

Ragon Early Independence Fellows Program - Basic Science and Clinician-Scientist Tracks

The Ragon Early Independence Fellows Program provides a unique career development pathway for exceptional basic scientists and clinician-scientists who have recently completed graduate training.

The newly created Ragon Early Independence Fellows Program seeks applications from talented PhD, MD, and MD/PhD candidates who have recently completed their graduate training and are pursuing any area of biology that synergizes with the mission of the Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT and Harvard. The Institute is a highly collaborative, diverse, interdisciplinary, mission-driven research institute and community that bridges the best in biomedical and clinical science to harness the immune system to prevent and cure human diseases. We provide state-of-the-art research facilities in Kendall Square, at the heart of the MGH, MIT, and Harvard communities, and are deeply committed to fostering an inclusive, equitable environment that values all aspects of diversity and celebrates individual differences.

The Fellowship will support, train, and elevate creative, talented, and collaborative scientists for up to five years. It includes a generous start-up package with salary support, fringe benefits, dedicated laboratory and office space, research support, administrative support, and access to state of the art core facilities including advanced flow cytometry, microscopy, BSL-3 facilities, and an extensive clinical specimen repository. Clinician-scientists will have the opportunity to be part of leading academic clinical divisions. Fellows will be treated as faculty and are eligible to apply for additional internal Ragon Institute funds (Strategic Initiatives funds) and are eligible but not required to apply for NIH and other external funding.

A mentorship committee composed of senior faculty from the Ragon Institute as well as MGH, MIT, and Harvard will meet regularly with the Fellow to advise on their research program, trainee mentorship, and long-term research strategy. Fellows will also join the community of Kendall Square Fellows from the Whitehead, Broad, McGovern, and Koch Institutes.

Applicants with a PhD or MD/PhD and no postdoctoral training, including PhD students in their last year of graduate school, should apply to the **Basic Science** track. Applicants with an MD or MD/PhD who have entered the research portion of their clinical subspecialty training within the past 2 years, with demonstration of excellence within their subspecialty, should apply to the **Clinician-Scientist** track.

All candidates should demonstrate a record of exceptional achievement in basic or translational research and the potential to develop an outstanding independent research program aligned with the mission of the Ragon Institute. Candidates are sought who have demonstrated the ability to work collaboratively and the scholarly qualities required to mentor trainees. Innovative scientists working in translational or basic biomedical research bringing novel approaches from engineering, physical sciences, computation and structural biology, as well as those with unique experience in microbiology, virology or immunology, will be strongly considered. Expertise in the HIV field is not required.

The application should include:

1. The applicant's CV

Please include (if applicable) undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, previous internships and research experiences, previous mentorship of other scientists, leadership positions held

2. Previous Research Summary

This statement (~500 words) should include a summary of previous research and your future research vision. This statement should include a description of how you envision that your research program would synergize with the Ragon Institute's research mission and culture.

3. A 2-3 page Research Statement which includes future plans and references.

We realize that writing a research statement to start an independent research position is likely new for many of you. The selection committee would like to see both your big picture vision as well as the projects both short and long term that will aid in achieving that vision. Specifically, you should focus on the projects that you anticipate conducting while a Ragon fellow.

Here are a few resources for getting started with writing your research statement:

<https://www.sciencemag.org/careers/2002/07/writing-research-plan>

<https://grad.ncsu.edu/news/2020/04/how-to-construct-a-compelling-research-statement/>

<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/students/graduate/writing-the-research-plan-for-your-academic-job-application.html>

4. Statement of Contribution to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

Applicants should highlight how they have, are currently, or are planning to promote diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in their academic and research activities.

5. Three references

Our application system will request letters on your behalf. You do not need to collect them. You just need to provide their name and email address. One of these letters should come from your primary research mentor who can comment on your suitability for starting an independent research position.

Questions are encouraged and should also be sent to ragonfellows@mit.edu. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis through January 30, 2021.

Please see the Ragon Institute website (<https://www.ragoninstitute.org/ragon-fellowships/>) for more information on this position.