

Climb to Fight Cancer Fellowship: Information for Research Mentors

What is the Climb to Fight Cancer Fellowship?

The Climb to Fight Cancer 2019 Kilimanjaro cohort and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center are dedicated to increasing diversity in science by training world-class scientists from every background. The 2019 climb promoted gender equity in science, and the Climb to Fight Cancer Fellowship honors and builds on that spirit by supporting the work of postdoctoral researchers who have overcome barriers to pursue a career in cancer research.

This fellowship provides up to two years of funding for one postdoctoral fellow from a background that is underrepresented in science. This initiative aligns with Fred Hutch's anti-racist values and advances our strategic objectives of retaining talented researchers and fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion within biomedical research.

The Climb to Fight Cancer Fellow will represent the Hutch as a member of the biotech-focused Climb to Fight Cancer team in 2022 or 2023. Scaling a mountain alongside top leaders in biotech will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for personal and professional growth. The experience will provide extraordinary access to C-suite executives from some of the world's leading biotech companies, entrepreneurial founders and CEOs of innovative biotech start-ups, and VCs and private investors who invest in biotechnology. Being a member of the climb team will enable the fellow to create unique bonds with these high-powered biotech leaders, grow their network, and become more familiar with the industry. The fellowship will open industry doors for promising trainees while increasing diversity and inclusion in the biotech sector.

How is the Climb to Fight Cancer Fellowship different from other sources of funding?

Although there are other funding sources that aim to increase trainee diversity in the biomedical sciences, very few are as inclusive as the Climb to Fight Cancer Fellowship. For example, to qualify for NIH Diversity Supplement funding, recipients must fall into certain racial/ethnic categories, and underrepresentation based on socioeconomic status cannot be used to determine eligibility at the pre- and post- doctoral level.

Read more about [Fellowship Eligibility](#).

What are the expectations of the Climb to Fight Cancer Fellowship recipient?

The Climb to Fight Cancer Fellowship aims to foster a more diverse biomedical research workforce. The awardee will participate in the Climb to Fight Cancer in 2022 or 2023 and will share his or her story as part of the biotech-focused Climb to Fight Cancer campaign. Because the fellowship is funded by generous contributions from donors, fellows may be called upon to participate in philanthropic events.

To be eligible for second-year funding, the fellow will be required to submit a progress report at the completion of year one that includes scientific progress on the project, a list of publications submitted/accepted during the funding period, presentations given, and other relevant professional

development activities. The progress report should also describe the recipient's experience with their climb cohort as well as an individual development plan signed by the trainee and his or her research mentor.

At the end of the funding period, the Climb to Fight Cancer fellow will give a 30-minute presentation on their fellowship project. This talk will be open to the Fred Hutch community, Climb to Fight Cancer participants, and/or members of the public.

How can I contribute to the success of my mentee's application?

The committee recognizes the important role mentors play in the success of their trainees by providing the physical and mental space they need to complete a challenging research project and offering invaluable career development guidance.

The principal investigator supporting a current or to-be-hired trainee's application for the Climb to Fight Cancer Fellowship is required to provide a one-page **letter of support**. This document should include the following elements:

- Resources your trainee can access to successfully complete their proposed project, such as specialized facilities, equipment, and additional sources of funding.
- A tailored mentoring and career development plan that links directly to the career goals your mentee described in his or her personal statement.