

FDA's Response to the Science Board's Evaluation of the Commissioner's Fellowship Program

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Background

- Commissioner's Fellowship Program (CFP) launched in Fall 2008
- Three goals
 - Attract top-tier scientists to address regulatory science issues through mentored, high-priority Agency projects
 - Provide regulatory science training
 - Serve as a potential recruitment tool

Science Board Evaluation

- FDA charged the Science Board to evaluate the CFP in June 2014 and the final evaluation was presented in July 2015
- Overall findings
 - CFP is meeting its three goals
 - Recommendations to the CFP's goals, funding, partnerships with universities, project and fellow selection, program length and training, and evaluation.

Changes to the CFP

- Funding
 - Provide 75% of the budget in the first 2 quarters of the fiscal year
- Project and fellow selection
 - Increase Center efforts to determine projected scientific needs when selecting projects and preceptors
 - Permit senior scientists to apply by removing the seven years from degree eligibility requirement by letting the project scientific needs determine the necessary knowledge and skills

Changes to the CFP

- Program length and training
 - Allow the scientific project determine the time needed by granting extensions to a maximum of 4 years, with a 1.5 year residency requirement to be considered a graduate of the CFP
 - Allow for more time at critical Center training by reducing CFP training to 5 required courses
 - Enable more time for the scientific project by offering the required training early in the program

Changes to the CFP

- Partnerships with universities
 - Increase promotion of CFP and all the Agency student and post-doctoral programs
- Goals
 - FDA retention - Assist fellows and supervisors with information about applying for positions at FDA
 - Ambassador role: Report number of fellows who go to industry and academia
- Evaluation
 - Ambassador role: Evaluate fellows who go to academia or industry asking how they are using their CFP experience in their new position
 - Begin evaluation of Fellows who leave FDA in 2017 and report outcomes every five years.

The New CFP

- FDA is implementing the changes with the fellows who begin Fall 2017
- Outcomes of the changes
 - Improve program
 - Enable FDA to address key scientific projects
 - Groom scientists ready for FDA, industry or academia



Acknowledgments

- Science Board CFP Evaluation Subcommittee
- FDA CFP Advisory Board