



## **JPS-SPR Fostering Leadership (Scholar) Program: Guiding Principles/Policy**

The Japanese Pediatric Society (JPS) and the Society for Pediatric Research (SPR) have a long tradition of fostering programs that support research and career developments in pediatrics across borders. To expand the exposure of JPS physician scientists to include post-doctoral research opportunities in US-based laboratories, and thus foster development of research and leadership skills that will promote their future career success in pediatric research and leadership roles in Japan, the JPS and SPR partnered on a new initiative to support qualified candidates proposed by JPS to be hosted by US-based laboratories for post-doctoral training in a field related to pediatrics.

This document outlines the principles of this program:

1. JPS proposes annually 1-2 candidates by December 31<sup>st</sup> to the SPR.
2. The SPR executive council interviews the candidate(s).
3. The expectations are that such candidates have been identified for their willingness to pursue research training in the United States, have already shown their commitment to research as demonstrated by their accomplishments in their home institutions, have superior written and spoken English language skills, and are in various phases of their training and careers but preferably at a stage or with the expectation of junior faculty position.
4. It is expected that JPS will have screened and interviewed several outstanding candidates, especially to guarantee their English language and other communication skills; for the purposes of keeping records of participation, the numbers of those screened and interviewed may be shared with SPR.
5. The post-doctoral fellowship in the hosting laboratory/program will be for a minimum of two years to commence within the year (or no later than a year after) the selection.
6. The host laboratories/programs support the positions from their existing funding. Neither the JPS nor the SPR are expected to fund any part of the training.
7. Following the interviews of the candidate(s) with the SPR Executive Council and if the candidate(s) is(are) felt to meet the stated criteria, JPS is notified by SPR of the decision. The process is expected to be completed by mid-February, annually.
8. The candidate is then asked for suggestions of potential hosting laboratories and/or programs within the field that they want to pursue additional training, preferably (but not exclusively) headed by SPR members; additional names are solicited from SPR council members and other sources.
9. SPR arranges for interviews of the JPS scholar(s) with potential hosting investigators to take place during the annual PAS/APS/SPR meeting that usually takes place at the end of April/early May, each year.
10. SPR does not guarantee a match; the likelihood of the match will be increased by a list of proposed mentors that includes multiple SPR members, an area of research with many available mentors, and an applicant (as above) with outstanding communication and English language skills, as well as scientific ability and track record.
11. The match between candidate(s) and hosting laboratories/programs is announced each year during the summer, at the latest early Fall, after the annual PAS/APS/SPR meeting.

As stated in the inaugural JPS announcement, “this program builds the relationship of trust between two countries and will eventually advance our pediatric research for the wellness and the happiness of children worldwide”.