REGULATION/STANDING ORDER 5
THE SYDNEY BRENNER FELLOWSHIPS

Award of fellowships
5.1 The Sydney Brenner Fellowships shall be awarded for scholars engaged in post-doctoral studies in the molecular and cellular biosciences conducted at an advanced level within South Africa.

5.2 The Fellowships shall be awarded for a two-year period, on a competitive basis, to nationals of any country, primarily or only as personal support for high-level research work in a suitable department, unit or institute of a South African institution.

Selection procedures
5.3 The selection process shall be conducted by ASSAf and shall comprise public advertisement; short listing and selection by a selection committee; and appointment in the particular institution where the Fellowship is held, as an externally funded post-doctoral Fellowship.

5.4 The ASSAf Council shall appoint the selection committee for the Fellowships after a call has been issued by no later than 15 April in any year, for volunteers from the full ASSAf Membership.

5.5 The committee shall have no more than four members, and shall be chaired by an ASSAf Member who is a specialist in the molecular biosciences.

5.6 Applications may be submitted as nominations by institutions or directly by individuals, and must provide full details of preceding doctoral work and publications; a description of the rationale and methodology of the proposed project, including evidence of operational funding, facilities and equipment that does not depend on the Fellowship award; and the names of at least three contactable referees. The closing date for nominations and/or applications shall be no later than 15 April in any year.

5.7 The emphasis in the selection criteria shall be on the excellence of the academic track record; evidence of unusual creativity and ingenuity in addressing scientific problems; both the novelty and the feasibility of the proposed approach; and the quality, adequacy and appropriateness of the host environment.

5.8 The selection committee shall draw up a shortlist of candidates, and will interview them, and submit and motivate its recommendation for the award, no later than 15 August in any year.

5.9 The number of Sydney Brenner Fellowships awarded shall depend on available funding, but shall be not less than one individual every two years.

5.10 Dr Sydney Brenner shall for as long as this is feasible, be kept informed of awards made in his name, and he may, at his discretion, make contact with the Fellow(s) and, with some assistance from ASSAf, provide mentoring and encouragement as far as this is possible and convenient for him.

5.11 Media coverage shall be arranged with a view to ensuring that the Fellowship becomes recognised nationally and internationally, and serves as a stimulus and incentive for creative and excellent research in the molecular and cellular biosciences in South Africa and Africa generally.

5.12 Additional funders of the Fellowships shall be recognised as such in the annual advertisements, including the website notice, as well as media releases as under the above item. Periodic progress reports submitted by the Fellows shall also be supplied to such funders.

Renewals of award
5.13 Continuation of the grant for the second year of the award shall be subject to the submission of a satisfactory progress report on the first year’s work. This is to be submitted through the research administration of the host institution concerned, considered and approved by the chairperson of the selection committee in consultation with other members.

5.14 The Fellowship may not be deferred or delayed unless approval has been sought and granted by the Academy.

Transfer of funds
5.15 The funding for the Fellowship will be transferred to the host institution which will manage the funds that shall be paid to the candidate in equal quarterly instalments. A separate memorandum of understanding shall be entered into between the Academy and the host institution concerned.

5.16 In the case of early termination of the Fellowship agreement, the host institution shall reimburse to the Academy, on a pro rata basis, any amount still held in its possession for the research. The candidate shall also submit a progress report up to where his/her research supported by the funds provided has ended.