• Grant Funding Opportunities at AHA
  • Across the career stage
  • Application expectations and timelines
  • The peer review process
  • Program success rates
• Other Award Opportunities
• Service and Career Development Opportunities
RESEARCH IS THE FOUNDATION

• AHA is the largest nonprofit funder of CVD and stroke research outside of the federal government
• More than $4.5 billion in research funding since 1949
• About 800 – 850 new awards each year
• Roughly 2,000 active awards are currently funded
Develop innovative research models which integrate research values and fund highly meritorious or “best” research.

Assure funding mechanisms for investigators at all career stages and across disciplines.

Assure that best practices are used for all governance and operational guidelines.

Fund both investigator-initiated and strategically-focused research.

Provide programs which in addition to supporting the pursuit of the research in question also facilitate expansion of investigator skills.

Assure that all stakeholders – researchers, donors, lay volunteers – are involved in research activities.

Conduct research in all areas of CV and stroke science that drive to AHA’s 2020 goals and overall mission.

Focus on funding individuals, not just projects.

Fund research which provides a return on investment which can be funneled back into more research.

Identify key questions, that if answered, could provide extraordinary impact in science and toward mission.

Clearly define and report research outcomes to all stakeholders.

Expand collaboration to leverage research dollars and outcomes.
FEATURES OF ALL AHA AWARDS

- AHA awards are open to the array of academic and health professionals.
- Clinical, translational, population, behavioral, and basic scientists are encouraged to apply.
- AHA strongly encourages applications by women, underrepresented minorities in the sciences, and those who have experienced varied and non-traditional career trajectories.
- No minimum percent effort is required.
FEATURES OF ALL AHA AWARDS

- Fully transferrable.
- Award budgets are unrestricted among allowable categories (Funds may be re-budgeted between categories without prior AHA approval).
- Proposals for the Collaborative Sciences Award, Established Investigator Award and Merit Award, and Strategically Focused Research Networks follow a two-part application process.
- Strategically Focused Research Network personnel may hold individual AHA awards.
### 2019-20 RESEARCH AWARD OFFERINGS

**AWARD AMOUNTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Award Amount</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Undergraduate Student Award</td>
<td>Encourages students from all disciplines to consider research careers. This is made to qualified institutions that can offer a meaningful research experience that supports the AHA mission undergraduate college students.</td>
<td>Total Award Amount: $24,000 - $60,000</td>
<td>3 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHA Predoctoral Fellowship</td>
<td>Enhances the integrated research and clinical training of promising students who are matriculated in pre-doctoral or clinical health professional degree training programs and who intend careers as scientists, physician-scientists or other clinician-scientists, or related careers aimed at improving global cardiovascular health.</td>
<td>Total Award Amount: $26,844 - $53,688</td>
<td>1 – 2 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHA Postdoctoral Fellowship</td>
<td>Enhances the integrated research and clinical training of postdoctoral applicants who are not yet independent. The applicant must be embedded in an appropriate research group with the mentorship, support, and relevant scientific guidance of a research supervisor.</td>
<td>Total Award Amount: $51,484 - $125,120</td>
<td>1 – 2 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)</td>
<td>Supports small-scale research projects at educational institutions that have not been major recipients of NIH support. For any part of the full range of research and development from very basic to clinical. Goals: 1) meritorious research; expose students; enhance research environment.</td>
<td>Total Award Amount: $154,000</td>
<td>2 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Award Amount</td>
<td>Duration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Development Award</td>
<td>Supports highly promising healthcare and academic professionals. <em>New flexibility with concurrent holding of NIH K award</em></td>
<td>Total Award Amount: $231,000</td>
<td>3 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merit Award</td>
<td>Supports exceptional scientists with established track records of success, who propose novel approaches to major research challenges in the areas of CV and stroke that have the potential to produce unusually high impact.</td>
<td>Total Award Amount: $1,000,000 per award</td>
<td>5 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Established Investigator Award</td>
<td>Supports mid-career investigators with unusual promise and in rapid growth phase, who have established records of accomplishments, and demonstrated commitment to questions related to cardiovascular or cerebrovascular science.</td>
<td>Total Award Amount: $400,000</td>
<td>5 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovative Project Award</td>
<td>Funds ideas that may introduce new paradigms, challenge current paradigms, look at existing problems from new perspectives, or exhibit other uniquely creative qualities. Preliminary data is not required and not accepted. However, a solid rationale for the work must be provided.</td>
<td>Total Award Amount: $200,000</td>
<td>2 Years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2019-20 RESEARCH AWARD OFFERINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Award Amount</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Transformational Project Award** | Proposed work should be the next logical step of previous work, and should already be revealing a high probability of new avenues of investigation, if successful. Proposals should include preliminary data.  
Similar to the former Grant-In-Aid mechanism.  
Eliminated the “other accessible funds” restriction. | Total Award Amount: $300,000       | 3 Years |
| **Collaborative Sciences Award**    | Allows two or more primary investigators from disparate disciplines, with histories of innovative collaborations, to work on a project that is achievable only with efforts from both disciplines.  
At least one investigator at early or mid-career stage. | Total Award Amount: $750,000       | 3 Years |
FOCUSED RESEARCH PROGRAMS
Institute for Precision Cardiovascular Medicine

