

Regeneron Prize: Guidelines for “Dream Project” Description

Rationale and Overview:

One of Regeneron's primary criterion for selecting Regeneron Prize awardees is research productivity. As such, the CVs and publications of the applicants will be very important components of the selection process. Regeneron recognizes, however, that two trainees with similar records of productivity may not be equivalent in scientific caliber. A trainee's mentor plays a big role in the development of a high-profile publication record.

The dream project component of the Regeneron Prize application is designed to be a differentiating exercise that allows Regeneron's Selection Committee to distinguish between applicants who have excellent research records because of their mentors and those who have excellent research records because of their own scientific merits. The research that is proposed is not necessarily meant to be conducted, nor is the prize meant as a funding mechanism for research. ***The prize is a cash prize to the trainee***, and the trainee may use the money in any way he or she wishes. It is a personal prize for the personal use of the awardee.

The dream project proposal is a mechanism for evaluating a student's scientific clarity, elegance, precision, and creativity. There is no need for preliminary data (although it isn't prohibited), and there is no need for the student to feel limited by time or resources for the research proposed. "Out of the box" thinking is not only acceptable, but encouraged. The proposal should describe research the applicant wishes he/she could conduct (i.e. a "dream" project), within the fundamental limitations imposed by today's technologies (eg. don't propose cloning Albert Einstein). Finalists will be invited to Regeneron as the final step in selection of the Prize winners, and students should be prepared to explain and defend aspects of their proposed project at that time.

Dream Project Proposal Guidelines:

The only ***rigid*** rules for the proposal are:

- 1) That the research proposed be within the field of biomedicine, broadly defined.
- 2) That the applicant's proposal be no more than two single-spaced pages (please avoid type smaller than 10-point). References do not need to be included within the two-page limit, but any figures, etc. should be. Note that preliminary data is not necessary.
- 3) That the proposal clearly define a specific experiment or series of experiments, and includes a rationale, basic methodology/design (citing literature is fine), and discussion of how the experiment's results would advance the field.

Other guidelines for the proposal, which are **guidelines** ONLY, are:

- 1) The proposal may wish to include a background/rationale section, a specific aims section, an experimental design/methodology section, and a caveats/conclusions section (similar to a research proposal one might prepare for a funding source).
- 2) The proposal can assume that applicants have access to the rich resources and technologies available at cutting edge biotechnology companies such as Regeneron. This includes access to most equipment used in biomedical research, any necessary supplies or reagents, and advanced genetic and/or protein engineering capabilities. Some applicants may be invited to conduct their research, or related research, at Regeneron. There is, however, absolutely no requirement that they accept this invitation - the prizes will be awarded before any such offers would be made. The intent of the proposal isn't to actually conduct the research. It is to evaluate the applicants' research prowess.

Note: By submitting your proposal, Regeneron obtains no ownership rights in and to any of your proprietary data, results, or other information contained therein or any intellectual property that you may seek to obtain resulting directly from such information. By submitting your proposal, you acknowledge that its contents are not confidential information of any party and that Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (and its affiliates) will in no way be restricted from pursuing its own research, development and commercial activities, which Regeneron may have previously initiated or may initiate in the future, including, without limitation, activities in areas relating to the subject matter of your proposal.