



National Heart
Lung and Blood Institute
People Science Health

American Heart
Association® 
Learn and Live

How to Become a Cardiovascular Investigator
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*Transitional Funding Mechanisms
for Young Investigators*



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*The M.D.-investigator is
an endangered species*

The transition from fellow to faculty is one of the most difficult hurdles on the path to a career as a clinical investigator

American Heart
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Learn and Live

Research Program

An AHA Strategic Goal:

Identify opportunities and implement programs to increase the number of beginning investigators (those with no more than 4 years since their first full-time faculty/staff appointment).

AHA Portfolio of Research Programs

- ◆ Predoctoral Fellowship
- ◆ Postdoctoral Fellowship
- ◆ Beginning Grant-in-Aid
- ◆ **Scientist Development Grant**
- ◆ Established Investigator Grant
- ◆ Grant-in-Aid
- ◆ **Fellow-to-Faculty Transition Award**

Scientist Development Grant

- Supports highly promising beginning scientists in their progress toward independence
- Intent is to encourage and adequately fund projects that can serve to bridge the gap between completion of research training and readiness for successful competition as an independent investigator

Scientist Development Grant

- Target Audience: MD, PhD, DO or equivalent doctoral degree at application
- Applicants should be faculty/staff member initiating independent research careers, usually at the rank of Instructor or Assistant Professor (or their equivalents)
- 4 years or less of faculty appointment

Scientist Development Grant

Citizenship:

- US citizen
- Permanent resident
- Foreign national holding
J-1, H-1B, TN, or O-1 visa

Scientist Development Grant

Budget:

- Up to \$24,091/yr for PI salary, fringe benefits, *and* 10% indirect costs
- *At least* \$35,000/yr for project support
- All the award may be for project support and 10% indirect costs, if PI salary/fringes not requested
- Maximum total amount \$65,000/yr

Scientist Development Grant

Success rate = 24%

Award duration = 4 years

Fellow-to-Faculty Transition Award

- ◆ Provides funding to physician scientists during critical period of career development spanning completion of research training through early years of first faculty/staff position
- ◆ Intent of award is to provide a supportive mentored experience during this transition period

Fellow-to-Faculty Transition Award

- ◆ Target Audience: MD, MD/PhD, DO needing additional research training under sponsor/mentor supervision before independent research
- ◆ ACGME accredited training program
- ◆ Citizenship: US Citizen
Permanent resident
Foreign national holding
H-1B, TN, or O1 visa

Fellow-to-Faculty Transition Award

- ◆ Training portion:
 - Up to \$65,000/yr (\$50,000 salary)
(no indirect costs)
- ◆ First faculty/staff appointment:
 - Up to \$132,000/yr (\$90,000 salary)
(including 10% indirect costs)
- ◆ Total = 5 year maximum @ \$593,000
- ◆ Duration = 5 years, with annual review

Fellow-to-Faculty Transition Award

Success rate = 24%

Other Programs for Beginning Investigators

- ◆ *Beginning Grant-in-Aid*
- ◆ *Established Investigator Grant*

Other Programs for Beginning Investigators

◆ *Beginning Grant-in-Aid:*

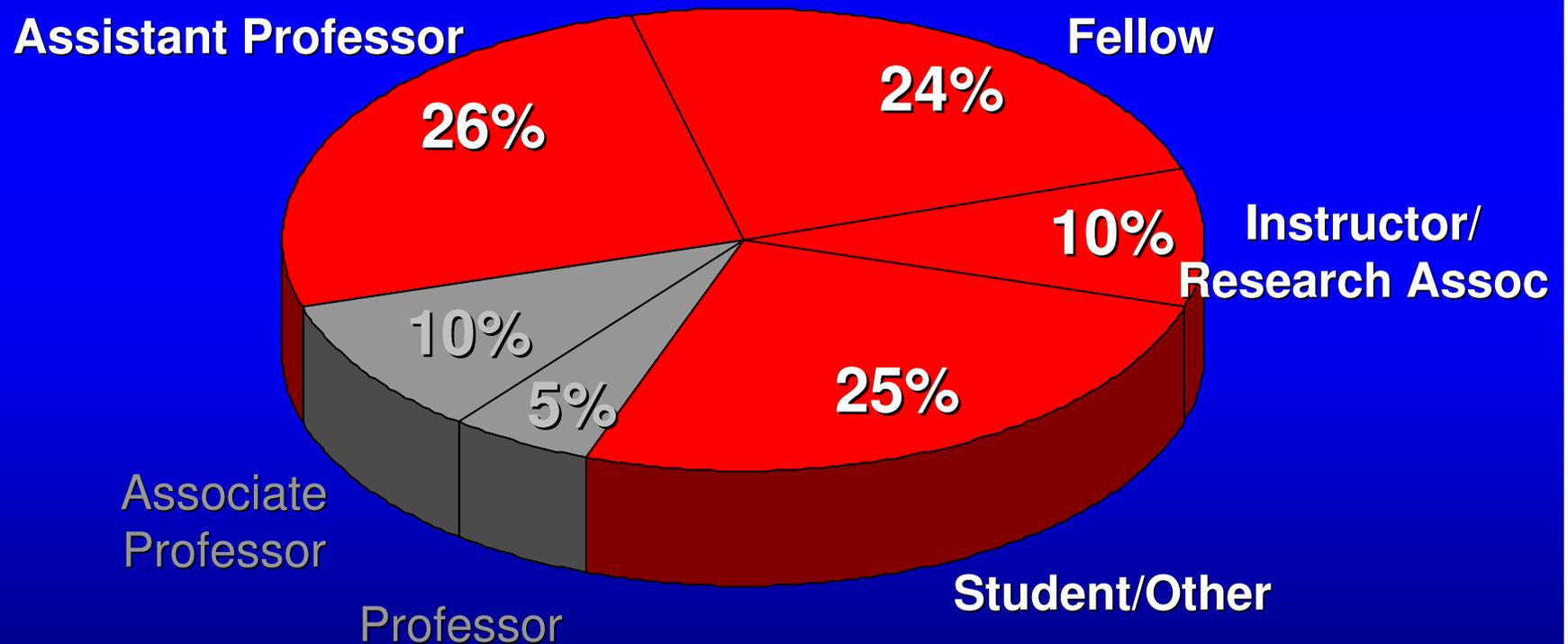
- To promote the independent status of promising beginning scientists
- Up to and including assistant professor or equivalent

