

## ***2009 HHMI Early Career Scientist Competition***

***What is the goal of this competition?*** HHMI seeks to appoint to its HHMI Early Career Scientist Program approximately 70 outstanding early career-stage scientists from a wide range of scientific disciplines relevant to biological and medical inquiry. Applicants should have demonstrated originality and productivity and show exceptional promise for future research contributions.

***What is the deadline for submitting complete applications?*** The deadline for submitting an intent to apply is April 30, 2008. Only those who have submitted an intent to apply will be able to submit an application. The deadline for submitting applications is June 10, 2008, at 3:00 p.m. (Eastern Time).

***When will the selection be made?*** Semifinalists will be named in late fall 2008, and the final selection will be complete by spring 2009.

***What are the eligibility requirements?*** Detailed information about eligibility is available at our website: [www.hhmi.org/earlycareer2009](http://www.hhmi.org/earlycareer2009). At the time of application, the applicant must

- Have a doctoral degree.
- Hold a tenure-track position as assistant professor or higher academic rank at one of the eligible institutions or, if at an eligible institution that has no tenure track, hold an appointment that reflects a significant institutional commitment. Federal government employees are not eligible.
- Have between two and six years of experience since first appointed as a tenure-track assistant professor or equivalent position. To meet this requirement, the applicant's first faculty position as assistant professor must have begun no earlier than June 1, 2002, and no later than September 1, 2006. An applicant who has been granted a tenure clock extension or a leave of absence by his or her institution for reasons such as family care needs, illness, or military service may request an extension of the career-stage range. Such applicants should provide information about the tenure clock extension or leave of absence received from their institution in an email to [compsupport@hhmi.org](mailto:compsupport@hhmi.org).

An applicant may hold one or more research grants but may not hold more than one early career award (for example, the NIH Director's New Innovator Award, the NSF CAREER Award, or an early career award from a foundation). In addition, an applicant cannot be appointed as an HHMI early career scientist if he/she will continue to have administrative responsibilities or other nonresearch duties that would preclude devoting a minimum of 75 percent of total effort to the direct conduct of research.

***What will need to be included in the application?*** The application must include the following documents, all to be submitted electronically to the HHMI application website at [www.hhmi.org/research/application/2009](http://www.hhmi.org/research/application/2009):

- A curriculum vitae, a complete bibliography, and a list of current research support using the NIH PHS 398 biographical sketch format. The NIH three-page limit does not apply.
- A summary of the applicant's major achievements (not more than 250 words).
- A summary of the main research directions that this appointment would enable (not more than 250 words).

- A summary of the applicant's ongoing and planned research program (not more than 3,000 words; an additional single page of figures plus necessary references are not counted toward the 3,000-word limit).
- PDF files of five selected publications that document the applicant's most important scientific contributions and a paragraph summarizing the importance of each publication.

***What are the review criteria and how will the review be carried out?*** HHMI expects that successful applicants would be among the most outstanding in the nation. Given their early career stage, applicants will be evaluated on their potential for significant research productivity and originality, as judged by their doctoral and postdoctoral work, their research plans, and results from their independent research programs. HHMI will employ a review process that utilizes a panel of distinguished scientists to evaluate applications, leading to the selection of semifinalists by late 2008. Institutions whose faculty members are selected will be notified and will be asked to confirm that the candidate's status at the institution meets all eligibility requirements. Following review, finalists will be offered appointments as HHMI early career scientists by May 2009.

***What about reference letters?*** Applicants should not include names of references or reference letters in the application. Semifinalists will be notified in late fall and asked to solicit two reference letters at that time.

***Does an applicant need institutional approval to apply?*** No. Institutional endorsement should not be included with the application. However, institutions will be contacted to verify the employment status of semifinalists.