Application Deadlines:

- **Founders Affiliate – Jan. 15, 2016**
- **Great Rivers Affiliate – Jan. 12, 2016**
- **Greater Southeast Affiliate – Jan. 15, 2016 Mid-**
- **Atlantic Affiliate – Jan. 12, 2016**
- **Midwest Affiliate – Jan. 13, 2016**
- **SouthWest Affiliate – Jan. 14, 2016**
- **Western States Affiliate – Jan. 14, 2016**

Award Activation Date: July 1, 2016

Applications must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. CDT on the deadline date. The system will shut down at 5:00 p.m. CDT. Early submission is encouraged. Your institutional Grants Officer (GO) has the final responsibility of submitting your completed application to the American Heart Association. It is important that you check with your GO for his/her internal deadline.

Program Description, Eligibility and Peer Review Criteria

Success Rates

Objective

To encourage early career investigators who have appropriate and supportive mentoring relationships to engage in high quality introductory and pilot clinical studies that will guide future strategies for reducing cardiovascular disease and stroke while fostering new research in clinical and translational science, and encouraging community- and population-based activities.

This grant does not fund basic science or support senior researchers, but encourages mentoring of early career investigators.

Science Focus

Funding is available for research related to cardiovascular disease and stroke prevention or treatment, or to related clinical and public health problems, including multidisciplinary efforts. Proposals are encouraged on provider behavior, patient behavior, behavioral outcomes, risk factor outcomes, disease outcomes, cost benefit analyses, efforts to evaluate outcomes of patient care delivery and patient/provider and/or system compliance and adherence to recommendations, as well as pilot clinical research studies that may provide preliminary data for larger-scale investigation. Studies using existing databases are also encouraged. Ancillary studies or a clearly defined sub-study of an ongoing clinical research study are also encouraged. There must, however, be clear justification that the proposal is a sub-study and not a piece of an already funded project.

Target Audience

- Healthcare professional with a masters or post-baccalaureate doctoral degree, including M.P.H., R.N., Pharm.D., M.D., D.O. or Ph.D.
- Interdisciplinary research teams are eligible.

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Individuals are not eligible to be the principal investigator if they hold or have held:

- Certain NIH awards (such as RO1, R21, PO1)
- Certain AHA awards (BGIA, SDG, EIA, GIA); or
- An award equivalent to any of the above (an independent investigator award)

Sponsor

All applicants must identify a sponsor with an earned doctorate and a track record of high quality clinical investigation.

Percent Effort

While no minimum percent effort is specified, the PI must demonstrate that adequate time will be devoted to ensure successful completion of the proposed project.

Citizenship

At the *time of application,* must have one of the following designations:

- U.S. citizen
- Permanent resident
- Pending permanent resident. Applicant must have applied for permanent residency and have filed form I-485 with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and have received authorization to legally remain in the U.S. (having filed an Application for Employment form I-765)
- E-3 Visa - specialty occupation worker
- H1-B Visa - temporary worker in a specialty occupation
- F-1 - Student Visa - temporary worker in a specialty occupation J-
- 1 Visa - exchange visitor
- O-1 Visa - temporary worker with extraordinary abilities in the sciences
- TN Visa - NAFTA Professional
- G-4 Visa - family member of employee of international organizations and NATO

Awardee must meet American Heart Association citizenship criteria throughout the duration of the award.

Applicants are not required to reside in the United States for any period before applying for American Heart Association funding.

Location of Work

The award may be completed at any accredited institution in the following funding component:

Founders - Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont
Great Rivers - Delaware, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania or West Virginia
Greater Southeast - Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, U.S. Virgin Islands
Mid-Atlantic - District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina or Virginia
Midwest - Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin
SouthWest - Arkansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Wyoming
Western States - Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington

American Heart Association research awards are limited to non-profit institutions, including: medical, osteopathic and

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dental schools, veterinary schools, schools of public health, pharmacy schools, nursing schools, universities and colleges, public and voluntary hospitals and others that can demonstrate the ability to conduct the proposed research. Applications will not be accepted for work with funding to be administered through any federal institution or work to be performed by a federal employee, except for Veterans Administration employees.

Funding is prohibited for awards at non-U.S. institutions.

Annual Budget

$77,000 per year, including 10% institutional direct costs.

Salary/Fringe: Up to 50% of total award may be used for salary and fringe benefits of the principal investigator, collaborating investigator(s), and other participants with faculty appointments, consistent with percent effort.

