



LEDUCQ YOUNG INVESTIGATOR PROGRAM: Transatlantic Fellowships in Cardiovascular and Neurovascular Research

Introduction

The **Fondation Leducq Young Investigator Program** offers a two year Transatlantic Fellowship Award that will allow four outstanding young researchers per year, from North America and Europe, to work internationally with one of the scientific teams already assembled under the Leducq Foundation Transatlantic Networks of Excellence program. Leducq Transatlantic Fellows will spend at least one of the two years working with a network member on the other side of the Atlantic from his or her country of origin. Fellows will be able to work at other sites in the network as the needs of the research program dictate, including, for a maximum of one year, in their country of origin.

The objectives of the Young Investigator Program are to develop outstanding researchers capable of performing original and innovative cardiovascular or neurovascular research in an international and collaborative context; to train young investigators in translational research through interactive investigation with a Leducq network comprised of basic science and clinical researchers; to support the career development of these young investigators; and to reinforce the objectives of the Transatlantic Networks of Excellence Program.

Under the *Transatlantic Networks of Excellence in Cardiovascular Research Program* the Leducq Foundation awards grants to collaborative teams of European and North American scientists working in cardiovascular and neurovascular research. The network structure is designed to allow researchers to take advantage of the strengths and resources of cardiovascular and neurovascular research programs on both sides of the Atlantic. The principal aims of the foundation in creating this program are: to develop international cardiovascular and neurovascular research networks which achieve an advantage through collaboration; to advance our knowledge of cardiovascular and neurovascular disease; to promote the application of that knowledge through the development of treatments or technologies which will improve human health; and to support the career development of young investigators in cardiovascular and neurovascular disease. Information about the Transatlantic Networks Program is available on the Leducq Foundation website (www.fondationleducq.org).

Candidates for the Fondation Leducq Young Investigator Program must be recommended by an eligible, ongoing Leducq Transatlantic Network. To be eligible to host a Leducq Fellow, a Leducq Transatlantic Network must have already undergone a successful Second Year Review, and cannot have begun the fifth year of work under the grant. For the 2007-2008 application cycle, the following Leducq networks may propose candidates:

1. **Leducq Transatlantic Alliance for Heart Progenitors in Cardiovascular Development and Disease.** American Coordinator: Ken Chien (Harvard--Massachusetts General Hospital). European Coordinator: Ketty Schwartz (Paris Inserm Pitié Salpêtrière).
2. **Transatlantic Network of Excellence for Cardiac Regeneration.** American Coordinator: Michael Schneider (Baylor College of Medicine). European Coordinator: Stefanie Dimmeler (J.W. Goethe University).
3. **Leducq International Network Against Thrombosis (LINAT).** American Coordinator: Ted Bovill (University of Vermont). European Coordinator: Frits Rosendaal (Leiden University Medical Center).
4. **Leducq Transatlantic Network of Excellence on Atherothrombosis Research.** American Coordinator: Peter Libby (Harvard—Brigham and Women's Hospital). European Coordinator: Jean-Baptiste Michel (Paris Inserm Bichat).
5. **Preventing Sudden Cardiac Death.** American Coordinator: Dan Roden (Vanderbilt University Medical Center). European Coordinator: Jean-Jacques Schott (Nantes Inserm Institut du Thorax).

6. **Adaptive and Maladaptive Signaling in Cardiac Growth and Regeneration.** American Coordinator: Jeffery MOKKENTIN (Cincinnati Children's Hospital). European Coordinator: Helmut Drexler (Hannover Medical School).
7. **Ca²⁺ Cycling and Novel Therapeutic Approaches for Heart Failure.** American Coordinator: Andrew Marks (Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons). European Coordinator: Anne-Marie Lompré (Paris Inserm Pitié Salpêtrière)
8. **Pulmonary vascular remodelling: Early Determinants in Congenital heART Disease (PEDCARD).** American Coordinator: Jeffrey Fineman (Medical Center at University of California at San Francisco). European Coordinator: John Hess (Deutsches Herzzentrum München and the TU München-DZH)

Applicant Eligibility

The Leducq Transatlantic Fellowship in Cardiovascular and Neurovascular Research is open to young researchers who are citizens of, or are currently working in, North America or Europe. Candidates must:

- be in the early stages of a research career, with a maximum of three years of research experience after terminal degree
- have appropriate training for a career in research
- have an academic and career interest in cardiovascular or neurovascular research
- have high potential for excellence in research
- have skills and interests appropriate for work within an ongoing Leducq Transatlantic Network
- be able to secure visas and residence permits for the proposed duration of research.

