

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Simons Foundation 2016 Faculty Scholars Competition

Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Simons Foundation are pleased to announce a national competition for grants to outstanding scientists as Faculty Scholars. This competition will strengthen the community of basic researchers and physician scientists who bring innovative approaches to the study of biological problems. Scholars will apply molecular, genetic, computational and theoretical approaches to fundamental problems in diverse areas of biology. Those conducting research at the interface of the biological and physical sciences are especially encouraged to apply as are physician scientists and others studying biological questions emerging from and applicable to global human health problems, including malaria, tuberculosis, HIV, and other diseases that disproportionately affect individuals living in low resource settings. Clinical trials and research on health education, health care delivery, or health services are not eligible fields. **Women and minorities under-represented in the biomedical and biological sciences are strongly encouraged to apply.**

From this competition, HHMI, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Simons Foundation expect to award up to 70 grants to scientists who have demonstrated significant research accomplishments and / or who have great potential to make unique contributions to their field. Faculty Scholars are expected to demonstrate a combination of several of the following attributes that distinguish them from other highly competent scientists in their field.

- They identify and pursue significant biological questions in a rigorous and deep manner.
- They push their chosen research field into new areas of inquiry.
- They develop new tools, methods, and resources that enable creative experimental approaches to biological questions, bringing to bear, when necessary, concepts or techniques from other disciplines.
- They forge links between basic biology or physical sciences and medicine.
- They demonstrate great promise of future original and innovative contributions.

This competition places no restrictions on the number of applications from any eligible institution. Researchers with faculty appointments may apply directly; prior institutional endorsement is not part of the application process.

Below are details regarding eligibility, grant conditions, application process and selection. For additional information regarding the Faculty Scholars competition please link to: www.hhmi.org/faculty-scholars. Please address further questions to faculty@hhmi.org.

Eligibility

- PhD and/or MD (or the equivalent).
- Tenured or tenure-track position as an assistant professor or higher academic rank at an eligible U.S. institution, or, if at an eligible institution that has no tenure track, an appointment that reflects a significant institutional commitment. Federal government employees are not eligible.
- More than 4, but no more than 10, years of post-training, professional experience. To meet this requirement, the applicant's post-training, professional experience must have begun no earlier than June 1, 2005, and no later than July 1, 2011.

- Principal investigator or Co-Principal investigator on at least one active, nationally competitive grant with an initial term of two or more years at some point from April 1, 2013 through July 1, 2015. Career development grants qualify. Multi-investigator grants may qualify.

Important Conditions:

- Awardees receive a five-year, non-renewable grant between \$100k and \$400k per year.
- Faculty Scholars are required to devote at least 50% of their total effort to the direct conduct of research.

Application Process

Establish eligibility and apply here: <http://www.hhmi.org/research/application/fs2016>

The deadline for applications is July 28, 2015, at 3:00 PM (Eastern Daylight Time). Reference letters must be received by August 4, 2015. All applications must be submitted electronically following instructions on the competition web site.

The application includes the following documents:

- A *curriculum vitae*, including a bibliography and a list of current research support.
- An overview of the applicant's most significant research achievements (not more than 250 words).
- A summary of the applicant's ongoing and planned research program (not more than 1,500 words; references and up to one page of figures are not counted toward the 1,500-word limit).
- A statement of the contribution that the applicant is uniquely poised to make to his/her research field, and, where appropriate, potential to result in new approaches to human health problems that disproportionately affect individuals living in low resource settings (not more than 250 words).
- Statements distinguishing the applicant's current work from her/his mentors and another summarizing the applicant's current collaborative efforts (each not to exceed 100 words).
- PDF files of three selected publications that report the applicant's most important scientific contributions with a focus on the most recent five years, as well as a paragraph describing the significance of each publication.
- Two reference letters will be required for each applicant.

Selection of Faculty Scholars

The review process will include evaluation of applications by distinguished scientists, leading to the selection of semi-finalists by early April 2016. Semi-finalists will have an opportunity to provide a one-page update and will be asked to submit a slide presentation with an audio recording. Finalists will be selected by July 2016 with awardees announced before November 2016. Those selected to receive awards will be invited to a scientific symposium and orientation in November of 2016. Grants will begin in the fall of 2016. Scholars will subsequently attend annual HHMI scientific meetings and those funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will also attend the Grand Challenges in Global Health meeting annually.