



Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Hanna H. Gray Fellows Program

2017 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), recognizing the value of individuals from different backgrounds to move science forward, seeks to increase diversity in the biomedical research community. Through the new Hanna H. Gray Fellows Program, HHMI will recruit and retain individuals from groups underrepresented in the life sciences. The program will support early career scientists with the potential to become leaders in academic research. Through their successful careers, Hanna H. Gray Fellows will inspire the next generation of scientists from America's diverse talent pool.

Fellows will receive funding for their postdoctoral training and may continue to receive funding during their early career years as independent faculty. The program includes opportunities for career development, including mentoring and active involvement in the HHMI scientific community. The Institute will select and support up to 15 Fellows in this first competition, which will open in Fall 2016.

Following the "people, not projects" philosophy of HHMI, the competition is open to basic science researchers and physician-scientists in all biomedical and life science disciplines including plant biology, evolutionary biology, biophysics, chemical biology, biomedical engineering, and computational biology. Fellows will have freedom to change their research focus and follow their own curiosity during the duration of the award.

ELIGIBILITY:

- The program is open to individuals who are from gender, racial, ethnic, and other groups underrepresented in the life sciences at the career stages targeted by this program, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Applicants must have a PhD and/or MD (or equivalent) by the start of the grant term.
- Applicants can have no more than 12 months of postdoctoral research experience at the time of the application due date.
- The program is open to applicants of any citizenship or nationality who have been accepted to join a laboratory as a postdoctoral fellow at a research institution located in the U.S. (including Puerto Rico).

POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING PHASE:

Fellows will receive annual support for salary (\$60,000, initial year) and \$20,000 in flexible funds, paid through a non-renewable grant to the training institution. This phase of the award has a maximum length of four years and a minimum of two years.

INDEPENDENT FACULTY PHASE:

Fellows will receive \$250,000 per year in research funding and \$20,000 in flexible funds, paid through a non-renewable grant to the institution where they have attained a faculty position. This phase of the award has a maximum length of four years.

CONDITIONS OF THE AWARD:

- Fellows in both postdoctoral training and faculty phases are required to devote at least 75% of their total effort to research.
- To transition to the faculty phase of the program, Fellows must obtain a faculty position in the tenure-track (or equivalent) at a U.S. (including Puerto Rico) research institution with a doctoral-level graduate program in their area of interest.
- Fellows will be expected to attend an HHMI science meeting each year and provide an annual progress report.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Applicants can establish eligibility and submit an application via the HHMI online competition site www.hhmi.org/research/application/GrayFellows2017 in mid-September, 2016.

The deadline for applications is **February 15, 2017, at 3:00 PM** (Eastern Time). Mentor and reference letters must be received by February 23, 2017.

The application includes the following components:

- Summary of applicant's educational and training record
- Personal statement relating past experiences and career goals
- Overview of the applicant's prior research experience
- A publication list with statements of significance
- Summary of the applicant's planned research for postdoctoral phase
- An evaluative statement from the applicant's research training mentor
- A statement of support with a training plan from the postdoctoral training mentor
- A curriculum vitae and list of prior trainees from postdoctoral training mentor
- One additional letter of reference

SELECTION OF FELLOWS:

HHMI will assess the applicant's potential for a career as an independent academic researcher and quality of training environment with the selected mentor. Semi-finalists will be selected by May 2017 and will be invited to make a scientific presentation to a panel of reviewers June 19-20, 2017. The selection of finalists will be made by early July 2017. Awards may begin as early as September 15, 2017, but no later than January 15, 2018.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Additional information is available at www.hhmi.org/HannaGrayFellows2017. For questions contact program staff at fellows@hhmi.org.