

BORS – BJR Travelling Fellowships 2022

1. Aims

The British Orthopaedic Research Society (BORS) and Bone & Joint Research (BJR) are aiming to support up to six enthusiastic orthopaedic researchers with the 2022 travelling fellowship programme (up to two biologists, two clinicians, and two engineers, subject to the quality of applications).

The aims of the fellowship are to:

- Disseminate orthopaedic research conducted by the early- and mid-career researchers to centres of excellence in North America.
- Promote and generate interest in British orthopaedic research and the Society internationally.
- Learn about the world-class orthopaedic research at the leading academic centres the fellows will visit and gain insight into the different ways of running a research group and lab.
- Develop lasting collaborative academic networks to enable future research opportunities.
- Develop future leaders in the field through providing opportunity to network internationally, accelerating progression for those aiming at a longer-term career in orthopaedic research.

2. What the Fellowship Offers

The fellowship will be a three-week travel programme, starting at the ORS 2023 Annual Meeting (10th to 14th February 2023) in Dallas, Texas, and touring round centres of excellence in North America.

BORS and BJR will cover reasonable travel and accommodation costs, and provide reasonable subsistence for the duration of the fellowship. Registration to the 2023 ORS Annual Meeting will also be included.

The fellowship offers a unique opportunity for accelerated career progression and building an enhanced professional reputation in orthopaedic research, both nationally and internationally. You will visit orthopaedic centres of excellence in North America, meet with internationally recognised leaders in the field, learn about their current research interests and have the opportunity to present your research to them. In doing so, fellows may recognise potential areas of research overlap with the greater international community, leading to new collaborations and research opportunities.

3. Eligibility

The fellowship is open to orthopaedic researchers at all career stages currently engaged in relevant research, including clinicians, biologists, engineers, and allied professionals. The aims of the scheme are particularly well aligned to postdoctoral researchers seeking an independent research career. Those on alternative career paths or at other career stages are welcome to apply with justification for the timeliness of the application relative to the respective career stage and with respect to the aims of the fellowship. For example, you may have not yet completed your PhD, but may have extensive prior experience in the field having spent time in industry or clinical/surgical training. This justification needs to be included within the 500-word limit of your application statement.

4. Application Process

Applications comprise of two stages: written application and interview.

4.1 Written Application

Please email contact@borsoc.org.uk with the email subject “Travelling Fellowship Application” by 31st July 2022 with the following:

1. A 500-word statement detailing:
 - **Your motivation** – you may wish to discuss why this is the right time for you to apply, what you want to achieve with the fellowship, how this fellowship could facilitate or influence your longer-term career ambitions
 - **The science you will disseminate** – you may wish to discuss research you could present at the centres you will visit and why is it important to promote and discuss these findings
 - **How your experience aligns to the aims of BORS and the fellowship scheme** – you may wish to highlight your approach to collaboration, any previous organisational roles for professional societies, events and meetings, your contributions to the field outside your own research such as peer review, examples of your commitment to the field of orthopaedic research.
 - **Two centres you would like to visit in North America (optional)** – you may wish to discuss the rationale for these choices, such as relevance to your recent findings, research objectives, or career ambitions.
2. A 1-page CV
3. A list of publications (optional).
4. A statement acknowledging and agreeing to meet the expectations of the fellowships if your application is successful.
5. Confirmation that you are a BORS member (or that you have applied to become a member and your application is pending approval)

Note that abstract submission to ORS 2023 is not linked to the travelling fellowship application process and should applicants wish to present at the conference during the fellowship then they will also need to submit to ORS 2023 (abstract deadline at the time of writing: 29th August 2022).

4.2 Interviews

Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed around the dates of the ICORS 2022 World Orthopaedic Research Congress (7-9th September). There will be option for in-person interview at the conference, or via video-link.

4.3 Assessment Criteria

The primary assessment criterion will be the quality of the applicant’s research relative to their career stage. Secondary assessment criteria include the applicant’s motivation for the fellowship, how their experience aligns to the aims of the fellowship scheme, and their potential to become a leader in the field.

5. Expectations

Candidates awarded the fellowship will be expected to:

- To promote BORS, the fellowship and BJR to the North American centres, and via social media.
- Be a good ambassador to BORS/BJR, demonstrating values of a diverse and inclusive society.
- Present their experience of the fellowship at the subsequent BORS meeting.
- Publish a combined account of the experience in BJR as an infographic/editorial.
- Continue to engage with BORS as your career progresses.
- Take responsibility for logistics of the fellowship (with other travelling fellows and support from BORS), this includes:
- Inform BORS of their requirements regarding room sharing/accommodation needs, and of any potential barriers that could prevent travel to the USA and Canada (e.g. visas, vaccination status, etc).
- Manage the budget provided by BORS for travel, accommodation and daily stipend for subsistence.
- To work with the other fellows and organisers to develop the fellowship visiting schedule and travel programme, then book their own travel / accommodation within the budget available.
- Agree to self-organise and cooperate with the other Fellows.

6. Informal Enquiries

The following previous travelling fellows may be informally contacted for information on their travel experiences and to discuss the impact it had on their careers:

- Dr Catherine Pendegrass (c.pendegrass@ucl.ac.uk): a postdoctoral researcher in the field of orthopaedic biology at the time of applying. Now an Associate Professor in Orthopaedics and Musculoskeletal Science at University College London
- Prof Sophie Williams (s.d.williams@leeds.ac.uk): a postdoctoral researcher with an independent early career fellowship in the field of medical engineering at the time of applying. Now Professor in Medical Engineering at the University of Leeds.
- Dr Richard van Arkel (r.vanarkel@imperial.ac.uk): a postdoctoral researcher in the field of orthopaedic engineering at the time of applying. Now a Senior Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering at Imperial College London.
- Dr Anthony Herbert (a.herbert@leeds.ac.uk): postdoctoral researcher in the field of orthopaedic engineering at the time of applying. Now a Lecturer in Medical and Biological Engineering at the University of Leeds.
- Oliver Boughton (ollieboughton@hotmail.com): a clinical fellow taking time out of programme to study for a PhD at the time of applying. Now finishing orthopaedics and trauma surgical training in Ireland.
- Miss Amy Garner (jwa.fletcher@doctors.net.uk): a clinical fellow taking time out of programme to study for a PhD at the time of applying. Now finishing orthopaedics and trauma surgical training in London.