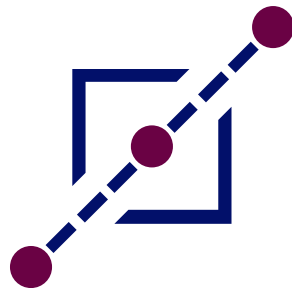


**Global Health Security**

# **Postdoctoral Fellowship**



**Frontier Fund**

Global Health Investment Corporation

2024-2028

**Program Lead**

Devin Sok, PhD

[FrontierFund@ghicfunds.org](mailto:FrontierFund@ghicfunds.org)

# About

## GHIC

The Global Health Investment Corporation was established as an independent not-for-profit corporation whose mission is to mobilize private, public and philanthropic capital to accelerate the development, commercialization and access to products and technologies to improve global health and strengthen global health security. A pioneer of investing in global health, GHIC has been supporting high impact biomedical innovations for nearly a decade. Our inaugural Global Health Investment Fund (GHIF) financed the development of new products to combat urgent public health challenges that disproportionately affect people living in low- and middle-income countries. Building on the success of GHIF, we have expanded our mission to pursue additional partnerships to develop and commercialize health technologies to strengthen global health security.

GHIC is led by a team of experienced private equity and venture capital investors and leaders in global public health. GHIC's team draws upon its global health partners and collaborators to identify and evaluate promising investment opportunities.

## Frontier Fund

The Frontier Fund is a non-dilutive grant program managed and led by GHIC with funding provided from BARDA DRIVE. The Frontier Fund will support early-stage translational research that will result in new innovations, platforms, and/or technologies that will unlock the development of new medical countermeasures for global health security. In addition, the fund will support early investigators through a fellowship program and will enrich the overall Frontier Fund portfolio through ecosystem building with key stakeholders, including the broader BARDA DRIVE network. The Frontier Fund grant program will run from 2024-2028.

## Frontier Fund Program Summary

The Frontier Fund is a USD 17.5 million non-dilutive grant program managed by GHIC with funding provided by BARDA DRIVE. The grant program will extend for four years (2024-2028) and will issue awards through sponsored-research agreements. These awards are designed to be nimble and flexible with minimal constraints to maximize exploratory and innovative research outputs. The scope of the Frontier Fund will span a diverse portfolio of research areas—including laboratory science, materials science and engineering, social sciences, and market research—if the proposed research project will result in breakthrough solutions that have the potential to solve persistent problems in health security.

The **goal** of the Frontier Fund is to support early-stage research that will contribute and/or lead directly to the invention of new platforms, tools, or technologies to address unmet needs and/or overcome prevailing research bottlenecks in global health security. In addition, by issuing targeted awards, the Frontier Fund will intentionally build and foster a community of investigators who are committed to pushing the boundaries of what is possible in global health security research across diverse and complementary research domains.

If these goals are achieved, the **outcomes** of the Frontier Fund are: 1) the generation of research outputs, data, and intellectual property that will lead to new public and/or private initiatives, including the discovery of new health security innovations and medical countermeasures, and 2) the establishment of research networks and a pipeline of investigators who will play leading roles in defining and pushing the global health security research agenda well into the future. The anticipated **impact** of the Frontier Fund is the creation of a critical mass of influential investigators who will drive the global health security research agenda in a sustainable and long-term way to be responsive to any future health security threat.

The **approach** of the Frontier Fund is to establish three funding pillars to capture investigators at different stages of career growth. First, funding will be provided to support two different scales of research for established investigators—a larger scale of funding called the “Innovation Showcase” to support consortiums of investigators and more targeted funding called “Research Initiatives” to address known research bottlenecks in health security. Second, early investigator fellowships will provide awards to early- and mid-career investigators who have bold and/or innovative ideas that are higher risk but have the potential to be high impact. In addition, the Frontier Fund will issue postdoctoral fellowships to support research across a wide range of disciplines that contribute to global health security research and innovation. Finally, the third area of funding will focus on ecosystem building, where the Frontier Fund will bring together funded investigators at all levels as well as a broad range of key stakeholders to advance a research agenda for global health security.

# **Award Terms and Conditions**

## **Eligibility**

Eligible applicants include investigators who are part of research institutions, non-profit organizations, universities and related academic institutions, focused research organizations, and other entities with the infrastructure and enabling resources to support innovation and early-stage research. Entities not based in the United States are eligible. US government institutions are not eligible to receive funding but can be part of collaborations and enabling partnerships.

## **Institutional Indirect Rates**

The cap for indirect rates for the Frontier Fund is set at 15% and higher indirect rates required by the institution are subject to further negotiation.

