FAQ

2016 - 2017 Innovation Fellows Program
University of Minnesota | Medical Devices Center

1. Who can I contact with specific questions?
   Please send all Fellowship-related questions to ifpinfo@umn.edu. All inquiries will be reviewed and directed to the appropriate person based on the nature of the inquiry. That individual will respond to you directly.

2. How many Fellowships are available?
   Up to eight positions are opened annually to first year Fellowship applicants.

3. Is this a paid Fellowship?
   Yes. First-year Fellows are paid $40,000 annually. Additionally, Fellows receive full healthcare benefits.

4. When does the Fellowship begin, and what is the length of the Fellowship Program?
   The Fellows class of 2016-2017 will start on July 6th, 2016. The Fellowship is a 10.5 month Program.
   However, first year Fellows who demonstrate excellence and promise in the realm of medical device innovation may be invited to extend their position for an additional year. This depends on the availability of outside grants & funds allocated by the University of Minnesota.

5. How many invention disclosures did previous Fellows classes file?
   The program has resulted in 168 invention disclosures and 82 patent applications filed on those since the program's inception in 2008.

6. How many applications does the Innovation Fellowship Program receive each year? How many are selected for the interview and Fellowship?
   The number of applications varies each year. In the previous two years, we received 50-100 applicants. Sixteen candidates were interviewed; eight were selected for the Fellowship.

7. In the application, are References and Letters of Recommendation different?
   Yes. We ask for a list of references as one of the four attachments for the online application and we also ask for two Letters of Recommendation. However, you may ask individuals on your list of references to write your letters if you wish.

8. Do I need to have a project in mind to propose in order to become a Fellow?
   No, but you must have a passion for developing new medical devices.

9. Besides formal education and experience, what other factors does the Fellows selection committee use as criteria for Program acceptance?
   Above all, we value motivated, creative, team-players. If you have life experiences that demonstrate these traits and that help set you apart from other candidates, we’d like to hear about it!