Other Programs for Beginning Investigators

◆ *Established Investigator Grant:*

- To support career development of highly promising, independent investigators by funding innovative innovative projects not funded elsewhere
- 4-9 years since first faculty/staff appointment at assistant professor level

AHA Research Funding Summary 2006



Total funding \$150 million

AHA Research Program Information

<http://www.americanheart.org/research>

<http://my.americanheart.org>

AHA Research Program Information

<http://my.americanheart.org>

- Applications: program descriptions, instructions, forms, electronic submission
- Peer review: committees, process, policies
- Awards: award initiation and reporting, lay summaries
- About our research program: awardee lists, statistics, major advances



ACCF Research Awards

- ACCF/Merck Research Fellowships in Cardiovascular Disease and the Metabolic Syndrome (**new focus**)
 - ACCF/Harry B. Graf Career Development Award for Heart Disease Prevention
 - ACCF/William F. Keating Career Development Award for Hypertension and Peripheral Vascular Disease
 - ACCF/GE Healthcare Cardiovascular Career Development Awards
 - ACCF/Pfizer Career Development Awards in Clinical or Preventive Cardiovascular Medicine
 - **NEW** ACCF/Guidant Foundation Fellowship and Career Development Award in Women's Cardiovascular Health
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ACCF/Merck Research Fellowship in Cardiovascular Disease and the Metabolic Syndrome

- One-year research fellowships
 - Preference given to individuals with no more than 2 years of prior full-time research experience
 - Preference given to proposals addressing diabetes or the metabolic syndrome as they relate to cardiovascular disease
 - Research environment is important
 - 4 fellowships awarded per year
 - \$60,000 for each award
 - Full-time research commitment
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ACCF Endowment Awards

- Intent is to foster the early research career development of junior cardiovascular faculty
 - Applicants must be within 5 years of completion of training
 - Academic rank of Instructor or Assistant Professor
 - Members of ACC
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ACCF Endowment Awards

- One-year research awards
 - \$65,000 per award, solely for salary support
 - Full-time research commitment
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ACCF Endowment Awards

- ACCF/William F. Keating Award for Hypertension and Peripheral Vascular Disease
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ACCF/GE Healthcare Cardiovascular Career Development Awards in Cardiovascular Imaging

- Intent is to foster the early research career development of junior cardiovascular faculty in the area of imaging technologies and targeted imaging agents.
 - Applicants must be within 5 years of completion of training
 - Academic rank of Instructor or Assistant Professor
 - Members of ACC
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ACCF/GE Healthcare Cardiovascular Career Development Awards in Cardiovascular Imaging

- 2 two-year research awards
 - \$65,000/year per award, solely for salary support
 - Full-time research commitment
-



ACCF/Pfizer Career Development Awards in Clinical or Preventive Cardiovascular Medicine

- Each medical school or teaching hospital may submit the name of one candidate per year
 - \$65,000 per year for three years
 - Up to 2 recipients a year
 - Instructor or assistant professor not more than 5 years from completion of training
 - Members of the ACC
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ACCF/Guidant Foundation Fellowship and Career Development Award in Women's Cardiovascular Health

- To encourage clinical research that will broaden scientific knowledge related to the mechanisms or treatment of cardiovascular disease in women
 - Preference will be given to applicants from institutions with a functioning women's heart health program.
 - 1 Career Development Award and 1 Fellowship
 - Each is \$65,000 a year for two years for salary support
 - Members of the ACC
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ACCF/Guidant Foundation Fellowship and Career Development Award in Women's Cardiovascular Health

Fellows

- Current fellow or within one year of training
- Relevant research experience in women's CV health
- Mentor with recognized experience in treatment or research in CV disease in women
- Members of the ACC

Faculty

- Instructor or assistant professor
 - No more than 5 years from completion of training
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ACCF Research Awards

www.acc.org/about/award/awardopps.htm



VA Transition Awards

Clinical Research Career Development Awards



VA Career Development Awards

Intent is to foster the research careers of clinician scientists who are not yet fully independent but who seek to become independent clinical investigators



VA Career Development Awards

- 3 year support
 - Salary and supplemental research support (supplemental funding up to \$10,000)
 - Support for fully trained clinician-scientist who is entering, or has recently entered, a career in clinical research
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VA Transition Awards

<http://www.research.va.gov/programs/default.cfm>

<http://www.research.va.gov/programs/default.cfm>

Foundation Transition Awards

- Schweppe Foundation
 - Doris Duke Foundation
 - Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
 - GlaxoSmithKline Research and Education Foundation for CV Disease
 - Heart Rhythm Society
 - Heart Failure Society of America
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Young Investigator Transition Awards

- American Heart Association
 - National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
 - Department of Veterans Affairs
 - American College of Cardiology
 - Private Foundations
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Keys to a Successful Transition

- Dedication
 - Perseverance
 - Focus
 - Mentorship
 - Teamwork
 - *Have fun!*
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