FAQ
2019-2020 Innovation Fellows Program
University of Minnesota | Earl E. Bakken Medical Devices Center

1. Who can I contact with specific questions?
   Please send all Fellows Program-related questions to ifpinfo@umn.edu. All inquiries will be reviewed and the appropriate person will respond to you directly.

2. How many positions in the Fellows Programs are available?
   Up to eight positions open annually for first year applicants.

3. Is this a paid position?
   Yes, first-year Fellows are compensated at an annual rate. Additionally, Fellows also receive full fringe benefits including medical, dental and life insurance.

4. When does the Fellows Program begin, and what is the length of the program?
   The Innovations Fellows class is scheduled to start in July and 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. This depends on the availability of outside grants & funds allocated by the University of Minnesota.

5. How many invention disclosures did the previous Fellows classes file?
   The program has resulted in 200+ invention disclosures and 88 patent applications filed on those since the program’s inception in 2008.

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

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!