The American Heart Association's Institute for Precision Cardiovascular Medicine aims to advance the science and practice of personalized medicine to improve cardiovascular health of individuals and populations.

Institute for Precision Cardiovascular Medicine
Strategically Focused Research Networks

Includes Opportunities for Postdoctoral Fellows
### KEY APPLICATION DATES (see website)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institute Grant Mechanisms</th>
<th>Letter of Intent Deadline</th>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
<th>Funding Notification</th>
<th>Award Start Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data Grant Portfolio 4.0, Grand Challenge Grant, AI/ML Grant, Training Grant, and Clinical Training Grant</td>
<td>(if applicable)</td>
<td>Jul. 31, 2019</td>
<td>Oct. 2019</td>
<td>Dec. 1, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHA Postdoctoral Fellowship</td>
<td></td>
<td>Aug. 15, 2019</td>
<td>Nov. 2019</td>
<td>Jan. 1, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Undergraduate Student Fellowship</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sept. 18, 2019</td>
<td>Dec. 2019</td>
<td>Jan. 1, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merit Award</td>
<td>Jul. 11, 2019</td>
<td>Sept. 24, 2019</td>
<td>Nov. 2019</td>
<td>Jan. 1, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Development Award</td>
<td></td>
<td>Oct. 15, 2019</td>
<td>Mar. 2020</td>
<td>Apr. 1, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Strategically Focused Research Networks:**

- **Cardiometabolic Health with a Focus on Type 2 Diabetes**
  - Letter of Intent Deadline: Jun. 25, 2019
  - Application Deadline: Aug. 13, 2019
  - Funding Notification: Winter 2019
  - Award Start Date: Jan. 1, 2020

- **Health Technology and Innovation (apps, wearables, etc.)**
  - Letter of Intent Deadline: Nov. 12, 2019
  - Application Deadline: Jan. 7, 2020
  - Funding Notification: Spring 2020
  - Award Start Date: Apr. 1, 2020
MUST BE A MEMBER TO APPLY

• All applicants -- including predoctoral and postdoctoral fellows -- must be an American Heart Association professional member (memberships start under $100).

• Applicants may renew or join membership during the application process through grants@heart.

• Join or renew by phone at 301-223-2307 or 800-787-8984.

There is a 3-5 day waiting period to process membership, so do not wait until the application deadline to renew or join.
PEER REVIEW
THE PEER REVIEW PROCESS

• Assigned to committee, reviewers (3)
• NIH-style review
  • Mix of face-to-face and teleconference
  • Streamline process
  • Review criteria (general)
    • The science: Innovation, Impact, Significance, Approach, Investigator, Environment
    • Fellowships: 1) the Applicant; 2) Sponsor/Training Plan and Environment; 3) the Proposal
    • Somewhat similar for CDA
• Normalized priority and percentile scores
• See website for specifics for every program
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY17-18</th>
<th>FY18-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AHA Allen Brain Health Initiative</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHA-AMFDP Scholar (Amos)</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Development Award</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborative Sciences Award</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Established Investigator Award</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovative Project Award</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merit Award</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul G. Allen Distinguished Investigator Award</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postdoctoral Fellowship</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Predoctoral Fellowship</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Collaborative Grant</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Renewal Grant</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategically Focused Research Network</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transformational Project Award</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Fellowship</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OPTIMIZE YOUR CHANCE OF FUNDING

• Choose the right program
• Follow the application instructions
• Reach out for help when you have questions

• Write your lay summary for nonscientists

How to Share Your AHA-Funded Research
by researcher Georgia Papavasiliou, Ph.D.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04ZEyfM1T2s&list=PLtzTeR-CJNHJBytikHnTJ-uhYq3WGDYkP5&index=1
Council Awards and Lectures

The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association scientific councils' awards acknowledge significant achievements in cardiovascular diseases and stroke, ranging from basic research to service to the councils and the association.

