



The Welch Foundation
Advancing Chemistry, Improving Life

Welch eXperimental Collaboration Retreats (WelchX)

2026 Call for Applications

Application Deadline: Saturday, February 28, 2026

The theme for the WelchX 2026 collaboration retreat is “Chemistry of Life”

The retreat’s activities are designed to spur creative, innovative, collaborative ideas that address the most challenging and unexplored issues in bioorganic, medicinal, analytical, and macromolecular chemistry that relate to biological processes; the chemistry of life in its broadest interpretation.

Participation Requirements:

The WelchX 2026 retreat is a fully in-person event that will take place at The Post Oak Hotel at Uptown Houston in Houston, Texas from June 8-11, 2026 (Monday evening – Thursday midday). There is no registration fee. Hotel and most meal expenses will be covered by The Welch Foundation; faculty participants are responsible for covering their transportation costs to and from the retreat.

Following the retreat experience, proposal teams will work together to refine their concepts and craft a brief, formal proposal for Welch support (\$100,000 for one year).

- June 26, 2026: Final proposals due via ProposalCentral
- July 2026: Proposals reviewed by Welch Scientific Advisory Board
- July 2026: Welch Board approval of WelchX pilot grants
- August 1, 2026: Funded projects begin

Eligibility:

To participate in the retreat, you must first apply and be selected by the WelchX organizing committee. All early- to mid-career tenured faculty in chemical science disciplines at Texas institutions are eligible to apply. The organizing committee will also consider late-stage Assistant Professors who articulate a compelling rationale for participating (see Required Application Materials). Participants must adhere to the Participation Requirements, including attending the retreat in Houston in its entirety.



The Welch Foundation

Advancing Chemistry, Improving Life

Required Application Materials:

Submit the following materials as a PDF via Email to conference@welch1.org no later than **Saturday, February 28, 2026. Please make sure your name is at the top of each document:**

1. (Maximum of 1 page) A statement describing your vision as it relates to **this year's topic** and your interest in participating in WelchX.
 - a. You may describe your relevant expertise and experience in this field or closely related fields.
 - b. Reference citations aren't necessary, but if included, citations should be in-line in the text.
2. (Maximum of 1 page) A statement describing a research collaboration you have engaged in that you have valued the most. What made this collaboration so meaningful for you?
3. (Maximum of 3 pages) An NIH-style biosketch, including past and current appointments, current grant funding (sources, amounts, project titles, funding period), and up to five (5) publications most closely related to the expertise you wish to bring to the WelchX retreat.

Application Review and Selection:

A committee consisting of Welch Foundation and Texas academic institutional leaders will review applicants' materials and select up to 24 applicants to participate in the WelchX retreat. Applicants will be selected based on the unique perspectives and expertise that they could bring to the retreat, with consideration given to balancing institutional representation and sub-disciplinary expertise. Decisions will be announced on or around April 1, 2026. If you accept the invitation to participate, you will be expected to attend the June retreat in Houston in its entirety.

Program Overview and Purpose:

This program was initiated to foster chemistry research collaborations in Texas by stimulating researchers to ideate on challenging issues of our time. WelchX retreat participants will develop the collaborative concepts they design at the retreat into funding proposals to be considered for Welch Foundation collaboration awards (\$100,000 for one year).

The goals of WelchX are:

- to stimulate collaborations in significant emerging areas of chemistry, broadly defined,
- to foster lasting connections among the participants, and
- to increase the density of research ties across Texas to spur the growth of basic research.

By focusing on problems of common interest amongst the participants and by intentional design of the meeting format we aim to create lasting intellectual and professional bonds between chemists across Texas.

For more information, go to <https://welch1.org/grants-programs/welchx-retreat-and-pilot-grants>
Questions can be addressed to conference@welch1.org