

TO: School of Medicine Faculty  
FROM: Katherine L. Nathanson, MD and Matthew D. Weitzman, PhD  
Co-Chairs, PSOM Limited Applications Selection Committee  
RE: The David & Lucile Packard Foundation Fellowships for Science and Engineering Program  
<https://www.packard.org/what-we-fund/science/packard-fellowships-for-science-and-engineering/>  
<https://www.packard.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2025-Packard-Fellowship-Guidelines.pdf>

The University has been invited to nominate two faculty members for the David and Lucile Packard Foundation Fellowships for Science and Engineering Program. The Office of the Vice Provost for Research (OVPR) will determine the final candidates to represent the University. Each school within the University may nominate two candidates.

**Program summary:** The David & Lucile Packard Foundation Fellowships for Science & Engineering support innovative early-career scientists and engineers by providing unrestricted funding to 20 promising professors each year. This program encourages bold, high-risk, high-reward research with the potential to significantly advance knowledge and address critical challenges. By investing in the next generation of scientific leaders, the Packard Foundation fosters breakthroughs that can have a lasting impact on science, engineering, and society. The fellowships give future leaders the freedom to take risks, explore new frontiers, and follow uncharted paths that may lead to groundbreaking discoveries. The program prioritizes support for highly creative researchers early in their careers, with a focus on individual research involving the Fellows, their students, and junior colleagues, rather than extensions of large-scale, ongoing research programs.

**Eligibility:**

- **Appointment:** Must hold a tenure-track faculty position, typically as an Assistant or Associate Professor.
- **Experience:** Must be within the first three years of their faculty career. Initial faculty appointments must have begun no earlier than May 31, 2022, and no later than May 31, 2025.
- **Principal Investigator Status:** Must be eligible to serve as Principal Investigators, leading independent research groups with dedicated lab space.
- **Research Focus:** Must be engaged in research in the natural and physical sciences or engineering. Those disciplines that will be considered include physics, chemistry, mathematics, biology, astronomy, computer science, earth science, ocean science, and all branches of engineering. The award does not support social science research, clinical research, or research associated with the design and construction of large national facilities such as accelerators and space stations and applied research of direct relevance to national security.
- For any sponsored research projects, the applicant must be eligible to serve as Principal Investigator for the project, unless otherwise noted in the LSO. Please see [Penn's PI Eligibility requirements](#) to ensure you are eligible.

**Award Information:**

- A total unrestricted research award of \$875,000 over five (5) years.

- **Annual Distribution:** \$175,000 per year, with \$17,500 available for administrative costs. Grant
- **Start Date:** The grant begins in mid-October of the year it is awarded.
- **Progress Requirement:** Funding is subject to reasonable progress in the Fellow's research work.
- **Flexibility:** Fellows have the freedom to use the funds in ways that best advance their research, with minimal restrictions and paperwork.

#### **PSOM Review Process:**

Each candidate must submit the following:

- **Cover page** which must include:
  - Project title
  - Candidate's name, academic rank, department, email address, phone number and campus address, **month and year of appointment** to Penn faculty.
- **Research Statement** (maximum 2 pages, not including references):
  - **Goals:** Describe why the research is important and outline the general goals for the next five years.
  - **Use of Funds:** Indicate, in general, how funds will be used. This does not need to be a detailed budget and will not be binding on the actual use of funds.
  - **Length and Format:** The summary should be a maximum of 1,400 words (two pages of text), prepared in 12-point font with 1-inch margins. If there are relevant figures, images, or references, include these separately on a third page.
- **CV or Biosketch** including educational background, professional appointments, awards and honors, publications and current and pending funding with award amounts and start/end dates. If there is potential overlap with the Packard project, briefly describe the nature of the overlap.
- **Prior Submission Update:** If you have submitted for this funding mechanism in the past, please provide on a separate page a brief explanation (1-5 sentences) explaining how the current application differs from prior submissions, highlighting any significant updates or changes to the proposal or your circumstances.

Submission should be in a single pdf file in the following order: cover page, letter of intent, CV. The pdf document should be titled as follows: Packard\_\_InvestigatorSurname\_Investigator first name. For example: Packard\_Doe\_Jane.pdf.

Applications are due by **12pm on Tuesday, January 14th** and should be e-mailed to: Kaitlyn Hagarty at [kaitlyn.hagarty@pennmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:kaitlyn.hagarty@pennmedicine.upenn.edu).

Questions can be directed to Kaitlyn Hagarty at [kaitlyn.hagarty@pennmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:kaitlyn.hagarty@pennmedicine.upenn.edu).