

2015 Call for Proposals

Proposal Deadline: March 18, 2015



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

HAROLD AMOS MEDICAL FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

This is a national program for physicians and dentists from historically disadvantaged backgrounds interested in academic careers in:

- Biomedical Research
- Clinical Investigation
- Health Services Research

BACKGROUND

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) has long invested in building and maintaining a strong, capable and diverse leadership and workforce in health and health care in response to an ever changing environment. RWJF supports programs for promising leaders and scholars in training, research and leadership development; makes investments to build specific fields within health and health care; and helps to ensure that our nation has a sufficient, well-trained workforce that provides direct care and services to patients.

The *Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program* (AMFDP) was developed as a result of more than 20 years of experience with RWJF's *Minority Medical Faculty Development Program*, which sought to increase the number of underrepresented minorities on medical faculties. The program was renamed in 2003 in honor of Harold Amos, PhD, who was the first African American to chair a department at Harvard Medical School - now the Department of Microbiology and Medical Genetics. Dr. Amos worked tirelessly to recruit and mentor countless minority and disadvantaged students to careers in academic medicine and science. He was a founding member of the national advisory committee (NAC) of the *Minority Medical Faculty Development Program* in 1983, and served as its director between 1989 and 1993. Dr. Amos remained actively engaged with the program until his death in 2003.

As part of RWJF's ongoing efforts to increase diversity in health and health care, the AMFDP offers four-year postdoctoral research awards to increase the number of faculty from historically disadvantaged backgrounds who 1) can achieve senior rank in academic medicine and dentistry and 2) who will encourage and foster the development of succeeding classes of such physicians and dentists.

THE PROGRAM

The AMFDP offers four-year postdoctoral research awards to increase the number of physicians and dentists from historically disadvantaged backgrounds who are committed to:

2015 Call for Proposals

Proposal Deadline: March 18, 2015

- developing careers in academic medicine and dentistry,
- improving the health of underserved populations, and/or
- working toward understanding and eliminating health disparities by achieving senior rank in academic medicine and dentistry.

The program defines the term “historically disadvantaged” to mean the challenges facing individuals because of their race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status or similar factors.

Amos Scholars selected (up to ten) will receive an annual stipend up to \$75,000, complemented by a \$30,000 annual grant toward support of their research activities. Each scholar will study and conduct research in association with a senior faculty member who is located at an academic center noted for the training of young faculty and who is pursuing lines of biomedical, clinical or health services research of interest to the scholar. Amos Scholars are expected to spend at least 70 percent of their time engaged in research.

A distinguished NAC assists RWJF with the program. Although awards are intended to provide four years of support, NAC members will review the progress of each scholar after the first two years to determine continuing support for the full duration of the award. When appropriate, the committee may recommend that the funding for the fourth year of support be used to assist the scholar in his or her initial years as a full-time faculty member.

TOTAL AWARDS

We will fund up to ten four-year awards in this grant cycle. Scholars will receive an annual stipend of up to \$75,000 each, complemented by a \$30,000 annual grant toward support of research activities.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for this award, applicants must be physicians or dentists who:

- are from historically disadvantaged backgrounds (ethnic, financial or educational),
- are U.S. citizens or permanent residents, and
- are completing or have completed their formal clinical training. (We will give preference to those who have recently completed their formal clinical training.)

Candidates who are permanent residents and not green card holders should contact *Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program* before applying to determine whether they can satisfy the program’s eligibility and documentation requirements.

We will select semifinalists from among the applicants and ask them to interview with NAC members. Detailed research plans and budgets for selected finalists must be submitted by a university, school of

2015 Call for Proposals

Proposal Deadline: March 18, 2015

medicine or dentistry or research institution that is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code with which the prospective scholar will be affiliated during the term of the fellowship.

Additionally, candidates cannot be related by blood or marriage to any Officer* or Trustee of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, or be a descendant of its founder, Robert Wood Johnson.

** The Officers are the Chairman of the Board of Trustees; President and CEO; Chief of Staff; General Counsel; Secretary; Assistant Secretary; Treasurer; and Assistant Treasurer of the Foundation.*

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Consistent with RWJF values, this program embraces diversity and inclusion across multiple dimensions, such as race, ethnicity, gender, disability, age and socioeconomic status. We strongly encourage applications in support of individual candidates who will help us expand the perspectives and experiences we bring to our work. We believe that the more we include diverse perspectives and experiences in our work, the more successful we will be as we strive together to build a Culture of Health, enabling all in our diverse society to lead healthier lives, now, and for generations to come.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Successful scholars will demonstrate that they:

- have excelled in their education,
- are prepared to devote four consecutive years to research,
- are committed to: 1) pursuing academic careers; 2) serving as role models for students and faculty from historically disadvantaged backgrounds; 3) improving the health status of the underserved; and/or 4) decreasing health disparities.