Project Support: Project-related expenses, such as salaries of technical personnel essential to the conduct of the project, supplies, equipment, travel, volunteer subject costs, and publication costs.

- Travel is limited to $3,000 per year
- International travel is permitted without prior AHA approval.

Award Duration: Two years

Total Award Amount: $154,000

Restrictions

- An investigator may not hold more than one AHA award concurrently.

Exception(s):

a) An investigator may hold two AHA grants (affiliate and association-wide) concurrently if all three apply:

1. There will be no more than six months remaining on the initial award.
2. The projects have no overlap in specific aims.
3. There is no budgetary overlap between the two projects.

b) Awardees from all affiliates may hold this award concurrently with the association-wide Innovative Research Grant.

- An applicant may submit only one affiliate application per deadline. If eligible, an applicant may simultaneously submit an application to an affiliate and to the association-wide award program. The proposed research plan may need to be adjusted based upon different length of award and dollars available. The deadline dates may be different for each submission. If both are funded, the applicant must choose one award.

- An applicant who is unsuccessful in a competition may resubmit the same or similar application three times (the original plus two resubmissions). The same or similar application submitted for the fourth time will be administratively withdrawn.

Peer Review Criteria

Contacting AHA peer reviewers concerning your application is deemed a form of scientific misconduct and will

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result in the removal of your application from funding consideration and institutional notification of ethical concerns.

This grant is not intended to fund basic science or to support senior researchers. Rather, it encourages the mentoring of early career clinical and population research investigators.

To judge the merit of the application, reviewers will comment on the following criteria. Please be sure that you and your sponsor or co-investigator fully address these in your proposal:

1. **Investigator:** Is the investigator appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers? Do the investigative team and sponsor bring complementary and integrated expertise to the project? Will this grant support the investigator's further development into an independent investigator?

2. **Environment:** Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Do the proposed studies benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, or subject populations, or employ useful collaborative arrangements? Is the strength and nature of the mentoring relationship appropriate? Is there evidence of institutional support?

3. **Significance:** Does this study address an important problem broadly related to cardiovascular disease or stroke? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge or clinical practice be advanced? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts, methods and technologies that drive this field?

4. **Approach:** Are the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, well-reasoned and feasible (as determined by preliminary data) and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics? Does the investigator have access to an appropriate population group for the study? Does the investigator address issues of statistical power when appropriate? If the proposal is for a pilot study is there a rationale for development of more definitive studies?

5. **Innovation:** Is the project original and innovative? For example: Does the project challenge existing paradigms and address an innovative hypothesis or critical barrier to progress in the field? Does the project develop or employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools or technologies for this area?

6. **Impact:** How does this project relate to and support the mission of the American Heart Association to **building healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke**?

Interim Reporting
Periodic reports and a final progress report from primary investigator(s) including research and training accomplishments, abstracts, and publications will be expected.

Evaluation
Publications, citations by others, ability to attract ongoing research funding, faculty advancement, and contribution of Association support to career advancement.

Mentored Clinical and Population Research Award

Application Deadlines: Association-wide – July 26, 2016

Award Activation Date: Jan. 1, 2017

The application must be submitted by 5 p.m. Central Time in Grants@Heart on the deadline date. The application will

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be submitted to the designated grant officer, who will submit it to the American Heart Association (AHA).

Program Description, Eligibility and Peer Review Criteria

Success Rates

Objective

To encourage early investigators with supportive mentoring relationships to conduct introductory pilot studies that will guide future strategies for reducing cardiovascular disease and stroke.

Science Focus

All population research broadly related to cardiovascular disease and stroke.

Target Audience

- Healthcare professional with a masters or post-baccalaureate doctoral degree, including M.P.H., R.N., Pharm.D., M.D., D.O. or Ph.D.
- Interdisciplinary research teams are eligible.

  While no minimum percent effort is required, the Principal Investigator must demonstrate that adequate time will be devoted to ensure successful completion of the project.

Sponsor

It is imperative that the applicant receive counsel and direction from a sponsor who holds a doctoral degree, has a track record of high quality clinical investigation, and who is invested in the progress of the project.

Citizenship

At the *time of application,* must have one of the following designations:

- United States citizen.
- Permanent resident.
- Pending permanent resident (any resident who has an approved I-765 form and has submitted an I-485 application with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services).
- E-3 Visa - specialty occupation worker.
- H1-B Visa - temporary worker in a specialty occupation. F-
- 1 - student visa.
- J-1 Visa - exchange visitor.
- O-1 Visa - temporary worker with extraordinary abilities in the sciences.
- TN Visa - NAFTA professional.
- G-4 Visa - family member of employee of international organizations.

