MSBase Foundation Fostering Knowledge Fellowship

APPLICATION GUIDE
OCTOBER 2026

Table of contents

01 Registry Overview

02 New MSBase Fostering Knowledge Fellowship

03 Aim; Eligiblity

04 Funding & duration; Expectations & conditions

05 Application timeline

06 Appendix 1: MSBase host institutions

MSBase Registry

The MSBase Foundation Ltd is a not-for-profit charitable organisation incorporated as a company in Melbourne, Australia. The Foundation owns and operates the MSBase Registry, a unique international, longitudinal, observational registry that unites neurologists and their healthcare teams from around the world to collect, share, and analyse real-world clinical outcomes data in multiple sclerosis (MS) and other neuro-immunological diseases (NIDs), including neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder (NMOSD), myelin oligodendrocyte glycoprotein antibody-associated disease (MOGAD), and myasthenia gravis (MG).

The Foundation provides a robust global governance framework, a comprehensive data entry platform and research support to enable international epidemiological and outcomes research, facilitating regional and multi-centre collaborations.

The MSBase Registry serves as a powerful platform for monitoring disease progression, evaluating the effectiveness and safety of therapies, and advancing understanding of NIDs through real-world evidence. The overarching mission of MSBase is to improve clinical decision-making and enhance the quality of care and health outcomes for people living with MS and related NIDs.

The MSBase Foundation launched its fellowship program in 2015. Nine fellowships have been awarded since this time, resulting in a range of high-impact scientific contributions. The valuable research skills and experience developed through these awards have played an important role in advancing the early careers of these emerging researchers. Reflecting the program's success and long-term impact, four former fellows have subsequently joined the MSBase Scientific Leadership Group, while another fellowship project culminated in the creation of the MSBase Imaging Repository.

Introducing the new MSBase Fellowship program

The Foundation has recently revised its fellowship offering and is thrilled to announce a new fellowship program, introducing two types of research fellowship; the MSBase Fostering Knowledge Fellowship and the MSBase Research Excellence Fellowship.

In 2026, we welcome applications for the first **Fostering Knowledge Fellowship**. This fellowship is open to applicants from MSBase centres in low to upper middle-income countries that do not have strong statistical expertise.

The fellow will receive training in biostatistical research at a host institution. The desired outcome is for the fellow to integrate their newly acquired skills and experience at their home institution, enabling their centre to engage more meaningfully with the MSBase Registry and to increase scientific output. Training will be provided at an approved MSBase host institution. These volunteer institutions are hubs of research excellence, led by longstanding, highly engaged MSBase Principal Investigators endorsed by the Scientific Leadership Group. The fellowship will support the fellow to travel and live in the city of their host institution where they will be provided with relevant training in MS and related disorders, epidemiology and/or clinical outcomes research.

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE: 28TH FEBRUARY 2027

The Foundation's **Research Excellence Fellowship** award is open to applicants from MSBase centres with existing strong analytical expertise. It aims to support outstanding researchers and innovative research proposals that demonstrate exceptional scientific merit. This fellowship type will be offered on an alternating basis.

MSBase Fostering Knowledge Fellowship

Aim:

The primary purpose of the Foundation's Fostering Knowledge Fellowship is to broaden and extend clinical research capabilities at MSBase centres in low to upper-middle income countries that lack strong statistical expertise. The fellowship is aimed at candidates who can demonstrate an interest in MS, MG, anti-MOG or NMO, as well as applied biostatistics. It is designed to support individuals at an early stage of their research career seeking to build their statistical analysis skills and experience, rather than those with an established research portfolio.
Referring to the list of approved MSBase host institutions provided in Appendix 1, candidates are expected to approach a host supervisor of their choice to negotiate a project proposal.