To pursue the advanced research training required by this program, applicants must first identify a faculty mentor (or mentors) with whom they would like to work to develop a research plan. The mentor's experience in supervising trainees and the adequacy of the mentor's research environment and support will be a key consideration in the selection of Amos Scholars. Once these linkages have been established, the applicant, proposed scholar and mentor may begin the application process.

In the first stage of the selection process, each candidate will submit a proposal, including academic records, a personal statement regarding the candidate's commitment to AMFDP's goals, descriptions of research experience and interests, a statement describing the candidate's disadvantaged status, a summary of career objectives, references, and a preliminary plan for training with the proposed mentor. Based on a review of these materials, the NAC will select semifinalists for interviews. The purpose of the interview is to enable the committee to assess candidates more fully and for candidates to define their research interests and describe the resources available in their mentors' laboratories. All mentors must be located in a university, school of medicine or dentistry or research institute within the United States. Based on

2015 Call for Proposals

Proposal Deadline: March 18, 2015

these interviews, we will select up to ten finalists. Finalists will then submit their detailed research plans and budgets. The NAC will review these submissions and make final recommendations to RWJF, the American Society of Hematology, and the American Society of Nephrology. Neither the NAC nor RWJF provides individual critiques of applications submitted.

ASH-AMFDP PARTNERSHIP

A partnership between the American Society of Hematology (ASH) and AMFDP was established to increase the number of hematologists from historically disadvantaged backgrounds with academic and research appointments. The criteria and process for selecting ASH-AMFDP Scholars are identical to those for the AMFDP, and scholars and their mentors will have the same obligations and benefits. For more information, please visit <http://www.hematology.org/Awards/ASH-AMFDP/2224.aspx>.

ASN-AMFDP PARTNERSHIP:

A partnership between the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) and AMFDP has been established to increase the number of nephrologists from historically disadvantaged backgrounds with academic and research appointments. The criteria and process for selecting ASN-AMFDP Scholars are identical to those for the AMFDP, and scholars and their mentors will have the same obligations and benefits. For more information, please visit <http://www.amfdp.org/about/partners>.

EVALUATION AND MONITORING

As a condition of accepting RWJF funds, we expect successful applicants and Amos, ASH-AMFDP, and ASN-AMFDP Scholars to meet all RWJF requirements for the submission of annual and final narrative and financial reports, as well as periodic information needed for overall project performance monitoring and management. All scholars and their mentors must attend annual program meetings and give reports on their progress.

APPLICANT SURVEY PROCESS

To help us measure the effectiveness of RWJF grantmaking and improve the grant application experience, we will survey the Principal Investigator (PI) listed in proposals submitted under this call for proposals. Shortly after the proposal deadline, the PI will be contacted by Princeton Survey Research Associates International (PSRAI), an independent research firm, and asked to complete a brief, online survey about the application process and applicant characteristics. This voluntary questionnaire will take no more than 15 minutes to complete. Responses provided to PSRAI will not impact the funding decision for the proposal in any way.

PSRAI will protect the confidentiality of the responses. RWJF will not receive any data that links a name with the survey responses.

2015 Call for Proposals

Proposal Deadline: March 18, 2015

If you have any questions about the survey or the use of the data, feel free to email applicantfeedback@rwjf.org.

USE OF GRANT FUNDS

Grants made to the participating universities will be in accordance with RWJF's regular funding guidelines. Under the program, the universities provide scholars with their stipends and health insurance. Financial support also is available at each university for expenses associated with scholars' research, including travel.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for this solicitation must be submitted via the RWJF online system. Visit <http://www.rwjf.org/cfp/mfd15> and use the Apply link for this solicitation. If you have not already done so, you will be required to register at <http://my.rwjf.org> before you begin the application process.

In addition to the online application due on March 18, 2015, hard copies and supporting materials must be mailed to the national program office (NPO) and postmarked by March 19, 2015. Complete information on the program and application process can also be found on the program's website at www.amfdp.org.

Applications must include:

- Academic records
- References
- Description of the candidate's research experience and interests
- Summary of career objectives
- Statement of commitment to the goals of AMFDP
- Statement describing the candidate's disadvantaged status
- Curricula vitae of candidates and mentors
- Mentor's statement
- Preliminary plan for training with the proposed mentor

Please direct all inquiries about the program and application process to:

Nina Ardery, *deputy director*

Phone: (317) 278-0500

Email: mamfdp@indiana.edu

2015 Call for Proposals

Proposal Deadline: March 18, 2015

All applicants should log in to the system and familiarize themselves with online submission requirements well before the final submission deadline. Staff may not be able to assist all applicants in the final 24 hours before the submission deadline. In fairness to all applicants, the program will not accept late submissions.

