

Mentored Clinical and Population Research Award

Application Deadline: Tuesday, February 14, 2017

The application must be submitted by 5 p.m. Central Time in Grants@Heart on the deadline date. The application will be submitted to the designated grant officer, who will submit it to the American Heart Association (AHA).

Award Activation Date: July 1, 2017

Program Description, Eligibility and Peer Review Criteria

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 MPH, 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. 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 Institute for Precision Cardiovascular Medicine, 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.
- The applicant may submit only one Mentored Clinical and Population Research Award application per deadline.
- 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.
- 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.

- An awardee may not hold a comparable award as a source of supplementation.
- An awardee may not hold more than one AHA award at the same time.

Exceptions:

- a) An investigator may hold two AHA grants 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) An investigator may hold the Innovative Research Grant and one other AHA award.
- c) A Fellow-to-Faculty Transition Award recipient may hold a Grant-in-Aid, Innovative Research Grant, or Collaborative Sciences Award during the faculty phase. Only project support is allowed from the second AHA award during the faculty stage of the Fellow-to-Faculty Transition Award.
- d) Strategically Focused Research Network personnel may hold individual AHA awards.

Peer Review Criteria

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.

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? For all applications that include vertebrate animals or human subjects, applicants must explain how relevant biological variables, such as sex, are factored into the research design, analysis and reporting. Furthermore, strong justification from the scientific literature, preliminary data, or other relevant considerations, must be provided for applications proposing to study only one sex.

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.