Eligibility:

- Applicants are expected to have completed university level studies with a bachelor, master degree or MD or PhD.
- Applicants must be from a **registered MSBase centre in a low to upper middle-income country**, as defined by The World Bank.
- If the MSBase centre has contributed less than 50 patient datasets to the registry at the time of application, it is expected they will commit to uploading at least 50 patient datasets within 1 year of the fellowship award concluding. The Principal Investigator (PI) at the fellow's home institution must provide a written statement agreeing to this requirement to support the application.
- Applications will only be accepted online through the MSBase website. Project proposals must be developed in collaboration with and endorsed by an approved MSBase host institution.
- Two letters of support must be provided as part of the online application process; from the centre PI at the fellow's home institution, and from the centre PI at the proposed host institution (see online application form for further instructions).

Funding & duration:

MSBase will support the Fellow for a period of one year at the annual rate of AUD 120,000.
It is expected the fellow will spend a minimum of 6 months at the host institution.
The Award will be granted to the MSBase Fellow's host institution on behalf of the Fellow. The host institution is responsible for administering the award funds in accordance with its prevailing procedures and policies, and the purposes for which the application was submitted. Funding is primarily intended for the Fellow's salary support, travel and tuition. The Award funds shall not be used for any other purpose, unless specified in the budget provided in the Fellowship Application. No portion of the award shall be used for institutional overhead expenses.

Expectations & Conditions:

- Between approval and commencement of the award, the Fellow is expected to undergo basic training in biostatistics and must provide proof of completion prior to the fellowship commencement date, i.e. via an online training course.
- The Fellow must sign the standard MSBase Foundation Confidentiality Agreement and execute a Fellowship Letter of Agreement.
- The MSBase Fellowship is NOT a clinical fellowship. The successful applicant may spend up to 30% of time in clinical care during the fellowship.
- Funding must be paid to a not-for-profit host institution for distribution to the Fellow.
- Funding can only be used for the expenses as detailed in the approved budget.
- Host institution must submit a financial acquittal report at the end of the Fellowship.
- Should the fellowship not proceed, or the Fellow does not use all the funds during the period of the Fellowship, the funds must be returned to the MSBase Foundation.
- The Fellow is required to submit a brief project status update at the six-month mark summarising work completed, progress against the approved project plan, and any anticipated barriers, delays, or other issues that may impact the expected project delivery.
- There should be a minimum of one publication as output of the fellowship. The publication, or notification regarding acceptance of a publication, must be submitted to the MSBase Foundation within 6 months of completion of the award.
- Fellow must submit a final report detailing their research project and findings within 90 days of completion of the award.
- The fellow is expected to integrate the skills and experience gained during the fellowship to their home institution upon their return and must be willing to provide a report on the impact of the fellowship one year post funding
- Fellows will be expected to arrange their own travel visas as required

Application Timeline

21 OCTOBER 2026

APPLICATIONS OPEN

Application guide and online form live on the MSBase website

APPLICATION WINDOW

CANDIDATES PREPARE

- Review application guide
- Contact preferred host institution
- Develop project proposal in collaboration with supervisor
- Collate all required supporting documents

28 FEBRUARY 2027

APPLICATIONS CLOSE

Candidates submit their project proposals and required supporting documents

MARCH/APRIL 2027

FELLOW ANNOUNCED

MSBase Fellowship Committee review submissions and deliberate

APPENDIX 1: MSBASE HOST INSTITUTIONS

The following volunteer host institutions are hubs of research excellence, led by longstanding, highly engaged MSBase Principal Investigators, endorsed by the Scientific Leadership Group.

Candidates should review this appendix of approved MSBase host institutions and select a host to approach to discuss a project concept.

Should the host agree to collaborate, the supervisor will work directly with the fellow to develop the project proposal and training plan. The supervisor will also provide a Letter of Support to endorse the project and hosting.