These awards recognize the achievements of researchers, scientists, clinicians, nurses and allied health professionals throughout their careers. They also provide opportunities for financial rewards, special presentations and funding to attend Scientific Sessions and other AHA scientific meetings.

Early Career

Early Career Investigator Awards recognize promising and outstanding trainees, investigators and clinicians in the early stages of their careers and stimulate continued interest in basic or clinical research.

Career Achievement

These awards recognize individuals for specific career endeavors and achievements that made a significant impact on the field of cardiovascular diseases and stroke, and helped further the mission of the scientific councils and the AHA/ASA.

Scholarships

The student scholarship programs, administered under qualified supervision, provide an important stimulus to interest medical and master's-level students in research in cardiovascular diseases, stroke and basic scientific research.

Lifetime Achievement

Lifetime Achievement Awards recognize contributions to the fields of cardiovascular disease and stroke over a sustained period. Recipients of these awards exemplify excellence and are notable representatives of the best in their fields.

Travel Grants

These stipends help defray travel costs for early career investigators, trainees and students to participate in the AHA Scientific Sessions.

Lectures

Council named lectures feature presentations from some of today's foremost clinicians and researchers as well as those with a lifetime of contributions to the field of cardiovascular disease.

International Travel Awards

International Committee Early Career Travel Awards

https://professional.heart.org/professional/MembershipCouncils/AwardsLectures/UCM_322102_Early-Career-Council-Awards.jsp
CAREER DEVELOPMENT/SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES
PEER REVIEW OPPORTUNITIES – NEW PILOT PROGRAM FOR POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

• 2nd year postdoctoral fellows eligible
• Approval of sponsor
• Training sessions
  • One specifically for fellows, one attended by all reviewers
• Assigned up to 3 grants (Fellowship applications currently)
• Will prepare full written critiques and assign preliminary scores (won’t submit final scores)
CONSIDER BECOMING AN AHA PEER REVIEWER

• All ranks
• Basic, clinical and population research expertise
• Research experience needed (funding, publication record)
• Excellent experience
  • scientifically stimulating, see the newest science, important academic service, establish new colleagues, collaborations, potential leadership opportunity
CONSIDER BECOMING AN AHA PEER REVIEWER

• Particular need in the following areas:
  • Basic Cell - Cell Structure and Survival; Genetics and Epigenetics; Proteins and Crystallography; Regenerative Cell Biology
  • Bioengineering and Biotechnology - Basic Science
  • Immunology and Virology - Basic Science
  • Cardiovascular Development Basic Science
• Peer Reviewer Home Page

• Peer Review Contact
  • peerreview@heart.org
  • Can also use this email to suggest potential Lay Reviewers

• Register to become a Peer Reviewer
  • Flyers up front
WEB PAGE

ENCOURAGE POTENTIAL APPLICANTS TO MONITOR THE AHA APPLICATION PAGE FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

HELP

AHA RESEARCH: APPLY@HEART.ORG OR (214) 360-6107 (OPTION 1).

RESEARCH INSIDER

SIGN UP
HTTP://PROFESSIONAL.HEART.ORG/PROFESSIONAL/RESEARCHPROGRAMS/RESEARCHACCOMPLISHMENTS/UCM_484116_RESEARCH-INSIDER-SIGN-UP.JSP
Since 1949, the AHA has invested more than $3.9 billion in research to enhance our knowledge of cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

ABOUT AHA RESEARCH

The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association is a national voluntary health organization dedicated to building healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke. We are working toward improving the cardiovascular health of all Americans by 20 percent, and reducing deaths from cardiovascular diseases and stroke by 20 percent, by the year 2020.

We fund research programs that support the development of beginning investigators and those that enrich existing bodies of knowledge – by identifying new ways to prevent, detect and treat cardiovascular disease and stroke.

The AHA Research Program is guided by 12 Essential Elements developed by a broad group of key stakeholders including science volunteers.

**Applicant**

View the Application Information page to find all the resources needed for preparing and submitting your application for funding.

**Peer Review**

The AHA is continually enhancing and refining its review process to ensure that we are able to identify and fund the most meritorious research projects in support of our mission.

**Awards & Policies**

Learn more about all policies and procedures that govern all applications and awards.
QUESTIONS?
Glenn.Dillon@heart.org