## **Sponsored Research Agreement Terms**

GHIC will distribute funding following execution of award agreements between GHIC and the recipient applicant. Funding will be distributed as milestone-based payments following completion of agreed upon project deliverables and subject to research progress. Foreground intellectual property generated using funding from the Frontier Fund will be subject to a conditional license option to GHIC and a right for GHIC to designate a licensee. General terms include:

- The funding recipient and GHIC will agree to a Global Access Plan (including, e.g., timeline to out-license or otherwise commercialize the IP, or other commitments regarding development or commercialization), which they will review and update as development progresses.
- If the Global Access Plan is not met, GHIC will have the right to negotiate a license to foreground IP.
- Out-licensing terms will include the Global Access Plan commitments and conditional license option.

## **Post-award monitoring**

Applicants will be required to submit an annual report detailing progress against proposed objectives, milestones, and outcomes. Annual or quarterly project presentations may be requested in addition to the annual report, subject to agreements with the Program Lead. Annual reporting components will include the following sections:

- Summary of research progress (1-2 pages)
- Table documenting completed objectives and milestones (1 page)
- Proposed next steps, including documenting any changes to proposed milestones and project outcomes based on research outputs and findings (2 pages)
- Table of publications relevant to the research project (1 page)
- Summary of patent filings and anticipated IP (1 page)
- Summary of related research projects submitted and funded by other sources (1 page)

# Global Health Security Postdoctoral Fellowships

The Global Health Security Postdoctoral Fellowship is designed to support outstanding investigators who have recently completed their graduate programs. This fellowship aims to provide emerging scholars with the resources and opportunities to join leading research labs and engage in advanced research that addresses critical challenges in global health security. Over the course of two to three years, fellows will receive supportive funding, mentorship and networking opportunities to advance their research projects and develop as leaders in global health security. The primary objective of this fellowship is to nurture early-career researchers to pursue innovative and impactful research in global health security by supporting their integration into top research labs.

## Deadlines

- First round:
  - Open: August 1, 2024
  - Close: October 1, 2024
  - Announcement: November 1, 2024
  - Funding start: January 1, 2025
- Second round:
  - Open: January 1, 2025
  - Close: March 1, 2025
  - Announcement: April 1, 2025
  - Funding start: May 1, 2025

## Eligibility

- Applicants: recent graduates who have completed their doctoral degrees within the past three years and are affiliated with academic or research institutions.
- Geography: open to researchers affiliated with institutions in most countries, promoting a diverse and global perspective on health security challenges.
- Institutions: open to applicants from academic institutions, research institutes, nonprofit organizations, focused research organizations, and other related or similar institutions.

## Scope

- Research area: projects should align with global health security priorities, addressing issues such as infectious disease outbreaks, bioterrorism, antimicrobial resistance, and health system resilience. A wide range of disciplines (immunology, microbiology, virology, material science, market research, etc.) are in scope.

## Funding

- Funding Amount: Up to \$250,000 in total costs over two or three years.

## Selection Criteria

- Review process: proposals will be reviewed by GHIC and BARDA DRIVE. External review might be utilized if needed.
- Criteria for selection:
  - *Relevance*: alignment with global health security priorities
  - *Innovation*: does the project propose a new approach, method, or technology to solve an existing problem
  - *Growth potential*: investigator potential to be a prominent research leader in the field
  - *Feasibility*: what is the likelihood of successful completion of the project

## Application

- Research proposal (template provided below)
- CV or biosketch (< 5 pages)
- Statement of career and scientific leadership goals (< 1 page)
- Two letters of recommendation (1-2 pages/each)

# Postdoctoral Fellowship Proposal Template

- 1. Executive Summary / Abstract (~0.5 page):** overview of the proposed research project or idea, including its significance (why is it important), objectives (what are you aiming to achieve), and potential impact (what change would come about if the project is successful).
- 2. Introduction / Problem Statement (~ 0.5 page):** setup context and propose the research question, hypothesis, platform or technology idea; what bottleneck will you address and what is the relevance to global health security
- 3. Anticipated outcomes / Significance / Impact (< 1 page):** what outcomes will the idea and/or proposal achieve; provide perspectives on the significance of the proposal and the anticipated impact
- 4. Approach and methodology (< 2 pages):** provide details on experimental approaches, include preliminary data if available to support feasibility, provide evidence or rationale for how and why the aim would be achieved
- 5. Anticipated pitfalls / Risks (~ 0.5 page):** what are the risks or anticipated pitfalls for the proposed approach and what are potential approaches to mitigate those risks; what will we learn from if the idea or project fails to achieve its aims
- 6. Project timelines and milestone payment plans (~ 0.5 page):** anticipated start and end dates for each proposed aim or objective; dates for anticipated milestones and the required funding for each milestone stage