

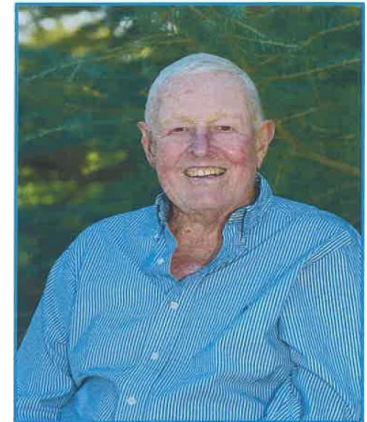
Murray B. Gardner Early Career Faculty Research Fellowship in Infectious Diseases

Call for applications for the Murray B. Gardner Junior Faculty Research Fellowship in Infectious Diseases for the 2025-26 academic year.

Application Deadline: Friday, August 22, 2025

Funding Period: Sept. 22, 2025 to Sept. 21, 2026

Funding Available: \$50,000 for 2025-26 academic year, Sept. 22, 2025 to Sept. 21, 2026



Only UC Davis Faculty at the Assistant professor level are eligible for this fellowship.

About Murray B. Gardner, MD, Professor Emeritus, School of Medicine, UC Davis

Professor Emeritus Murray Gardner has led a distinguished research career investigating at the clinical intersection of humans, animals, and the environment, and pioneering the concept of "One Medicine, One Health". Professor Gardner's groundbreaking research advanced animal models of human diseases, with an emphasis on viruses associated with cancer and immunosuppressive retroviruses, particularly the non-human primate model of HIV/AIDS pathogenesis and prevention. As a passionate advocate of comparative and translational research in human diseases, Gardner played a foundational role in establishing the Center for Comparative Medicine in 1997 for developing animal models to investigate mechanisms of human diseases and accelerate therapeutic discoveries. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to both human and animal health, Gardner was elected an Honorary Member of the American College of Veterinary Pathology in 2006. Beyond his scientific achievements, Gardner is renowned for his lifelong dedication to mentoring. His guidance has profoundly shaped careers of countless students, trainees, and faculty members in biomedical research. Continuing this legacy, Gardner has established the **Murray B. Gardner Early Career Faculty Fellowship in Infectious Disease** at UC Davis. In addition, this award honors Max Gardner, Ph.D., Murray Gardner's father, who was Chairperson of the Department of Plant Pathology at the Berkeley and Davis campuses of the University of California from 1931 to 1958. This fellowship supports the advancement of early career faculty, helping them achieve success in research, teaching, and clinical service and thereby ensuring Professor Gardner's vision of preparing the next generation of academic leaders in infectious disease research.

Description

The Junior Faculty Research Fellowship in Infectious Disease, established in 2016, supports early career faculty engaged in infectious disease research. The interdisciplinary scope of the program encompasses pathogen-host interactions across humans, animals, and plants, with emphasis on animal models, the study of infectious disease mechanisms, and the public health dimensions. The primary goal of this fellowship is to promote the career advancement of junior faculty to the Associate Professor rank by fostering a supportive environment for developing competitive extramural grant applications through structured mentoring in infectious disease research. Securing a first major extramural research grant remains a great challenge for early-stage investigators. Aligned with the mission of the former Center for Comparative Medicine within the Schools of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, the fellowship provides junior faculty with research support and mentoring to develop and secure extramural research funding to conduct extended research projects and build a foundation for long-term academic success.

Eligibility

Active ladder rank and in-residence faculty at the Assistant Professor level, who are members of the Academic Senate, or the Federation (both tenure and nontenure-track faculty) may apply for Fellowships. Fellows must hold an active qualifying appointment at UC Davis for the duration of the program and have a Ph.D., D.V.M. and/or M.D. degree. The fellow should meet the criteria of a New Investigator status.

Award Requirements

The selected Fellow(s) will be mentored by faculty within UC Davis with expertise in the domain of infectious disease relevant to the Fellow's proposed research. The mentees will meet with assigned mentors regularly for the development and submission of an extramural research proposal. Fellows are expected to develop a research proposal and apply to federal, state, or non-profit foundation entities funding research in infectious diseases (encompassing pathogen-host interactions in humans, animals, and plants, including animal modeling and public health).

Fellows are expected to present their research findings at a seminar hosted by the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology during the 12-month project period.

