2012 Gilliam Fellows Announced

HHMI has selected nine students to receive the 2012 Gilliam Fellowships for Advanced Study.

Established in 2004, the fellowship program is designed to promote excellence and diversity in science and education. The Gilliam fellows, who are from groups underrepresented in the sciences or from disadvantaged backgrounds, will receive financial support for up to five years of study toward a doctoral degree.

“These students share a passion and aptitude for research that has been shaped by their unique backgrounds and experience. That diversity of perspectives is crucial for the growth of the scientific community,” says Sean B. Carroll, HHMI’s vice president for science education.

Gilliam fellows are selected from among students who have participated in HHMI’s Exceptional Research Opportunities Program, which places undergraduates from underrepresented groups in the labs of HHMI investigators and professors. Eight of this year’s Gilliam fellows are applying to Ph.D. or M.D., Ph.D. programs, and one student is in his first year of a Ph.D. program at Baylor College of Medicine. Each fellow will receive $46,500 a year to apply toward graduate studies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: To learn more about the Gilliam Fellowship program, visit www.hhmi.org/grants/individuals/gilliam.html.

2012 GILLIAM FELLOWS

ROBERT AMEZQUITA
University of California, San Diego

TIEN-PHAT HUYNH
University of California, Los Angeles

HUGO VEGA-RAMIREZ
University of California, Davis

DANIEL GARCIA
Harvey Mudd College

LAUREN RODRIGUEZ
University of California, Santa Cruz

ROBERT WARDLOW
University of Maryland Baltimore County

DERIC GRIFFIN
Louisiana State University & A&M College, Graduate School, Baylor College of Medicine

KAILAN SIERRA-DAVIDSON
Harvard University

MARtha ZEPEDA RIVERA
University of Washington

eLife Announces Editors, Launches Website

The editorial board of eLife, the new journal for life and biomedical science launched with the support of HHMI, the Max Planck Society, and the Wellcome Trust, announced the names of the more than 150 reviewing editors who will help deliver on the initiative’s commitment to change peer review. Expediting the review process is one of the fundamental ways eLife will drive change in research communication.

Like the senior editors, who were announced in November, the scientists who make up the international Board of Reviewing Editors (BRE) represent the wide array of disciplines targeted for the eLife journal—from human genetics and molecular neuroscience to oncology and epidemiology.

A key goal for eLife is to improve the peer review process by offering rapid initial decisions, constructive peer review, limited requests for revision, and clear guidance to authors. Once the journal receives a manuscript, the senior editors will work quickly to determine whether it is appropriate for in-depth peer review. Suitable papers will be assigned to a member of the BRE who will review the article along with one or two additional reviewers. The BRE and reviewers will discuss their recommendations and make a final decision. Their decision letter, plus the authors’ responses, will be published with the accepted version of the article.

The names of the BRE members are listed on the eLife website atelifesciences.org. The launch of the organization’s website also marks the unveiling of the eLife logo, which represents life, growth, change, and diversity. The design symbolizes the journal’s breadth of topics, inclusive approach, and commitment to changing the way things are done.

“Everyone wants to know if eLife will deliver on our commitment to sit in the top tier of science publishing,” says Randy Schekman, the journal’s editor-in-chief. “We believe the involvement of scientists of this caliber as senior and reviewing editors is another clear sign of that commitment. Prepare your papers now.”

The journal will open for manuscript submissions in the coming weeks.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: The names of the new editors and information about manuscript submission can be found on the eLife website atelifesciences.org.

WEB EXTRA: Go to www.hhmi.org/bulletin/may2012 to hear the journal’s editors and leaders from HHMI, the Max Planck Society, and the Wellcome Trust, talk about eLife.