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IMMUNOLOGISTS

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December 6, 2023

Dear AAI member:

We are pleased to announce that AAI is now accepting applications for the fourteenth year of the Public Policy Fellows Program (PPFP).

The PPFP is a year-long program that gives early career researchers the opportunity to learn about, and participate in, AAI legislative and science policy activities. Those who are selected to participate remain at their institutions throughout the fellowship year, except for the two travel experiences described below.

The PPFP teaches participants about the role of the President, Congress, and federal science agencies, in drafting, passing, and/or implementing the laws and policies that govern biomedical research. The program also teaches participants how best to advocate for the federal funding and policies that affect their careers and the careers of scientists across the country. In return, the PPFP greatly benefits AAI and the immunology community by training a group of members who develop the tools to advocate for the field and who are poised to help lead the association's future public policy efforts.

Those who are selected to participate in the 2024-2025 PPFP will launch their fellowship year at the AAI annual meeting, [IMMUNOLOGY2024™](#), which will take place May 3 – 7 in Chicago, Illinois. The program culminates in a trip to Washington, D.C. (at AAI's expense), for a Capitol Hill Day, during which Fellows visit the offices of their Members of Congress and those of their colleagues to advocate for increased NIH funding and discuss the importance of immunology.

No prior advocacy experience is required to participate in this program, as Fellows will learn the key information needed to be effective advocates and will help develop some of the materials they will use during their congressional visits. Throughout the year, AAI will also solicit Fellows' views on key topics, particularly those most relevant to early career researchers.

All Fellows are selected by the AAI CPA. Applicants must:

- have received their Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent within the previous 15 years in immunology or a related field;

- be an AAI member (must be a member at the time the application is submitted and throughout the fellowship year);
- be committed to a career in biomedical research;
- have excellent interpersonal and communication skills;
- have an interest in public policy as it relates to biomedical research;
- live and work in the United States (U.S. citizenship is not required);
- submit the required documentation, including references from two eligible AAI members, no later than the application deadline of **January 18, 2024**.

All individuals who participate in the program are required to complete an anonymous evaluation at the end of the fellowship year. We are delighted to report that 100% of past program participants say that they would recommend the PFP to other eligible scientists.

More information about the AAI PFP is available [here](#). If you have any questions about the program, please contact AAI Director of Government Affairs Jake Schumacher (jschumacher@aai.org).

We encourage you to share this information with your colleagues and look forward to welcoming another group of excellent citizen-scientists next spring!

Thank you in advance for your interest and support!

Sincerely,



Akiko Iwasaki, Ph.D.
AAI President



Gretchen Diehl, Ph.D.
Chair, AAI Committee on Public Affairs