Award Funds and Period

The Fellows will be awarded \$50,000 for a 12-month period to be used to develop preliminary data for preparation of their research proposal to seek extramural research funding. Funds should not be used to cover faculty salary expenses. If this is an issue in your unit, an exception should be requested.

An extension to this period may be granted under special circumstances with appropriate justification.

Responsibilities of Fellows

Fellows agree to:

- Meet with mentors on a regular basis for the duration of the award to monitor research progress.
- Scientific publications should reference this award with the following statement: "This project was supported in part by funding from the Murray B. Gardner Junior Faculty Research Fellowship, University of California, Davis."
- Submit a written report (one page) describing research accomplishments within 3 months of the end of the award period to the Chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology and the mentor; the report should include information on publications and new grant applications (or plans for publication and new grant applications).
- Deliver a public lecture or seminar at UC Davis within 3 months of the end date of the award period.
- Submit an extramural research grant within 3 to 5 months of the end of the award period.

Application Procedures

Award program is coordinated by Satya Dandekar, Distinguished Professor and Chair, Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, School of Medicine, UC Davis. Applications for the academic year 2025-26 must be submitted via online portal, by 11:59 pm. (PST), August 22, 2025. Late Applications will not be accepted. For more information and program related questions, please contact: Professor Dandekar at sdandekar@health.ucdavis.edu OR Karryn Doyle at kddoyle@health.ucdavis.edu.

Preparation of fellowship application can be based on NIH-type research grant applications: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application>

Title of Research Project and Summary (up to 300 words, Font Arial, size 11, single-space) – include the Hypothesis, Specific Aims, and Significance (i.e., relevance to disease research and public health)

Introduction - Briefly review the literature studies supporting the proposed research (500 to 600 words)

Research Strategy (one-year scope of fellowship-supported research)

- Introduction - (500 to 600 words)
- Preliminary Results – (one page)
- Research Plan - (up to 2000 words) – State the hypothesis, Specific Aims; describe the research plan, anticipated outcomes and alternative approaches
- Literature Citations – (up to 15 references)

Budget – direct costs only – up to \$50,000 for a 12-month period

- Salary – for graduate student, post-doc, technician (description of role in the project)
- Laboratory Costs - materials (reagents, chemicals, etc.), fees for scientific core services

- Animal Costs – purchase and per diems under IACUC approvals
- Travel – up to \$1,000
- Excluded – salary for PI applicant, computer and office supplies, indirect costs

Additional Required Materials for the Application

- **Applicant Personal Statement** (500 to 700 words) – Describe research career goals and their alignment with the Department. Describe how the funding for this project will help the Fellow achieve these career goals. Describe the mentor's role in obtaining advice and guidance.
- **NIH formatted Biosketch including Other Support.**
- **Letter of support from the Department Chair at UC Davis.**
- **Letter of commitment from a UC Davis mentor** to advise the Fellow during the performance of the award; this should include a brief summary of mentoring activities.

Announcement of Award

Recipients of Murray B. Gardner Junior Faculty Fellowship will be notified in September 2025.

Evaluation and Selection of Fellows

The selection committee consists of University of California, Davis faculty appointed by the Chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, with recommendations from Murray Gardner. This committee will include a Chair and at least three faculty members with appropriate expertise in infectious diseases. The program is coordinated by the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology. Up to two Fellowship awards will be made in each calendar year, each for \$50,000. No more than one Fellowship will be awarded per year for each of these research domains: infectious diseases of humans, infectious diseases of animals, infectious diseases of plants, public health of infectious diseases.

The Selection Criteria will use the following in evaluating each application:

- The significance of the contribution that the proposed project will make to scientific vision and knowledge in the Applicant's research.
- The relevance of the proposed project to infectious diseases, host-pathogen interactions, or public health.
- The potential for the applicant to use the data generated in this award for presentations, peer-reviewed publications and to compete for extramural grant funding.
- The feasibility of performing the proposed study in a one-year time-frame.
- The potential for career advancement at UC Davis.
- The potential for new collaborations that further support the Applicant's career goals and plans.

Submit your application through the application submission portal:

<https://tinyurl.com/MGUCDFellowship>



Department of Medical
Microbiology and Immunology

One Shields Avenue
3146 Tupper Hall
530-752-9402 tel 530-752-8692 fax