they will be supporting during their fellowship in the U.S.

CRDF Global and GRDF will make all necessary travel arrangements and accommodations (travel expenses, lodging, medical insurance and living stipends) for all selected fellows for the duration of the fellowship. Fellows will receive a monthly living stipend based on the location of the hosting university.

Fellowships are contingent upon a successful match between an applicant and a U.S. host institution. CRDF Global has an extensive network of scientists, experts, laboratories and other research facilities in the U.S. and will match selected fellows' research applications to a host U.S. research university. As part of the research proposal, applicants may propose to work at a specific U.S. university and/or with a specific professor based on previous relationships or collaborations. However, CRDF Global and GRDF cannot guarantee any matches proposed in the research proposal.

Individuals seeking to participate in the program must:

- Submit a completed application and required supporting documents
- Have advanced proficiency in English (speaking, writing and reading to be able to communicate with peers in the host laboratories in the U.S.)
- Pass a medical clearance
- Prove eligibility for U.S. J-1 visa (Applicants must currently reside in Georgia and will be required to return to Georgia after program completion.)

Chosen applicants should expect to arrive in the U.S. in January or February 2017. CRDF Global looks forward to receiving application submissions. Please circulate this announcement within your professional networks. For email inquiries or to submit your application contact: GBFP@crdfglobal.org

Funding for this program is provided by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) under grant #HDTRA1-11-1-0061 to CRDF Global.

Applications should be submitted to GBFP@crdfglobal.org no later than
Cwi wu'3, 2016
23:59 Eastern Time (EDT)

CRDF Global and GRDF will announce fellowship results in September 2016



APPLICATION

**Only applications completed in English will be considered.
Please provide clear, typed answers to all questions.**

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Before returning your application, please make sure that you have completed and attached all of the following:

- Completed Application Form
- Current Curriculum Vitae
- Letter of Support (LOS) from your current employer

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

CONTACT INFORMATION (AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT):

FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME

LAST NAME

HOME ADDRESS

COUNTRY

STREET, BUILDING

CITY

HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER

MOBILE TELEPHONE NUMBER

PRIMARY EMAIL ADDRESS

SECONDARY EMAIL ADDRESS

PLACE OF BIRTH (CITY/COUNTRY)

DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY)

CITIZENSHIP(s) (List all)

PASSPORT AND TRAVEL INFORMATION

DO YOU HAVE A VALID PASSPORT TO ENTER THE U.S.? YES NO

PLEASE LIST THE EXPIRATION DATE OF YOUR PASSPORT

LIST PREVIOUS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL: INDICATE COUNTRIES, DATES AND REASONS

COUNTRY	DATES	PURPOSE

DO YOU CURRENTLY HAVE AN OPEN U.S. IMMIGRATION VISA REQUEST?

Please note that a GBFP applicant is ineligible for the program if they have an open immigration visa request.

YES NO

U.S. CONTACTS

PLEASE LIST ANY CONTACTS YOU HAVE IN THE UNITED STATES, IDENTIFY THE NATURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP INCLUDING FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATES.

NAME	RELATIONSHIP

PAST FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

HAVE YOU EVER PARTICIPATED IN A FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM?

If so, please provide program details and travel dates below.

HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY ATTENDED AN EVENT SPONSORED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT OR RECEIVED U.S. GOVERNMENT RESEARCH GRANT FUNDING? YES NO

IF so, please list sponsored event(s) and/or grant(s) received.

EVENT or GRANT	DATES	FUNDING AMOUNT	PURPOSE

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Please rate yourself as Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor for all languages with which you are familiar.

LANGUAGE	READING	WRITING	SPEAKING	COMPREHENSION
English				

HAVE YOU EVER TAKEN A TOEFL OR IELTS EXAM?

YES NO

If so, please submit a copy of your score.

II. EDUCATION

A. LIST ALL UNIVERSITY EDUCATION, BEGINNING WITH MOST RECENT:

Please attach additional pages as needed.

INSTITUTE/UNIVERSITY	MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY	DEGREE	DATE RECEIVED

B. LIST ANY ACADEMIC OR PROFESSIONAL HONORS YOU HAVE RECEIVED.

Please include titles and dates.

C. LIST ANY BOOKS, ARTICLES OR PAPERS THAT YOU PUBLISHED, PARTICULARLY IN YOUR PROPOSED FIELD OF STUDY. (Limit 350 words)

Please list article and journal titles and dates.

D. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Please include any leadership positions you have held or currently hold along with the institution name and the dates. (Limit 200 words)

III. EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

CURRENT PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

DEPARTMENT

DESCRIBE YOUR CURRENT DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

LIST YOUR EMPLOYMENT HISTORY, BEGINNING WITH MOST RECENT:

DATES	ORGANIZATION / COMPANY	POSITION/ TITLE	RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

IV. SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS:

A. RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Please describe your research background as it pertains to pathogens listed in Appendix 1. List any former or current projects that involve working on any of the listed pathogens.

E. RESEARCH TECHNIQUES

Please describe the specific equipment and/or software that you use on a daily basis. Please highlight specific equipment brands/models when appropriate.

F. FELLOWSHIP GOALS

What are your top three technical and/or professional goals for this fellowship program? Please include training priorities for the first weeks of the fellowship that are a priority for your home institution in Georgia.

G. MENTORSHIP EXPECTATIONS

What do you expect from your fellowship mentor, and what do you expect to contribute to your mentor's laboratory group?

H. INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Why is international collaboration important to your career? How will you continue collaborating with U.S. contacts upon your return to Georgia?

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Please list your current academic supervisor and two other professional or educational (name, email and phone number are REQUIRED)

Please DO NOT include family members/relatives.

NAME	ORGANIZATION, TITLE EMAIL ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER (including country and city codes)	RELATIONSHIP

V. RESEARCH PROPOSAL

In the space below, please submit a proposed research plan for your fellowship. This proposal is the primary content on which your application will be evaluated and will provide the basis for matching you with a U.S. host should you be selected as a finalist. **NOTE:** Selected fellows will be restricted to working on BSL-2 pathogens during their research in the U.S. The proposal should clearly include a BSL-2 pathogen and outline why working on that pathogen will benefit current research in Georgia. The plan should include:

1. Fellowship research goals and concrete objectives you would like to accomplish. Emphasis should be placed on technical training and collaborative research.
2. Clear connection between program priority pathogens in Appendix 1 and proposed research on BSL-2 pathogens.
3. A projected timetable for your research plan with expected milestones.
4. A list of equipment, materials and/or software that are necessary for you to complete the proposed research plan.

CERTIFICATION:

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT ALL APPLICANTS READ THIS SECTION AND UNDERSTAND THE TERMS OF THIS FELLOWSHIP.

I testify that the information submitted in this application is complete and accurate. I understand that providing false information on this application or during the interview may disqualify me from participation in the Georgia Biosciences Fellowship Program (GBFP), or if I am selected, dismissal from the program. If selected, I agree to comply with all GBFP rules and all local and national laws of the United States. GBFP rules include, but are not limited to: housing agreements, fellowship agreement form, banking and stipend agreements, and regulations of the host institution.

All applicants accepted into the GBFP will receive the following support from CRDF Global and GRDF:

1. Round-trip, economy-class airfare from Georgia to the U.S.
2. Ground transportation to/from airports of arrival and departure
3. Lodging within reasonable proximity of the U.S. host institution
4. Monthly stipend for living expenses, including ground transportation
5. Emergency Medical Insurance during the Fellowship.

By participating in the GBFP:

I understand and acknowledge that CRDF Global and GRDF support is limited to the financial transactions itemized above and is contingent upon my successful participation in the GBFP. I understand that if I do not complete the Fellowship, I will be required to return a pro-rated stipend amount to CRDF Global and may be required to reimburse CRDF Global for any additional travel expenses incurred as a result of my early departure.

I understand and acknowledge that CRDF Global and GRDF will obtain lodging on my behalf and will make payment directly to the provider, however I am responsible for ensuring the proper use and care of any lodging facilities. I understand that I may be considered personally liable for any damages that occur at my lodging facilities.

I understand and acknowledge that CRDF Global and GRDF will obtain emergency medical insurance on my behalf and will make payment directly to the provider, however this insurance is to be utilized only for emergency situations and not for routine medical care or treatment, including for any pre-existing medical or dental condition. I further understand that I may be required to pay all deductibles and other health-related expenses not covered by the insurance.

I understand and acknowledge that the U.S. visa obtained in connection with my GBFP program is valid only for temporary non-degree-seeking professional education and is not valid for employment in the U.S. I understand that returning to Georgia at the end of the program is a mandatory condition of my participation in the GBFP and I declare my intent to comply. I understand that traveling to cities in the U.S. that are not part of the GBFP professional education program, as well as travel outside the U.S., is strictly prohibited under the terms of my U.S. visa and will result in immediate dismissal from the program. I understand that this program prohibits spouse and/or children to accompany GBFP participants to the United States.