The awardee must maintain one of the designations listed above throughout the duration of the award.

Location of Work

The project must be conducted at any accredited institution within the United States.

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American Heart Association research awards are limited to non-profit institutions, including: medical, osteopathic and dental schools, veterinary schools, schools of public health, pharmacy schools, nursing schools, universities and colleges, public and voluntary hospitals and other institutions that can demonstrate the ability to conduct the proposed research. Applications proposed by federal institution or employees will not be accepted, except for applications to the AHA's Cardiovascular Genome Phenome Study ("CVGPS"), and applications from Veterans Administration employees.

Funding is prohibited for projects conducted at institutions outside the United States.

Budget

Annual Award Amount: $77,000, including 10 percent institutional indirect costs.

Total Award Amount: $154,000

Indirect Costs: 10 percent of total annual award amount

Salary/Fringe: Up to 50 percent of total award amount for salary and fringe of the principal investigator, any collaborating investigators, and other participants with faculty appointments. Amount paid to participants may not exceed percent effort invested by those participants.

Project Support: Salaries of technical personnel without faculty appointments essential to the conduct of the project, supplies, equipment, volunteer subject costs, and publication costs.

- Travel is limited to $3,000 per year
- International travel is permitted without prior AHA approval.

Duration: Two years

Total Award Amount: $154,000

Restrictions

- The applicant may not be a current or past recipient of a National Institutes of Health R01 award, R21 award, P01 award, an AHA Beginning Grant-in-Aid, Established Investigator Award, Grant-in-Aid award, or Scientist Development Grant, or any award comparable to those awards.

- An investigator may not hold more than one AHA award concurrently.

  Exception(s):

  a) An investigator may hold two AHA grants (affiliate and association-wide) concurrently if all three apply:

1. There will be no more than six months remaining on the initial award.
2. The projects have no overlap in specific aims.
3. There is no budgetary overlap between the two projects.

  b) Awardees from all affiliates may hold this award concurrently with the association-wide Innovative Research Grant.

- The applicant may submit only one affiliate application and one association-wide application per deadline. If eligible, the applicant may simultaneously submit both an affiliate and an Association-wide application during the same funding cycle. If both applications are funded, the applicant must choose one award.

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- The applicant may submit the same or similar application three times (the original plus two resubmissions). The same or similar application submitted the fourth time will be administratively withdrawn.

- The awardee may not hold a comparable award as a source of supplementation.

- Submission of a Mentored Clinical and Population Research application that contains content that is identical or significantly similar to that of any other application -- especially the sponsor's grant application -- is prohibited. Both applications will be recommended for disapproval. However, both applications may be funded if aims are not duplicated.

Peer Review Criteria

[!--$include panelShortcode--]Contacting AHA peer reviewers concerning your application is deemed a form of scientific misconduct and will result in the removal of your application from funding consideration and institutional notification of ethical concerns.[!--$include panelShortcodeEnd--]

This grant is not intended to fund basic science or to support senior researchers. Rather, it encourages the mentoring of early career clinical and population research investigators.

To judge the merit of the application, reviewers will comment on the following criteria. These should be fully addressed by the applicant, sponsor or co-investigator in the proposal:

1. **Investigator:** Is the investigator appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers? Do the investigative team and sponsor bring complementary and integrated expertise to the project? Will this grant support the investigator's further development into an independent investigator?

2. **Environment:** Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Do the proposed studies benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, or subject populations, or employ useful collaborative arrangements? Is the strength and nature of the mentoring relationship appropriate? Is there evidence of institutional support?

3. **Significance:** Does this study address an important problem broadly related to cardiovascular disease or stroke? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge or clinical practice be advanced? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts, methods and technologies that drive this field?

4. **Approach:** Are the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, well-reasoned and feasible (as determined by preliminary data) and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics? Does the investigator have access to an appropriate population group for the study? Does the investigator address issues of statistical power when appropriate? If the proposal is for a pilot study is there a rationale for development of more definitive studies?

5. **Innovation:** Is the project original and innovative? For example: Does the project challenge existing paradigms and address an innovative hypothesis or critical barrier to progress in the field? Does the project develop or employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools or technologies for this area?

6. **Impact:** How does this project relate to and support the mission of the American Heart Association to **building healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke**?

Interim Reporting
Awardees are required to submit annual progress reports that address research and training accomplishments, and abstracts and publications produced.

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