HOST 1:
ROYAL MELBOURNE HOSPITAL - NEUROIMMUNOLOGY CENTRE
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Country:	Australia
Principal Investigator:	Prof Tomas Kalincik
Contact address:	RMH-Core@mh.org.au, tomas.kalincik@unimelb.edu.au
Research group website:	CORe Melbourne

The RMH Neuroimmunology Centre is one of the most active centres participating in the MSBase collaboration. Of its cohort of more than 1500 patients, 1350 are enrolled in the global MSBase registry. The RMH Neuorimmunology Centre contributes to or leads multiple substudies and to the MSBIR MRI repository. The RMH Neuroimmunology Centre has actively participated at 107 of the studies published by MSBase. Its analytical team – the CORe – has led 65 of these publications, including some of its most impactful studies published in JAMA, Lancet Neurology, Lancet Child and Adolescent Health, JAMA Neurology and Brain. The Neuroimmunology Centre is recognised internationally for its leadership in outcomes research, using data from registries, cohorts and clinical trials. We regularly publish methodological studies, aiming at refining statistical methods used in outcomes research, including definitions of disease phenotypes, outcomes and novel approaches to associative and causal models.

The CORe team offers its fellows a stimulating learning environment. It includes two statisticians with detailed understanding of the clinical substrate two clinician-analysts, 6 PhD students (including two biostatistics postgraduates and a data engineer) and a visiting clinical and research fellows. The structured supervision of our fellows includes weekly progress meetings, monthly group meetings with focus on design of emerging research projects, and participation at structured learning – including courses offered by the University of Melbourne and Causal Lab on fundamentals of statistics, statistical programming skills, advanced modelling, predictive models, machine learning approaches and causal inference.

The CORe team has hosted and supervised visiting fellows from many of our collaborators, including DISSAL at University of Genoa, MS Group at University of Cambridge, University of Calgary, University of Copenhagen, University of Sydney, University of Lyon and others.

HOST 2:
CHARLES UNIVERSITY AND GENERAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL - THE CZECH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS REGISTRY (REMUS)
PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Country: Czech Republic
Principal Investigator: Prof Dana Horakova
Contact address: remus@multiplesclerosis.cz
Research group website: ReMuS MS

The Czech Multiple Sclerosis Registry (ReMuS), based in Prague, Czech Republic, is one of the major contributors to the MSBase collaboration and represents one of the largest national multiple sclerosis registries in Europe. ReMuS currently follows more than 20,000 patients with multiple sclerosis across a nationwide network of specialized MS centres in the Czech Republic. ReMuS has been actively involved in numerous MSBase projects and collaborative research initiatives and is committed to advancing high-quality clinical outcomes research in multiple sclerosis.

The fellowship would be hosted jointly by ReMuS and the Multiple Sclerosis Centre at the First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University and General University Hospital in Prague.

The proposed supervisory team includes:

- Jiří Drahota, CEO of ReMuS, with extensive experience in registry management, international collaborations, governance and implementation of nationwide healthcare databases.
- Prof. Dana Horáková, Medical Lead of ReMuS and internationally recognized expert in multiple sclerosis clinical research, epidemiology and registry-based studies.
- Dr. Dominika Šťastná, experienced clinical researcher with extensive involvement in MSBase-related projects and outcomes research.
- Dedicated biostatistical and data management support provided by experienced ReMuS team members.

A fellow hosted at ReMuS would gain hands-on experience in:

- registry-based clinical research in multiple sclerosis,
- real-world evidence generation,
- epidemiological and outcomes research,
- management and quality assurance of large-scale clinical databases,
- study design and scientific publication,
- collaboration within international research networks, including MSBase.

The fellow would participate in regular project meetings, structured mentorship with senior investigators, data analysis sessions, and all stages of scientific project development, from research question formulation to manuscript preparation. Depending on the fellow's interests and background, a tailored training programme could be developed focusing on clinical research, registry analytics, epidemiology, data management or outcomes research.

HOST 3:
THE ALFRED HOSPITAL AND MONASH UNIVERSITY MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Country:	Australia
Principal Investigator:	Prof Anneke van der Walt
Contact address:	anneke.vanderwalt@monash.edu
Research group website:	Alfred Health MSNI Clinic

The MS, Neuroimmunology and Neuro-ophthalmology (MSNI) Unit at the Alfred is one of Australia's largest MS services and the operational home of the MSBase Registry. The Registry's COO (Prof Anneke van der Walt) and Chief Investigator (Prof Helmut Butzkueven) are both based in the unit, giving fellows direct exposure to registry governance, data quality and study design.

