



Novo Nordisk – Oxford Fellowship Programme

2022 Round of Recruitment (Call for Projects)

Please submit the Project Proposal Template to
nn.fellowships@rdm.ox.ac.uk

Deadline: Monday 13 December 2021 (midday)

Areas of interest

For the 2022 intake of fellows for the [Novo Nordisk – Oxford Fellowship Programme](#), we will be advertising four postdoctoral fellowships. The proposed fellowship start dates are in Autumn 2022.

We are interested in a wide range of projects from basic biological research through to clinical application within the field of **diabetes and other cardiometabolic diseases (obesity, cardiovascular, liver and renal disease)**. We encourage proposals:

- with human relevance and using human systems, due to their translational potential;
- in the area of regenerative medicine / cell and gene therapy;
- that use human genetics, systems biology, machine learning and big data analytics to increase mechanistic understanding of diabetes and other cardiometabolic diseases, including identifying novel gene networks/modules and/or *in silico* models of disease.

Proposals that will investigate molecules from competitor companies, immunology of type 1 diabetes, and dietary intervention as a therapeutic strategy will be less favoured than projects elucidating novel biology and disease mechanisms. If you are considering submitting a project that might fall within, or overlap with, one of the three areas mentioned above, we strongly recommend that you contact us (nn.fellowships@rdm.ox.ac.uk), well in advance of the deadline, so that we can discuss this with you.

Provisional timeline of recruitment

Monday 13 December 2021 (midday)	Closing date and time for receipt of project proposals. Please return the Project Template Form as a Word Document to nn.fellowships@rdm.ox.ac.uk .
January 2022	The Joint Steering Committee will select up to 10 projects, which will be advertised internationally in high profile journals, and via social media, in February 2022.
March 2022	Deadline for applicants to submit a CV and cover letter, indicating their top three choices of projects.
April to May 2022	Shortlisting of applications, interviews and offers made. A small committee with representation from both Oxford and Novo Nordisk, and including an external expert in the field, will conduct the interviews.
Autumn 2022	Fellows to start (but there is some flexibility around the start date).

Eligibility

Any PI in the Medical Sciences Division (MSD) or the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division (MPLS) whose research is focused within the field of diabetes and other cardiometabolic diseases (obesity, cardiovascular, liver and renal disease) is **eligible to submit up to two research projects** that a fellow could undertake in their research group.

Collaborative projects

We strongly encourage collaborative projects led by two or more PIs. We recognise that some researchers in MPLS, while not necessarily having a focus on diabetes and other cardiometabolic diseases, have huge expertise to offer in terms of machine learning, statistical analysis, computational biology etc and we encourage them to partner with relevant researchers in MSD (if needed) and submit joint projects. This will ensure that new approaches and tools are applied to the field, which will increase our mechanistic understanding.

We also invite joint proposals between groups from the [Novo Nordisk Research Centre Oxford \(NNRCO\)](#) and the **University of Oxford.** Both NNRCO and Oxford supervisors are expected to contribute intellectually during the three year fellowship, and the fellow is expected to spend time in NNRCO and the University department(s). **If you would like to enquire about a potential collaboration with NNRCO to develop a joint project, please contact Dr Dorthe Lundsgaard (dolu@novonordisk.com, Senior Alliance Director, Novo Nordisk)** who will facilitate this. This should be done well in advance of submitting the Project Template Form.

Intellectual Property (IP)

Where a fellowship project is fully supervised by researchers from the University of Oxford, any IP generated from that project will be owned by the University of Oxford. If a fellowship project is jointly supervised by researchers from NNRCO and the University of Oxford, any IP generated from the project will be jointly owned by Novo Nordisk and the University of Oxford.

For queries and questions surrounding this, please contact nn.fellowships@rdm.ox.ac.uk.

About the fellowship

We are looking for the best fellows we can recruit nationally and internationally, who have the potential to become leaders in the field in subsequent years. Postdoctoral Research Fellowship applicants should be near completion of their PhD or will typically have no more than three/four years of postdoctoral experience at the start of the fellowship.

The fellowship programme is very well resourced by Novo Nordisk. Each fellow will receive a salary, generous consumable support and funding for travel. In addition, we have funding available to run symposia, workshops, and travel to and from Novo Nordisk in Denmark. Fellows and PIs are expected to actively participate in these events, some of which will be held in the Novo Nordisk headquarters, near Copenhagen. In addition, each fellow will be given a mentor or supervisor in Novo Nordisk or NNRCO, and will have the opportunity to spend a period of time based in the Novo Nordisk labs in Copenhagen and/or NNRCO. We hope that through this fellowship programme we will train future leaders in the fields of diabetes and other cardiometabolic diseases and also help consolidate this community of researchers in Oxford.

Conditions associated with the fellowship

1. Any abstract for external presentation and all publications generated by the fellow must be shared with Novo Nordisk 30 days in advance of submission. Therefore, if the project you propose involves **external consortia partners**, you need to ensure that you will be able to share information freely with Novo Nordisk throughout the duration of the fellowship and that you can abide by the above 30-day rule. In exceptional circumstances, Novo Nordisk are willing to waive the 30-day rule. If you are not able to abide by the 30-day rule, please contact nn.fellowships@rdm.ox.ac.uk, well in advance of the deadline so that we have advanced warning of this, and also indicate the reasons why when you submit the Project Template Form by the deadline.
2. Project proposals including **clinical trials**, including those with a proprietary compound from Novo Nordisk, will be reviewed by Novo Nordisk with a main focus on GCP compliance, including patient safety and ethical compliance. The review process will take a maximum of three weeks and implementation of some of the comments may be mandatory.