(Electronic Signature)

(Date)

APPENDIX 1:

HHS and USDA Select Agents and Toxins

HHS SELECT AGENTS AND TOXINS

Abrin
Botulinum neurotoxins*
Botulinum neurotoxin producing species of *Clostridium**
Conotoxins (Short, paralytic alpha conotoxins containing the following amino acid sequence X₁CCX₂PACGX₃X₄X₅X₆CX₇)¹
Coxiella burnetii
Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus
Diacetoxyscirpenol
Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus³
Ebola virus*
*Francisella tularensis**
Lassa fever virus
Lujo virus
Marburg virus*
Monkeypox virus³
Reconstructed replication competent forms of the 1918 pandemic influenza virus containing any portion of the coding regions of all eight gene segments (Reconstructed 1918 Influenza virus)
Ricin
Rickettsia prowazekii
SARS-associated coronavirus (SARS-CoV)
Saxitoxin
South American Haemorrhagic Fever viruses:
Chapare
Guanarito
Junin
Machupo
Sabia
Staphylococcal enterotoxins A,B,C,D,E subtypes
T-2 toxin
Tetrodotoxin
Tick-borne encephalitis complex (flavi) viruses:
Far Eastern subtype
Siberian subtype
Kyasanur Forest disease virus
Omsk hemorrhagic fever virus
Variola major virus (Smallpox virus)*
Variola minor virus (Alastrim)*
*Yersinia pestis**

OVERLAP SELECT AGENTS AND TOXINS

Bacillus anthracis *
Bacillus anthracis Pasteur strain
Brucella abortus
Brucella melitensis
Brucella suis
*Burkholderia mallei**
*Burkholderia pseudomallei**
Hendra virus
Nipah virus
Rift Valley fever virus
Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus³

USDA SELECT AGENTS AND TOXINS

African horse sickness virus
African swine fever virus
Avian influenza virus³
Classical swine fever virus
Foot-and-mouth disease virus*
Goat pox virus
Lumpy skin disease virus
*Mycoplasma capricolum*³
*Mycoplasma mycoides*³
Newcastle disease virus^{2,3}
Peste des petits ruminants virus
Rinderpest virus*
Sheep pox virus
Swine vesicular disease virus

USDA PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE (PPQ) SELECT AGENTS AND TOXINS

Peronosclerospora philippinensis (*Peronosclerospora sacchari*)
Phoma glycinicola (formerly *Pyrenochaeta glycinis*)
Ralstonia solanacearum
Rathayibacter toxicus
Sclerophthora rayssiae
Synchytrium endobioticum
Xanthomonas oryzae

*Denotes Tier 1 Agent

1 C = Cysteine residues are all present as disulfides, with the 1st and 3rd Cysteine, and the 2nd and 4th Cysteine forming specific disulfide bridges; The consensus sequence includes known toxins α -MI and α -GI (shown above) as well as α -GIA, Ac1.1a, α -CnIA, α -CnIB; X₁ = any amino acid(s) or Des-X; X₂ = Asparagine or Histidine; P = Proline; A = Alanine; G = Glycine; X₃ = Arginine or Lysine; X₄ = Asparagine, Histidine, Lysine, Arginine, Tyrosine, Phenylalanine or Tryptophan; X₅ = Tyrosine, Phenylalanine, or Tryptophan; X₆ = Serine, Threonine, Glutamate, Aspartate, Glutamine, or Asparagine; X₇ = Any amino acid(s) or Des X and; "Des X" = "an amino acid does not have to be present at this position." For example if a peptide sequence were XCCHPA then the related peptide CCHPA would be designated as Des-X.

2 A virulent Newcastle disease virus (avian paramyxovirus serotype 2) has an intracerebral pathogenicity index in day-old chicks (*Gallus gallus*) of 0.7 or greater or has an amino acid sequence at the fusion (F) protein cleavage site that is consistent with virulent strains of Newcastle disease virus. A failure to detect a cleavage site that is consistent with virulent strains does not confirm the absence of a virulent virus.

3 Select agents that meet any of the following criteria are excluded from the requirements of this part: Any low pathogenic strains of avian influenza virus, South American genotype of eastern equine encephalitis virus, west African clade of Monkeypox viruses, any strain of Newcastle disease virus which does not meet the criteria for virulent Newcastle disease virus, all subspecies *Mycoplasma capricolum* except subspecies *capripneumoniae* (contagious caprine pleuropneumonia), all subspecies *Mycoplasma mycoides* except subspecies *mycoides* small colony (Mmm SC) (contagious bovine pleuropneumonia), and any subtypes of Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus except for Subtypes IAB or IC, provided that the individual or entity can verify that the agent is within the exclusion category. 9/10/13