

2008 HHMI Investigator Competition

What is the goal of this competition? HHMI seeks to appoint to its HHMI investigator program approximately 50 outstanding 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 applications is June 13, 2007, at 3:00 p.m. (Eastern time).

When will the selection be made? Semifinalists will be named in late fall 2007. The final selection will be complete in spring 2008.

What are the eligibility requirements? Detailed information about eligibility is available at our website: www.hhmi.org/research/competitions/investigator2008. To be eligible for this competition the applicant must, at the time of application:

- Have a doctoral degree.
- Hold a tenured or 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 at least four but no more than ten years of experience since first appointed as an Assistant Professor or equivalent position; to meet this requirement the applicant's first faculty position as Assistant Professor must have begun no earlier than April 12, 1997, and no later than June 13, 2003. Circumstances such as those that qualify for tenure clock extensions at academic institutions may justify an extension of the April 12, 1997 limit; applicants who wish to request an extension should provide information in an email to comp2008@hhmi.org.
- Be the principal investigator on one or more active, national, peer-reviewed research grants that provide at least three years of support, such as an NIH R01 award. Mentored awards or training grants do not qualify.

In addition, an applicant cannot be appointed as an HHMI investigator if he/she will continue to have administrative responsibilities or other non-research 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: www.hhmi.org/research/application/comp2008

- 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 since becoming a faculty member (not more than 250 words).
- A summary of the applicant's ongoing and planned research program (not more than 3,000 words; references and up to one page of figures 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? HHMI expects not only that its investigators be talented and productive scientists but also that they demonstrate some combination of the following attributes to an extent that clearly distinguishes them from other highly competent researchers in their field. (1) They identify and pursue significant biological questions in a rigorous and deep manner. (2) They push their research field into new areas of inquiry, being consistently at its forefront. (3) They develop new tools and methods that enable creative, experimental approaches to biological questions, bringing to bear, when necessary, concepts or techniques from other disciplines. (4) They forge links between basic biology and medicine. (5) They demonstrate great promise of future original and innovative contributions.

What about reference letters? Applicants should not include names of references or reference letters in the application. Semifinalists will be notified in late fall 2007 and asked to solicit three 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.