

# Greater Southeast Affiliate Health Sciences Fellowship Program Description

Award Activation: February 1, 2012

## Program Description, Eligibility and Peer Review Criteria

### Objective

To provide opportunities for health science students to work for ten consecutive weeks with a faculty/staff member on any project related to the mission of the American Heart Association. The goal is to encourage students to consider a future academic career in this area.

### 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

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

### Target Audience

The Greater Southeast Affiliate Health Sciences Fellowship targets post-baccalaureate, pre-doctoral M.D., D.O., D.D.S., Pharm.D. (or equivalent) health science students.

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.

### 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)
- 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 Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Puerto Rico, Tennessee or U.S. Virgin Islands.

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 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 Administrations employees.

### **Budget/Annual Award Amount**

**Student Stipend:** \$4,500 per student. The use of an award to pay tuition is prohibited.

**Project Support:** Up to \$500 of the \$4,500 may be used for project support.

**Indirect Costs:** Not allowed

**Award Amount:** \$13,500 per year

**Award Duration:** Two years

Individual fellowships are for 10 weeks, up to three student fellows per institution per year. Payment will be made to the institution for disbursement to the fellow. Faculty mentor and institution assume fiscal responsibility. The institution may supplement the award amount. The

award is for educational purposes and does not constitute an employee-employer relationship between the student and the American Heart Association.

### **Peer Review Criteria**

To judge the merit of the applicant for the award, reviewers must comment on the following criteria:

- Program organization -- selection process and monitoring of student progress
- Training opportunities for students
- Scientific and academic qualifications of faculty/leadership for the program
- Resources and funding available to students
- 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 students appointed by the school, their academic backgrounds and accomplishments, their sponsors' names and project titles will be required each year. The institution shall also assume fiscal responsibility for the fellowships.

### **Restrictions**

- Only one application for up to three fellowships per year per institution will be awarded.
- If an institution is receiving Health Sciences Fellowship funding and is in the first year of a two-year award, a new application may not be submitted.
- New applications are allowed in the final year only.
- Institutions may hold only one American Heart Association Health Sciences Fellowship at any given time.

*Note: The institutional representative listed as the principal investigator on a Health*

*Sciences Fellowship award may hold the award and, if eligible, an affiliate or national grant award at the same time.*

- The fellow cannot hold a comparable award as a source of supplementation.
- An applicant may submit only one affiliate application per deadline.
- 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.