



2012 PopTech Science Fellows Program

The **PopTech Science Fellows** is a unique leadership development program designed to help high potential working scientists become more effective communicators, collaborators and leaders both within and beyond the traditional bounds of academia.

The program provides Fellows with expert training and support by [visionary leaders](#) in areas which are rarely, if ever, explicitly taught to working scientists, including communications, presentation and information design, effective collaboration and leadership. Fellows receive ongoing access to specialized faculty and mentors in these areas, form an extensive network of mutual support, and play a highly visible role within the PopTech global community of innovators.

Scientists who excel as communicators are better at finding unusual or unlikely research partners, leading to better and more interesting science. They are also better able to communicate findings and ideas with a broader audience of vital constituencies—including scientists in other fields, alternative sources of research support and the public at large—to ensure more rapid scientific progress.

Fellows are drawn from many different research fields, from economics and planetary science to renewable energy and biomedical research. What they have in common is talent, a passion for asking big questions, a commitment to innovating within their field, an innate interest in communications and leadership, and a strongly collaborative spirit.

Ten to twelve fellows will be selected and convened by PopTech for a special training program, which will be held October 14-16, 2012, at an idyllic retreat facility near Camden, Maine, USA. Immediately following—from October 17-20, 2012—Fellows participate in and give short presentations at the [PopTech annual conference](#), which brings together a global network of cutting-edge leaders, thinkers and doers from many different disciplines. Fellows receive prominent placement at the event, including press interviews and collaborative sessions with members of the PopTech network that will help them to amplify the impact of their scientific research and professional profile. On a selective basis, Fellows will have access to specialized seed funding to spark and support further collaborative research.

As a result of participation in this program, [past Fellows](#) have substantially improved their media profiles and been exposed to new opportunities for communicating their work (such as through books and speaking engagements), have formed new collaborative partnerships, and have accessed new avenues for financial support of their research. When asked to describe the program in a single word, most Fellows choose “transformational.”

The PopTech Science Fellows program is supported by Microsoft Research, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, National Geographic, the National Science Foundation and the Rita Allen Foundation.

POPTECH SCIENCE FELLOWS PROGRAM REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS

Eligibility

Start with accomplished scientists with demonstrated track records of excellence in the traditional sense; then add an uncanny passion for the truth, irreverence for dogma, disregard for silos of discipline and methodology, and a desire to share their stories—not only of their own research, but of the greater body of work leading up to, from, and around their work. PopTech's goal is to equip Fellows with the networks, resources, collaborators and opportunities to be known by more than just their department, university or immediate colleagues.

Indeed, the straight and narrow path up the rungs of the academic ladder may not necessarily apply; the achievement of tenure does not mark the beginning of creative freedom, nor does the lack of tenure imply any barrier to breaking out of the box. Strong candidates may come from any career stage in an academic or research institution, but must demonstrate significant accomplishments as a highly credible expert within their field. Areas of particular interest include, but are not limited to, chemistry, physics, biology, and economics, and cross-cutting areas such as climate change and global health.

Other eligibility criteria include:

- An advanced degree
- A full-time, faculty-equivalent appointment with a recognized organization, including (but not limited to) domestic and international universities and research institutions, NGOs, governmental agencies or private corporations

Fellows will receive a significant investment in training and development, and will be expected to reciprocate this investment by actively engaging with the program and the alumni network over several years.

Selection: Nomination and Application

Nominating individuals and institutions are asked to provide the following to PopTech:

- Name, title, and affiliation of nominee
- A very brief statement (2-3 sentences) describing why this candidate should be a PopTech Science Fellow
- Nominations should be sent to sciencefellows@poptech.org.

Please feel free to contact PopTech staff at sciencefellows@poptech.org with any questions or to discuss potential candidates.

The most promising nominees will be invited by PopTech to submit a very brief application:

- A complete CV
- A letter of interest describing the applicant's research, and why s/he wishes to be considered for the PopTech Science Fellows Program
- A non-scholarly work related to their research (e.g., news article about their work, videocast of a recent presentation, blog post)

The priority deadline for applications is May 1, 2012, with selection in June 2012. Fellows will be informed of their status as soon as a decision has been made.

ABOUT POPTECH

PopTech (poptech.org) brings together visionary scientists, technologists, social innovators, designers, community champions, and other, uncategorizable thought leaders to collaborate on breakthrough new approaches to the world's most pressing challenges.

Our participants and network members come from across the spectrum, and include Nobel Prize winners, Pulitzer Prize winners, and MacArthur Fellows, among many other luminaries. Our funders include major philanthropic foundations such as the Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation and Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and corporations such as Nike, Intel and Microsoft. We are a non-profit, non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization with a goal of facilitating and accelerating unconventional collaborations.

For more information about PopTech and its programs, please email info@poptech.org.