Heartland Affiliate Predoctoral Fellowship
Application Deadline: January 2007
Activation Date: July 2007

Objective
To help students initiate careers in cardiovascular and stroke research by providing assistance and training.

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

Disciplines
All basic disciplines as well as epidemiological, community and clinical investigations that bear on cardiovascular and stroke problems.

Target Audience
Post baccalaureate, predoctoral M.D., Ph.D., D.O., D.V.M. (or equivalent) students seeking research training with a sponsor/mentor prior to embarking on a research career. Full-time students working towards their degrees. Applicant must pass qualifying or comprehensive exam prior to activation of the award. Award should terminate with successful thesis defense.

Citizenship
At 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).
- 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
- F1 Student Visa

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

Budget/Annual Award Amount

- Trainee Stipend: Yes, $23,000/yr
- Project Support: Yes, not to exceed $1,000, if elected and supported in application
- Fringe Benefits: Yes, $1,000 toward health insurance costs
- Indirect Costs: No
- Dependent Allowance: No
- Tuition: No
- Maximum Annual Amount: $25,000

Award Duration
One to two years; for third year must reapply for competitive review.

Peer Review Criteria
Criteria: To judge the merit of the applicant for the award, reviewers must comment on each of the following criteria.
1. Evaluation of the investigator
2. Sponsor/ training plan and environment
3. Evaluation of the proposal

Each counts as a third of the overall score. More Detailed Criteria...

Restrictions

- Not intended for individuals of faculty/staff rank. Fellow works under the direction of an established investigator who serves as sponsor.
- Awardee may not hold another association award concurrently.
- A sponsor may have no more than two association-funded fellows (predoctoral or postdoctoral) at any time.
- An applicant may submit only one affiliate application per deadline.
- Awardee must devote substantially full time to research.
- The Fellow cannot hold a comparable award as a source of supplementation.
- Maximum of three years of American Heart Association predoctoral fellowship support per individual.
- Awardee may apply for Postdoctoral Fellowship in final year.
- The same or similar application submitted for the fourth time will be withdrawn and returned to applicant.

Location of Work
Awards are limited to non-profit institutions such as 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 with the exception of Veterans Administration employees.

Interim Reporting
Assessment of annual progress reports from Fellow and sponsor, including research and training accomplishments, abstracts and publications.

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