

Audrey S. Bingel Fellowship for Female Scientists

The Audrey S. Bingel Fellowship is intended to provide funds, up to \$25,000, to assist a female scientist in transitioning from a current career track to another, or to bolster the likelihood of success in her current, preferred career path. This fellowship is made possible by a bequest from the estate of Professor Audrey S. Bingel to the American Society of Pharmacognosy Foundation and was inspired by her keen interest in women's health, other issues of concern to female researchers, and mentoring young female scientists.

Despite significant increases in the number of women entering the broad field of natural products over the past 30-40 years, there remain formidable challenges for women to succeed (or, in some cases, even enter or gain a foothold) in certain career paths in natural products. Further, women can face obstacles that do not appear to impact men to the same extent. Sometimes, these issues prompt women to consider alternative career paths. Such issues may include, but are not limited to, pregnancy, childbirth, and neonatal child care; care of an elderly or ill parent, which disproportionately falls to daughters, and gender bias in the workplace.

The funds could conceivably be employed for, but are not limited to, additional time for research, formal training, a sabbatical or an internship in a laboratory or other organization with a new focus for the applicant, seed money to initiate a truly new research direction, course buy-outs, bridging funds for childcare, and time for grant writing/job hunting/attendance at scientific meetings.

In developing the Audrey S. Bingel Fellowship, the Board sought to be flexible about what constitutes a challenging situation constituting need for financial help and how a female colleague might use the fellowship to achieve her objective(s); consequently, the Audrey S. Bingel Fellowship selection committee will be expected to exercise due diligence and concern in evaluating the details of each proposal/application. [It should be noted that, as with all the ASP awards and grants, the ASPF Board, individually or collectively, will have no involvement in the selection of awardees.]

The key to a successful application, then, will be making a clear, cogent case for the need for funding and a well-designed plan for the use of the funds to attain the desired outcome.

Application Process

- Eligibility: The applicant must be an American Society of Pharmacognosy member in good standing for at least 3 years.
- The application/proposal (from two to no more than five pages, including any citations) will be comprised of:
 - the circumstances prompting the proposal (and need for support),
 - a plan for the intended use of the funds,
 - anticipated outcome(s),
 - how this fellowship and the outcomes will impact the career path of the applicant, and
 - a brief budget outlining the timeframe and use of the requested funds.
- Curriculum vitae, to include:
 - a summary of current position and activities,
 - a list of current and pending grants/other funding, and
 - a complete list of publications

NOTE: The fellowship will not be subject to indirect costs by the parent institution/employer of the awardee. Should the awardee not be employed in academia, this fellowship might be vulnerable to taxation by federal, and possibly state, authorities.

Decision Process

An *ad hoc* committee, appointed by the ASP president and comprised of 3 to 5 members of the ASP (with a majority female), will review any pending applications twice a year* and present the name(s) of selected awardee(s) to the Executive Committee for approval. Awardees will be publicly announced at the next annual ASP meeting. *The selection committee will set two review cycles (e.g., to start 15 May and 15 Nov); applications received prior to those cycle dates will be evaluated in a 30 day period starting with the cycle date. The committee chair may exercise discretion in arranging an accelerated review by the committee, should the applicant make a case that her circumstances warrant a more rapid review.

Follow Up Reporting

After completion of the award timeframe (anticipated to be 1-2 years), each awardee must submit a brief report (2-4 pages) to the ASPF Board within two months, summarizing the specific impact(s) of the fellowship with regard to career development and advancement.