The Alfred contributes to 18 MSBase sub-studies and leads the MSBase Pregnancy Registry and the MGBase Pregnancy Registry. Our site contributes data to most MSBase publications, and our data appear in more than 100 MSBase papers, with regular output in Brain, Lancet Neurology, Neurology and JAMA Neurology.

The research team includes clinician-scientists, biostatisticians, data managers and PhD students working across MS biomarkers, brain ageing, women's health in MS, neuro-ophthalmology and real-world evidence. Fellows join weekly research and clinical meetings, present at journal club and are expected to lead at least one MSBase analysis to publication. Supervision is led by Profs van der Walt and Butzkueven, with senior co-supervision from Prof Vilija Jokubaitis and Prof Mastura Monif. Postdoctoral fellows Dr Chao Zhu, Dr Anna He, Dr Wei Yeh, and Dr Daniel Merlo provide day-to-day support, covering methods training, statistical support, and manuscript preparation within a structured six-month plan.

HOST 4:
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
CAMBRIDGE, UNITED KINGDOM

Country:	United Kingdom
Principal Investigator:	Dr William Brown
Contact address:	wb255@cam.ac.uk
Research group website:	Cambridge Clinical MS Research

The University has a rich history in multiple sclerosis research, including the development of the first high-efficacy MS therapy (alemtuzumab) and leading the genetic understanding of MS. The Personalised Treatment group employs cutting-edge AI and novel trial emulation statistics to personalise treatments in MS (e.g. Brown JAMA 2019; Daruwalla Brain 2026).

MSBase fellows will benefit from close links to the internationally renowned Cambridge Centre for AI in Medicine, trial emulation statistical collaborators (at Bristol and Melbourne) and rich clinical experience in our routine care and research clinics. Cambridge is also a contributing site to MSBIR, enabling both clinical and MRI research questions to be answered.

HOST 5:
JOHN HUNTER HOSPITAL
NEWCASTLE, AUSTRALIA

Country:	Australia
Principal Investigator:	Prof Jeannette Lechner-Scott
Contact address:	Jeannette.LechnerScott@health.nsw.gov.au
Research group website:	MS Clinic Newcastle

The Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI) provides an outstanding environment for translational multiple sclerosis (MS) research, with close integration between research, clinical care and academic expertise. HMRI is embedded within the Hunter New England health and research ecosystem and is closely aligned with John Hunter Hospital, the major tertiary referral hospital for the region. This clinical proximity provides direct access to a large and diverse population of people with MS and other neurological disorders, supporting recruitment into clinical studies and enabling research findings to be rapidly translated into clinical practice.

The research environment includes access to modern laboratory facilities, biobanking and specialised research infrastructure, together with expertise in genomics, proteomics, immunology, bioinformatics and advanced neuroimaging. The proximity of these capabilities to clinical services facilitates the collection of longitudinal clinical, imaging and biological data within well-characterised patient cohorts.

The University of Newcastle provides an additional academic and research partnership, supporting access to multidisciplinary researchers, research platforms, postgraduate students and specialised scientific expertise. This combination of clinical facilities, research infrastructure and academic collaboration provides an ideal setting for integrated MS research, allowing clinical observations to be investigated through laboratory and imaging approaches and discoveries to be translated back into patient care. The established MS Research Team within HMRI further strengthens this environment through long-term clinical cohorts and international research collaborations.

APPLY NOW!

APPLY ONLINE VIA THE MSBASE WEBSITE:
MSBASE FELLOWSHIP

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 28 FEBRUARY 2027

PLEASE SUBMIT QUERIES TO INFO@MSBASE.ORG

MSBase Foundation
Level 6, 99 Commercial Rd
Melbourne, VIC, Australia