Info sheet: Call for Applications 2023

DKFZ Clinician Scientist Fellowships are offered to physicians who are conducting specialized medical training and who wish to enhance their careers by gaining research experience. The fellowships are distinguished by protected research time, comprehensive training offers and intersectoral mentoring relationships.

The center supports clinician scientists to expand their research experience and to establish their own scientific network. This unique opportunity serves to complement the clinical training and actively develop long-term career perspectives of clinician scientists!

The DKFZ Clinician Scientist Program is supported by the

Eligible hosting groups

DKFZ Heidelberg research groups can advertise a research profile via the Clinician Scientist Program website. Candidates are encouraged to contact division heads and group leaders before applying to discuss potential projects. Visit our webpage Research Profiles to find a list of the DKFZ divisions and research groups interested in recruiting Clinician Scientists during the 2023 DKFZ Clinician Scientist Fellowships Selection. Please consider that this is not an exhaustive list and other DKFZ group leaders may be contacted directly to discuss projects.

Descriptions of all DKFZ research groups can be found with the general topic finder.

Fellowship models

Depending on the type of project chosen, there are two possible tracks to follow:

1. DKFZ Clinician Scientists Fellowship Program - The classical track (4 positions available)
2. DKFZ / Princess Margaret Cancer Center (PM) exchange program for Clinician and Medical Scientists – The joint-project track (1-2 positions available)

DKFZ Clinician Scientists Fellowship Program

For the classical track, successful applicants will be offered a 2-year contract which is 100% funded by the Dieter Morszeck Foundation Fellowship.

We acknowledge that clinician scientists' careers need to be handled with a great amount of flexibility, therefore, fellowship contracts are initially offered for a duration of two years and can be used within the Clinician Scientist Program period for a maximum of 4 years, e.g. if clinical work needs to be interspersed (see model below).
DKFZ / Princess Margaret Cancer Center (PM) exchange program for Clinician and Medical Scientists

The tandem-project exchange program with Princess Margaret Cancer Center in Toronto, Canada aims to provide the basis for a world-class transatlantic platform for translational cancer research, as well as for long-term interactions between the participating centers. The duration of the funding is 2 years, with a possibility of an extension to a third year pending successful review of the second-year progress report. Travelling expenses will be covered. Each tandem research project includes a research stay by the fellow at the partner institute. The duration will vary depending on the individual needs of each fellow. As a rule, the research stay should span from at least 6 months to a maximum of 1 year.

Requirements and eligibility criteria for applicants

We are looking for international clinical candidates who ...

✓ show enthusiasm for science and wish to link basic and clinical research
✓ have obtained a higher degree (equivalent to MD or MD-PhD)
✓ are at an early stage of their career (physicians in specialized medical training, Germany: Facharztausbildung)

✓ for DKFZ / PM exchange program only: Postdocs (within 3 years of obtaining their PhD) who wish to pursue a career as Medical Scientist and are engaged in a joint tandem research project focused on translational research

Notes:
• Prior experience in a cancer-relevant research area is desirable but not a must.
• Fellowship applications are open for national and international candidates who wish to focus on basic and translational cancer research.

Application

Candidates need to compile the following documents (in English!) in one single PDF document which is uploaded during the online application process:

• Curriculum vitae (incl. publication list and documentation of clinical/research experience)
• One-page motivation letter (incl. statement of research interests)
• Copy of degree certificates (originals, transcripts and translations if applicable)
• Contact details of two references who are familiar with the applicant’s work.
Timeline for the Call 2023:

- Opening: 25 January 2023
- Application deadline: 15 March 2023
- Eligibility screening and evaluation of written applications: March
- Final selection event (interviews, presentations & panel interview): in May, dates to be communicated
Would you like to get more information on our current Fellows and their projects?

Have a look at our new brochure featuring 6 of the DKFZ Clinician Scientist Fellows.

Find out about the cutting-edge research projects our fellows are working on at the DKFZ and about their motivation to be part of the DKFZ Clinician Scientist Program.

Click here to open/download a PDF copy of the brochure or get in touch with us to receive a print copy.

DKFZ Clinician Scientist Program Office (M014)
email: clinicianscientist@dkfz.de
phone: +49 6221 42-1696 (Mariana Schulte-Sasse)