PROGRAM DIRECTION

Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program

702 Rotary Circle, Suite 132

Indianapolis, IN 46202

Phone: (317) 278-0500

E-mail: amfdp@indiana.edu

Website: www.amfdp.org

Responsible staff members at the NPO are:

- David S. Wilkes, MD, *program director*
- Nina Ardery, *deputy director*

Responsible staff members at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are:

- David M. Krol, MD, MPH, *senior program officer*
- Linda Wright Moore, *senior communications officer*
- Stephen Theisen, *program financial analyst*

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The NAC will evaluate applicants and recommend finalists to RWJF, ASH and ASN for support. The NAC will also have active monitoring responsibility for those chosen and maintain an ongoing interest in the scholars, providing advice and counsel regarding the direction and development of their academic careers.

Rose Marie Robertson, MD, Chair

Professor of Medicine and Obstetrics/Gynecology

Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

Chief Science Officer

American Heart Association

Dallas, TX

2015 Call for Proposals

Proposal Deadline: March 18, 2015

Carrie L. Byington, MD

H.A. and Edna Benning Presidential Professor of Pediatrics
Vice Dean Academic Affairs and Faculty Development
Vice Chair Research Enterprise
Department of Pediatrics
University of Utah School of Medicine
Salt Lake City, UT

Robert S. Dittus, MD, MPH

Albert and Bernard Werthan Professor of Medicine and Public Health
Associate Vice Chancellor for Public Health and Health Care
Senior Associate Dean for Population Health Sciences
Chief, Division of General Internal Medicine and Public Health
Director, Institute for Medicine and Public Health
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN

Glenn Flores, MD, FAAP

Professor of Pediatrics & Public Health
Director, Division of General Pediatrics
Judith and Charles Ginsburg Chair in Pediatrics
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Children's Medical Center of Dallas
Dallas, TX

James R. Gavin III, MD, PhD

Clinical Professor of Medicine
Emory University School of Medicine
CEO & Chief Medical Officer
Healing Our Village of MD, Inc.
Atlanta, GA

Jeane Ann Grisso, MD, MSc

Professor of Nursing and Medicine
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

Ralph I. Horwitz, MD

Harold H. Hines, Jr. Professor Emeritus of Medicine and Epidemiology
Yale University
Senior Vice President, Clinical Sciences Evaluation
GlaxoSmithKline
Philadelphia, PA

2015 Call for Proposals

Proposal Deadline: March 18, 2015

Kevin B. Johnson, MD, MS

Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor and Chair of Biomedical Informatics
Professor of Pediatrics
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Nashville, TN

Juanita L. Merchant, MD, PhD

H. Marvin Pollard Professor of Gastrointestinal Sciences
Departments of Internal Medicine and Molecular & Integrative Physiology
University of Michigan Medical Center
Ann Arbor, MI

Arturo Molina, MD, MS, FACP

Adjunct Professor of Hematology and Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation
City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center
Vice President, Oncology Scientific Innovation
Janssen Research and Development, Johnson & Johnson
Menlo Park, CA

Aubrey R. Morrison, MD

Professor of Medicine, Molecular Biology, and Pharmacology
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, MO

Neil R. Powe, MD, MPH, MBA

Constance B. Wofsy Distinguished Professor of Medicine
Chief of Medical Services, San Francisco General Hospital
Vice Chair of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA

Francisco Ramos Gomez, DDS, MS, MPH

Professor, Section of Pediatric Dentistry
University of California, Los Angeles School of Dentistry
Los Angeles, CA

Lee W. Riley, MD

Professor of Infectious Disease and Vaccinology
University of California–Berkeley
School of Public Health
Division of Public Health Biology and Epidemiology
Berkeley, CA

2015 Call for Proposals

Proposal Deadline: March 18, 2015

Griffin P. Rodgers, MD, MBA, MACP

Director, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD

David D. Sabatini, MD, PhD

Frederick L. Ehrman Professor
New York University School of Medicine
New York, NY

J. Sanford Schwartz, MD

Professor of Medicine and Health Management and Economics
School of Medicine and The Wharton School
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

George W. Taylor, DMD, MPH, DrPH

Leland and Gladys K. Barber Distinguished Professor in Dentistry
Chair, Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences
University of California, San Francisco School of Dentistry
San Francisco, CA

David S. Wilkes, MD

Executive Associate Dean for Research Affairs
August M. Watanabe Professor of Medical Research
Medicine, Microbiology, and Immunology
Indiana University School of Medicine
Indianapolis, IN

KEY DATES AND DEADLINES

March 18, 2015 (3 p.m. ET)

*Deadline for receipt of completed applications.**

We will not consider materials submitted after this date.

March 19, 2015

Deadline for postmark of supporting documents.

July 8-10, 2015

Applicant interviews with NAC members in Chicago.

2015 Call for Proposals

Proposal Deadline: March 18, 2015

December 2015

Notification of awards.

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ABOUT THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

For more than 40 years the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has worked to improve health and health care. We are striving to build a national Culture of Health that will enable all to live longer, healthier lives now and for generations to come. For more information, visit www.rwjf.org. Follow the Foundation on Twitter at www.rwjf.org/twitter or on Facebook at www.rwjf.org/facebook.

Sign up to receive email alerts on upcoming calls for proposals at www.rwjf.org/funding.

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