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Howard Hughes Medical Institute Awards 159 Fellowships for Graduate Education, Medical Student Research Training

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute has awarded 159 fellowships to enable some of the world's most talented young scientists to receive advanced training in biomedical research.

Eighty-eight of the fellowships are five-year awards for graduate students pursuing doctoral degrees in the biological sciences. The other 71 fellowships will enable medical students to take a year off from their medical studies to pursue research full time, or to resume their medical studies after a year of research.

"These outstanding students represent the future of fundamental research," said HHMI President Purnell W. Choppin. "Under the guidance of superb mentors, the fellows are on the path to leadership in the study of basic biological processes and disease mechanisms. We anticipate that they will make many pivotal discoveries in the years ahead, as they pursue careers in science and medicine."

HHMI, one of the nation's largest philanthropies, now supports 489 students at 81 academic institutions through these two programs. A third fellowship program enables physicians with clinical experience to receive training in basic research for three years. Since 1988 HHMI has made payments totaling \$123 million in fellowship support for 1,750 outstanding students and physician scientists.

"Through their progress reports and presentations at an annual meeting, we see the fellows' rigor, creativity, and enthusiasm as they deal with the challenges at the leading edge of biomedical research," said Joseph G. Perpich, HHMI's vice president for grants and special programs. "We are pleased that the meetings and 'Fellows and Their Research' on our homepage on the World Wide Web are helping them build associations within and across their research fields."

Information about fellows, their research, and the fellowship programs is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.hhmi.org/fellowships/>.

Predocctoral Fellowships in Biological Sciences The Predocctoral Fellowships in Biological Sciences support students for up to five years while they pursue full-time study toward a Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree. The program now supports 392 predocctoral students at an annual cost of more than \$11 million.

Each \$30,000 predocctoral award includes an annual stipend of \$15,000 and a \$15,000 cost-of-education allowance, which goes to the fellowship institution. Eligible fields include biochemistry, biophysics, biostatistics, cell biology, developmental biology, epidemiology, genetics, immunology, mathematical and computational biology, microbiology, molecular biology, neuroscience, pharmacology, physiology, structural biology, and virology. This year's 88 new fellows, including 49 men and 39 women, are planning graduate study at 28 academic institutions in the United States, 2 in the United Kingdom, and 1 in Germany. Nine of the fellows are from minority groups underrepresented in the sciences. The group includes 76 U.S. citizens and 5 fellows from People's Republic of China, 2 each from Canada and United Kingdom, and 1 each from Croatia, Germany, and Venezuela.

Research Training Fellowships for Medical Students The Research Training Fellowships for Medical Students will enable 57 medical students to conduct biomedical research full time in a laboratory of their choice for one year. The 40 men and 17 women selected this year will study at 24 institutions. Eight of the fellows are from minority groups underrepresented in the sciences. Each \$26,000 award includes a \$15,000 stipend, a \$5,500 research allowance, and a \$5,500 allowance to the fellowship institution.

In addition to these new fellowships to medical students for a research year, HHMI also announced that it would provide continued support to 11 men and 3 women who received fellowships last year, bringing the overall program to an annual level of more than \$2.5 million. The 14 continued fellows are returning to school to complete their medical studies and will receive a stipend and education allowance totaling \$30,000 each year for up to two years.

Howard Hughes Medical Institute is a medical research organization that employs scientists in cell biology, genetics, immunology, neuroscience, and structural biology. Hughes investigators conduct medical research in HHMI laboratories at 72 outstanding academic medical centers and universities nationwide. Through its complementary grants program, HHMI supports science education in the United States and a select group of researchers abroad.