

Call for Applications

2010 MGH Physician/Scientist Development Award

**Four Year Awards for Investigators
who are Underrepresented in Academic Medicine***

Deadline: 3:00 pm, March 4, 2010

* Basic, Clinical, Translational, and Health Services investigators are all eligible

Applications for grants are invited by the MGH Multicultural Affairs Office (MAO) and the Executive Committee On Research (ECOR). The four-year award is for \$30,000 per year, plus 15% for indirect costs. The \$30,000 award has two components: a minimum of \$15,000 maybe used for laboratory assistance and non-capital equipment and a maximum of \$15,000 to repay educational loans.

The MGH Physician/Scientist Development Award is designed for MD and/or PhD investigators at MGH who are considered underrepresented (URM) in academic medicine. This Award is intended to provide transitional funding for support in the development of physician/scientists underrepresented in academic medicine, and thereby increase opportunities for URM researchers to advance to senior positions in academic medicine at MGH. The Multicultural Affairs Office will evaluate the need for this Award on a regular basis.

URMs in academic medicine include Hispanics, African Americans, Alaskan Natives and American Indians, among other underrepresented racial/ethnic groups in medicine.¹ The MGH Multicultural Affairs Office's mission is, in part, to promote the careers of outstanding clinical and basic scientists who are underrepresented in academic medicine at MGH, and to build a more diverse workforce.

Despite some improvement in the number of URMs entering U.S. medical schools, the number of physicians-of-color entering training programs in academic medicine has not kept pace with this available pool. This fact is particularly manifested in the number of URMs occupying academic research faculty positions in the United States. The reasons for this disparity are multifaceted and complex, but two factors -- a lack of carefully structured, effective mentoring, and the large level of indebtedness facing many physicians of color -- are often cited. The dearth of minority physicians in academic hospital programs creates a critical void: It dilutes the effort to break new ground in basic and clinical investigation of disease and is an impediment to the delivery of innovative, culturally competent care to our patients.

¹ As currently defined by the HMS Center of Excellence in Minority Health and Health Disparities (COE), The American Association of Medical Colleges and the National Institute of Health; this definition may be modified from time to time by these institutions.

The Application deadline is 3:00 pm, March 4, 2010. Applications must be delivered to the office for the Executive Committee On Research (ECOR), 50 Staniford Street, 10th floor. Questions maybe addressed to Elena Olson, Executive Director, Multicultural Affairs Office, at 617-724-3831 or ebolson@partners.org.

Application Guidelines

- The MAO Physician/Scientist Development Award provides funding for physician/scientists and researchers who are considered to be underrepresented in medicine.
- Both basic and clinical research investigators are encouraged to apply.
- Proposals will be evaluated and ranked for funding priority by the ECOR Subcommittee on Review of Research Proposals (SRRP), whose recommendations will be submitted to ECOR and MAO for final approval. All applicants will be notified of the results by e-mail.

Eligibility

- M.D. and/or Ph.D., within 5 years of completion of fellowship training at the time of application.
- Must have a primary appointment at the Massachusetts General Hospital at the time of the application and throughout the full period of the Award.
- Must hold an appointment at the level of assistant professor, instructor, or fellow at Harvard Medical School. (If Award recipient is a fellow, the person must receive a faculty appointment at HMS & MGH within 2 years of commencement of the Award for the award to continue.)
- Must have demonstrated superior academic and/or clinical skills and be committed to a career in academic medicine.
- U.S. citizenship or permanent residence.

Award Expenditures and Start Date

- The duration of the Award is four years, and the Award cycle will commence on July 1, 2010. A maximum of \$120,000.00 will be awarded over a four-year period, with up to \$30,000.00 per year of funding as detailed below: (1) Grant funds between \$15,000 and \$30,000 per year, which may be used only for laboratory assistance and non-capital equipment. Funds may be used for Awardee salary only with specific advance approval. (2) Loan repayment up to a maximum of \$15,000 per year. Loan repayment funds must be used to repay qualified educational loans, and must be based on documented need. Any funds awarded to repay outstanding loans will be paid as a cash bonus to the Awardee and are taxable.
- The Award is non-transferable. If the Awardee leaves MGH during the duration period of the Award, the Awardee must notify MAO and will forfeit any remaining funding or loan forgiveness of the Award.
- The Awardee will be required to submit a yearly progress report and budget to MAO, which must provide details of how the Award funding is being used.
- If applicable, approved Human or Animal Use protocols must be current prior to award of funds.

Applications must include the following information:

1. Completed Standard MGH Research Proposal Coversheet with signatures. The form is available at the following address: <http://mghresearch.partners.org/Forms/Formshome.aspx> Click on "Partners Research Proposal Coversheet" and insert the following information on the coversheet:
 - Department Contact Name (Grant and/or Business Manager)
 - Immediate Sponsor: MGH Physician Scientist Development Award
 - Proposal Due Date: March 4, 2010
 - Originating Sponsor: MAO and ECOR
 - RFA/RFP/PANo./or cut and paste Sponsor URL: Leave this box blank
 - Activity Type: Indicate if it is clinical research or non-clinical research
 - Agreement Type: Grant
 - Proposal Type: New
 - Total Project Costs: \$120,000
2. Title page, including:
 - Title of research project
 - Applicant's Name, MGH Unit Number, Service or Department and Unit, MGH and HMS professional appointments, Office or laboratory address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address
3. Research plan (5-page limit, excluding references), including:
 - Specific aims
 - Background and significance
 - Preliminary data
 - Experimental design and methods
 - References
 - Copies of approved Human or Animal use protocols, if applicable
4. NIH Biosketch of the applicant
5. Listing of current and pending other support (NIH format)
6. Grant Proposal budget per year/ for 4 years. (The total budget for grant and debt repayment cannot exceed \$30,000/year for 4 years. A minimum of \$15,000/ year should be allocated to the grant component of this Award.)
7. Debt information for which you are requesting loan repayment. Please provide appropriate documentation from the loan repayment agency. (The total combined budget for grant and debt repayment cannot exceed \$30,000/year for 4 years. A maximum of \$15,000/year may be allocated to the Loan Repayment component of this Award).
8. Personal Statement -- in which the candidate states the importance of this Award to furthering his/her career development and advancement in academic medicine.
9. Project plan -- 4 years in duration -- completion of which substantially benefits from the support derived from this Award. The plan should be structured around laboratory or clinical investigation.

10. Letters of support from:

a) Department Chair. This letter must include:

- Commitment to hire this individual on faculty, if not already an MGH faculty member, within 2 years of Award commencement.
- Commitment to continue to support this individual in their career development over time.
- Potential role this individual will play in the department/division over time.
- Statement explaining how the funds supplied by this Award (up to \$30,000.00/ year for 4 years) will alter the Awardee's activities and relate to his/her career goals.
- Agreement to meet with this individual bi-annually for career planning meetings.

b) Mentor. This letter must include:

- Description of the mentor's role in the project.
- Commitment from mentor to support the Awardee for a minimum of the 4-year grant period.

11. Current IRB or IACUC approval letter, if applicable.

Submission

- One original application, and 10 Copies of the application, single sided, stapled, on standard size bond paper
- To the office for the Executive Committee On Research (ECOR), 50 Staniford Street, 10th Floor, Suite 1001
- Deadline: No later than 3 pm, March 4, 2010.
- Award winner will be announced by the end of April, 2010.

For further information, please contact Elena Olson, Executive Director, at 4-3831 or ebolson@partners.org.