Because of different training requirements, degree programs, and program lengths in different countries, no absolute age or degree requirements are set. However, it is the intention of the Foundation to select outstanding candidates who may reasonably be said to be early in their careers, having completed their formal education, and who have the potential to make significant contributions in cardiovascular and neurovascular research.

Program Description

The *Leducq Transatlantic Fellowship* will be awarded annually on a competitive basis. Up to four fellows per year will be selected, two from North America and two from Europe. Applications will be made jointly by the candidate and the Leducq Transatlantic Network with which he or she proposes to work. It is expected that the research to be undertaken by the Leducq Transatlantic Fellow represents an extension or new direction of research already underway within the network; fellowship support cannot be used to perform work for which the network is already receiving Leducq Foundation grant support.

Each eligible network may propose a total of two candidates, and thus forward a total of two applications to the Leducq Foundation per annual application cycle: one application for a North American to work in Europe, and one application for a European to work in North America. (For purposes of this program, a "North American" is a citizen of a country of North America, or has been studying or working in North America for more than two years; a "European" is a citizen of a country of Europe, or has been studying or working in Europe for more than two years.) Networks are free to conduct a search and competitive selection process in a manner they see fit. Such a process should be conducted in a transparent manner, and should be open to candidates not already working within laboratories of network members.

Together, the applicants and the coordinators will draw up a research plan and a budget. Applications, which include a proposed research program, supporting materials, and budget, will be reviewed by the Leducq Foundation Scientific Advisory Committee, which will make a recommendation to the Leducq Foundation Board of Directors. The Foundation will be guided by an evaluation of how well the proposals meet the program objectives, and may at its discretion choose to endorse four applications or fewer in any given application cycle. As these competitive awards will be based on merit and potential, there is no selection criterion involving an equal distribution of fellowships among eligible networks. In any given year in which a network submits two applications, that network might receive two fellows, one fellow, or none, depending upon the competition and the selection made by the foundation.

The maximum amount of the fellowship award is set at USD \$150,000 per year. (For awards in euros, the amount will be computed based on the rate of exchange at the time of application.) It is anticipated that this money will be used for salary, fringe benefits and local taxes, insurance, moving allowance, travel, as well as research program expenses. Where the Foundation will be charged indirect costs, the total will be limited to USD \$10,000. Applications submitted to the Foundation must include a proposed budget which clearly assigns funds to the categories above. In making these assignments applicants should be guided by the principle that the amounts be reasonable, and that salary be consistent with what one could expect to earn on the side of the Atlantic which would pay the most for the given level of training. (Where a local salary structures will limit this amount to something much less than the candidate could have expected at home, the Leducq Foundation will consider, on a case by case basis, other payment mechanisms which would allow for candidates to receive the difference.) The Foundation may at its discretion request a line item modification of the budget.

Administration

In the event that the Foundation pays the award directly to the investigator, that person must make arrangements to provide the designated funding to the research institute as submitted in the budget. It must be clear, however, that this award is intended as a grant, and in no way implies that the Leducq Fellow is an employee of the Leducq Foundation. Where required by law or local convention to have all monies pass through the accepting institution, the Foundation will pay this institution directly. Although the award is made in dollars, payment may be made in Euros if the candidate so requests. The rate of exchange to be used will be that of the average of the month before the application was filed

All arrangements for travel, lodging, insurance, visas, and other such items will be made by the candidate with assistance from the receiving institution. A payment plan, to be developed at the time of the conferral of the award, can allow for part of the support funding to be provided at the beginning of the fellowship tenure, in order to minimize the difficulties with early expenses such travel and apartment deposits. A progress report will be required at the end of the tenth month, after the receipt of which the funding for the second year will be made available. The second year will be funded in a manner similar to the first, except that the final month of support will be sent to the investigator upon receipt of the final progress report.

Fellows are urged to present their work on both continents. Money can be set aside in the budget for travel to one professional meeting per year.

Applications

Application materials are available on the Fondation Leducq website (www.fondationleducq.org). Interested candidates for the Young Investigator Program are urged to contact the network coordinators directly to indicate their interest, or to contact the Leducq Foundation, at info@fondationleducq.org, to request specific contact information.

Applications should be sent by electronic mail to the Leducq Foundation at the address above, by the deadline listed below. A signed copy of the one page application form must be received by the Paris office, either in the form of a pdf file sent by email, or sent by normal post to:

Fondation Leducq
1, rue Laurent Pichat
75116 Paris
France

For the 2008 application cycle, the timetable will be as follows.

All application materials due in Paris office :	February 15, 2008
Scientific Advisory Committee review	Early April, 2008
Final Decision Leducq Board	Mid May, 2008