Western States Affiliate Medical Student Research Program Description and Eligibility Criteria

Award Activation: June 1, 2011

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION, ELIGIBILITY & PEER REVIEW CRITERIA

Objective
The student research program encourages promising students, including women and members of minority groups underrepresented in the sciences, from all disciplines to consider research careers while supporting the highest quality scientific investigation broadly related to cardiovascular disease and stroke. The research opportunity will allow students to work for, eight, 10 or 12 weeks with a faculty/staff member on any project broadly related to cardiovascular disease/function or stroke. The goal is to encourage students to consider a future academic career in this area.

Science Focus
Research broadly related to cardiovascular function or disease, stroke, or to associated clinical, basic science and public health problems.

Disciplines
Proposals are encouraged from all disciplines, including multidisciplinary efforts, as well epidemiological, behavioral, community and clinical investigations that bear on cardiovascular and stroke problems.

Target Audience
This is an institutional award to qualified research institutions within the affiliate's geographic boundaries that can offer a meaningful research experience to health sciences students.

Fellowship targets pre-doctoral M.D., D.O., D.D.S., Pharm.D. and D.V.M. (or equivalent) health science students.

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

- U.S. citizen
- Permanent resident
- Pending permanent resident. Applicants 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 United States (having filed an Application for Employment Form I-765)
- E3 Visa -- specialty occupation worker
- F1 -- student visa
- H1-B 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

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 California, Nevada or Utah.

American Heart Association research awards are limited to non-profit institutions. Such institutions include medical, osteopathic and dental schools, veterinary schools, schools of public health, pharmacy schools, nursing schools, universities and colleges, public and voluntary hospitals and other non-profit institutions 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 the Veterans Administration employees. Funding is prohibited for awards at non-U.S. institutions.

Program Requirements
The principal investigator (faculty leader of the program) must ensure that each student completes the following:

- A technical progress report, summarizing the scientific work completed, is to be submitted by the awardee at the end of the award period.
- Student is required to give an oral presentation at the conclusion of his/her research experience at a roundtable discussion meeting as scheduled by the institution. The oral presentation serves as the capstone session for the program and, therefore, is a mandatory requirement for program completion. Only in exceptional circumstances will this requirement be waived.
- Student is required to complete and submit a written program evaluation survey upon completion of the program.

Budget/Annual Award Amount

Trainee Stipend/Salary: Award recipients will receive a stipend of $600/week for the short-term research experience. Stipends will be distributed by the institution.

Fringe Benefits: $500 (per institution) for project support

Award Amount: $4,800-$7,200 for student stipend ($600/week)

Award Period for Student: Eight, 10 or 12 weeks

Award Duration to the Institution: One year

Peer Review Criteria
To judge the merit of the application, reviewers will comment on the following criteria.

1. Program organization -- selection process and monitoring of student progress
2. Training opportunities for students
3. Scientific and academic qualifications of faculty/leadership for the program
4. Resources and funding available to students
5. History of student research training/ability to attract students

Applicants should never contact reviewers regarding their applications. Discussing scientific content of an application or attempting to influence review outcome will constitute a conflict of interest in the review. Reviewers must notify the AHA if an applicant contacts them.
Institutional Responsibility
A report listing the successful applicants working in the institution, their academic backgrounds and accomplishments, their sponsors' names and project titles will be required each year by the AHA. The institution shall also assume fiscal responsibility for the Medical Student Research Award.

Restrictions

- The student awardee is expected to engage in full-time research effort during the award period.
- Student may participate in the research program at any time during medical school except before the first summer.
- The institutional representative listed as the principal investigator on award may hold the award and, if eligible, an affiliate or national grant award at the same time.
- The student cannot hold a comparable award as a source of supplementation.
- An applicant (faculty leader of the program) may submit only one affiliate Medical Student Research Program application per deadline.

Interim Reporting
The institution ensures that a final progress report of the work accomplished by each student is submitted within thirty days of the end of the award period.

Evaluation
Awardees are also required to complete and submit a written program evaluation upon completion of the program.