

2028-29 William P. Van Wagenen Fellowship



APPLICATION GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS

As a premier funder of neurosurgical studies, the [Neurosurgery Research & Education Foundation](#) (NREF) focuses on providing fellowship funding in basic neuroscience and neurosurgical programs in North America.

Please read this document in its entirety prior to completing the online application. After reviewing the application and the information below, please contact NREF via email at info@nref.org if you still have questions.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES, PROCEDURES & PROGRAM INFORMATION

The **William P. Van Wagenen Fellowship** was established by the estate of Dr. Van Wagenen, who was one of the founders and the first President of the Harvey Cushing Society, now the [American Association of Neurological Surgeons](#) (AANS).

In considering what contribution of a permanent nature he might make to neurosurgery, Dr. Van Wagenen chose to provide support to a post neurosurgical resident for foreign travel for scientific enrichment, prior to beginning an academic career in neurological surgery. The Van Wagenen Fellowship was designed to give freedom in scientific development without the restrictive limitations usually imposed by many research grants and fellowships.

The AANS offers the Van Wagenen Fellowship program to neurosurgical residents interested in studying scientific development abroad. The fellowship is open to all senior neurological residents (PGY5, PGY6 & PGY7) in ACGME-accredited neurosurgery residency program or the Canadian equivalent and whose intent is to pursue an academic career in neurological surgery.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

- The fellowship is open to all senior neurosurgical residents (PGY5, PGY6 & PGY7) in an ACGME-accredited neurosurgery residency program or the Canadian equivalent whose intent is to pursue an academic career in neurological surgery.

CITIZENSHIP AND SITE SELECTION

- United States citizenship is not a requirement. However, the country of study must be different than the country of residence.

AMOUNT OF FUNDING

- The fellowship provides up to a \$120,000 stipend for living and travel expenses to a foreign country for a period of twelve months; a \$6,000 stipend for family travel and living allowance is available if the spouse and/or children are accompanying the fellow; and \$5,000 is available for medical insurance if needed. One award per year is typically given.

FUNDING FOR RESEARCH SUPPORT

- The fellowship makes \$15,000 of research support available to the university, hospital or laboratory, which has agreed to sponsor the Van Wagenen Fellow.

FELLOWSHIP TIMELINE

- The fellowship begins July 1, 2028 through June 30, 2029.

REPORTING

- The fellow selected will be required to submit a mid-year report (January 2029) as well as a final report and accounting summary. The final report and accounting summary will be due within forty (40) days of the end of the grant period.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

- Applications will be available via the [NREF Online Grant Portal](#) using your AANS login, beginning September 1, 2026. If you have never logged in before, please register [here](#). No paper submissions or PDF documents will be accepted.

DEADLINE AND REQUIREMENTS

- The completed application must be submitted by 11:59pm (Central Time) on **Friday, November 1, 2026**. The application must be submitted with letters of reference, including one from the applicant's Program Director and one from the proposed sponsor. Documentation of intent to pursue an academic career, while not required, will strengthen the application.
- Recommendations from the candidate's previous sponsors and fellowship sponsors are important.
- The Van Wagenen Selection Committee will consider the originality and quality of the applicant's proposal, the thoroughness with which the plan for a period abroad has been designed, personal attributes, and the quality of the research environment.

APPLICATION RECEIPT NOTIFICATION

- All applicants will be notified via email when their application has been received. An administrative review of all applications will take place, and applicant will be contacted via email if there are questions regarding the status of their application.

AWARDEE NOTIFICATION

- Notification of award will be made by January 30, 2027. However, public announcement is contingent upon receipt of written confirmation from the awardee. The AANS reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to extend the date for it to provide notification.

PUBLICATION

- The NREF encourages publication of research findings by fellows, but requires that the NREF is cited as a source of support on the first page of the text.
- When a fellow presents a paper at a professional scientific meeting concerning research findings made during an NREF-funded fellowship, the NREF must be cited prior to beginning the presentation.
- The NREF should be sent reprints of all papers and publications, including any electronic papers or publications, resulting from work done during the course of a fellowship, even those that appear after the fellowship has ended.
- The citation should appear in the Acknowledgements section as follows:
This work is supported by the Neurosurgery Research & Education Foundation (2026-27 William P. Van Wagenen Fellowship).

VAN WAGENEN FELLOWSHIP FUND

- Recipients of the Van Wagenen Fellowship have used the endowment to lay the groundwork for many scientific and technical innovations in neurosurgery. The fellowship remains an unmatched opportunity to explore new lines of investigation, foster academic and research goals, incorporate new technology and skills into American neurosurgical practice, and motivate young neurosurgeons to transform our field. The legacy of mentorship, scientific inquiry, and clinical excellence personified by Cushing and Van Wagenen is memorialized in the Van Wagenen Fellowship.

A donation to the [Van Wagenen Fellowship Fund](#) will help us continue supporting promising residents in their pursuit of this amazing professional opportunity, and ultimately, your gift will have a major impact on neurosurgical patients, educators, researchers and clinicians.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Neurosurgery Research & Education Foundation (NREF)
5550 Meadowbrook Industrial Ct.
TEL 847.378.0500
EMAIL info@nref.org

VAN WAGENEN FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI

Year	Name	Host Institution
1968	Richard M. Bergland, MD	Oxford University, United Kingdom
1969	John M. Tew, Jr., MD, FAANS(L)	Kanatonsspital Zurich, Sweden
1970	M. Peter Heilbrun, MD	Bispejerg & Rigs Hospitals, Denmark
1971	Ira C. Denton, Jr., MD, FAANS(L)	Kantonsspital Zurich, Switzerland
1972	Robert A. Ratcheson, MD FAANS(L)	Brain Research Laboratory, Sweden
1973	Joan L. Venes, MD	Wellcome Research Institute, Scotland
1974	W. Michael Vise, MD	Max Planck Institute, Germany
1975	Lawrence H. Pitts, MD, FAANS(L)	Institute of Neurological Sciences, Scotland
1976	Patrick J. Kelly, MD, FAANS(L), FACS	Saint Ann and Foch Hospitals, France; Western General Hospital, Scotland
1977	William F. Chandler, MD, FAANS(L), FACS	Karolinska Institute, Sweden
1978	Jay D. Law, MD	Centro Ramon y Cajal, Spain
1979	George W. Tyson, MD, MBA, FAANS(L)	Institute of Neurological Sciences, Scotland
1980	L. Dade Lunsford, MD, FAANS	Karolinska Sjukhuset, Sweden
1981	Stephen J. Haines, MD, FAANS	Radcliffe Infirmary, England
1982	Larry Van Carson, MD, MBA, FACS, FAANS	Hospital Foch, France
1983	Lawrence F. Borges, MD, FAANS	Merck, Sharpe & Dohme Research Laboratories, England
1984	Edmund Frank, MD FACS	Universitaire Vaudis, Switzerland
1985	Marc R. Mayberg, MD, FAANS	Queens Square, England
1986	Edward George Hames III, MD, PhD, FAANS	Kings College, England
1987	Emily D. Friedman, MD, FAANS	Sandoz Inst, England; Hospital Salpetriere, France; Lab of Professor Bjorklund, Sweden
1988	Mark W. Jones, MD, FAANS	Queens Square, England
1989	David W. Newell, MD, FAANS	Inselpital, Switzerland
1990	Walter A. Hall, MD, FAANS	Norwegian Radium Hospital, Norway; Frenchay Hospital, England
1991	Ian F. Pollack, MD, FAANS	Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois, Switzerland; University of Uppsala, Sweden
1992	Mary Louise Hlavin, MD, FAANS	Cambridge University, England
1993	Mark E. Linskey, MD, FAANS	Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, England
1994	Ivar M. Mendez, MD, PhD, FAANS	University of Lund, Sweden
1995	Timothy C. Ryken, MD, FAANS	Cambridge Centre for Brain Repair, United Kingdom
1996	Howard L. Weiner, MD, FAANS	Institut d'Embryologie Cellulaire et Moleculaire, France
1997	Zelma HT Kiss, MD PhD	University of Calgary, Canada
1998	Kamal Thapar, MD, FAANS, FACS	University of Erlagen-Nurnberg, Germany
1999	Theodore H. Schwartz, MD, FAANS	Tobias Bonheoffer Max-Planck Institute for Neurobiology, Germany
2000	P. Charles Garell, MD, FAANS	Centre Hospitalier Universitaire, France
2001	Shekar N. Kurpad, MD, PhD, FAANS	Karolinska Institute, Sweden
2002	Saadi Ghatan, MD	Institute of Child/Health/Great Ormond Street Hospital, England
2003	Odette Althea Harris, MD, MPH, FAANS	University Hospital of the West Indies, Jamaica
2004	Stephen M. Russell, MD, FAANS	Ludwig Maximilians, University of Munich, Germany
2005	Devin K. Binder, MD PhD FAANS	University of Bonn Medical Center, Germany
2006	Yu-Hung Kuo, MD, PhD, FAANS	Fliders Medical Centre, Australia
2006	Uzma Samadani, MD, PhD, FAANS	University of Goettingen, Germany
2007	James C. Miller, MD, FAANS	University of Tübingen, Germany
2008	Samuel H. Cheshier, MD, PhD, FAANS	Lund University, Sweden
2009	Michael C. Park, MD, PhD, FAANS	Assistance Publique L' Hospital d' Adulte de la Timone, France
2010	Andrew W. Grande, MD, FAANS	Helmholtz Zentrum München, Germany
2011	Nicholas F. Marko, MD, FAANS	University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
2011	Ben Waldau, MD, FAANS	University of Dresden (Center for Regenerative Therapies), Germany
2012	Matthew Christopher Tate, MD, PhD	Hopital Guide Cliauliac; Inst. of Neuroscience of Montpellier; Hopital Saint Eloi, France
2013	D. Ryan Ormond, MD, PhD, FAANS	Rheinische Friedrich Wilhelms Universität Bonn, Germany
2014	Ausaf Ahmad Bari, MD, PhD, MA	University of Toronto, Canada
2015	Lisa Anne Feldman, MD, PhD	University of Auckland, New Zealand
2016	S. Kathleen Bandt, MD, FAANS	Aix-Marseille University, France
2017	Darrin J. Lee, MD, PhD, FAANS	University of Toronto, Canada
2018	Kai Joshua Miller, MD	University Medical Center, Utrecht, The Netherlands
2020	Ezequiel D. Goldschmidt, MD, PhD	Karolinska Institute, Sweden
2022	Bhuvic Patel, MD	Heidelberg University Hospital in Germany
2024	Brandon P. Lucke-Wold, MD, PhD, MCTS	Fujita Health University, Japan
2026	David Bergeron, MD	École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland

Over the years, Van Wageningen Fellows have shared their insights and reminiscences, and offered advice to residents considering a fellowship abroad. Quotes, comments and summaries of their experience have been compiled in the online [Van Wageningen Fellowship Yearbook](#).