

# Competition to Select New HHMI Investigators

Application Due Date (Extended): September 2, 2020

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) is seeking creative and innovative scientists to join its Investigator Program. Through this competition, HHMI will expand our community of basic researchers and physician scientists across the nation who catalyze discovery research in basic and biomedical sciences, plant biology, evolutionary biology, biophysics, chemical biology, biomedical engineering, and computational biology. Approximately 20 new Investigators will be selected in this competition. The competition is open to all eligible applicants (see below); no nomination or institutional endorsement is required or accepted.

HHMI believes in the power of individuals to make breakthroughs over time. In keeping with this philosophy, we provide our Investigators with generous and flexible support, including salary, benefits, and a research budget, and allow them to pursue their scientific interests and change research focus during a seven-year renewable appointment. HHMI Investigators maintain their academic appointments and labs at their home institutions, allowing them to engage with their scientific colleagues and be active in training and service. Investigators attend one of several annual scientific meetings that highlight science within the Institute. These meetings foster interaction and collaboration among a community of nearly 300 HHMI Investigators and other HHMI-funded scientists spanning a range of career stages. Investigators also have opportunities to work with HHMI's scientific leadership to promote our mission.

At HHMI, we believe that creating new knowledge and solving difficult scientific problems requires the perspectives of people with different backgrounds and experiences. Scientists with unique perspectives ask different questions, which can lead to new insights that drive science forward. HHMI seeks a broad applicant pool and welcomes applications from individuals with diverse backgrounds and perspectives, including those from gender, racial, ethnic, and other groups underrepresented in the biological sciences.

For additional information regarding the HHMI Investigator Program and this competition visit: [hhmi.org/programs/biomedical-research/investigator-program](https://hhmi.org/programs/biomedical-research/investigator-program).

# Eligibility

The Investigator Program is open to individuals who:

- hold a PhD and/or MD (or the equivalent).
- have a tenured or tenure-track position as an assistant professor or higher academic rank (or the equivalent) at an eligible US institution. Federal government employees are not eligible.
- have more than five but no more than 15 years of post-training, professional experience. To meet this requirement, the applicant's first professional appointment must have begun no earlier than March 1, 2005, and no later than April 1, 2015.
- are the principal investigator on one or more active, national, peer-reviewed research grants with an initial duration of at least three years as of April 1, 2020. Mentored awards and training grants do not qualify. Multi-investigator grants may qualify.

# Important Conditions

Some important conditions of the HHMI Investigator appointment:

- Although they retain academic appointments at their respective institutions, Investigators must become full-time employees of HHMI, which provides full salary and benefits. Investigators are appointed for a seven-year, renewable period.
- Investigators are required to devote at least 75% of their professional activities to the direct conduct of research. Applicants with administrative responsibilities or other duties inconsistent with this time commitment may apply but must reduce those other commitments prior to their appointment.
- Investigator appointments will be made at the institution where the applicant held a qualifying position on September 2, 2020. Alternatively, appointments may be made at a different institution, provided the applicant notifies HHMI of the institution change no later than October 9, 2020. Additional details can be found in the competition [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) document.

- An Investigator may not retain an HHMI appointment if the Investigator transfers to another institution prior to the initial appointment review. An early review can be requested after five years.

Please submit questions regarding eligibility or HHMI policies to [sciencecomp@hhmi.org](mailto:sciencecomp@hhmi.org).

# Application Process

Applicants may establish eligibility and apply via the HHMI Application and Review Channel website at [arc.hhmi.org](http://arc.hhmi.org) beginning October 22, 2019.

Applications must be submitted on the website by September 2, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. (EDT).

The application includes the following components:

- A summary of the applicant's major research contributions.
- An abstract providing an overview of the biological questions and goals of the applicant's research program.
- A description of the applicant's ongoing and planned research program.
- Five selected articles that highlight the applicant's most important scientific contributions with a focus on the most recent five years, as well as paragraphs describing the significance and impact of each contribution.
- Additional applicant information such as a bibliography, list of current research support, education, and training.

Letters of recommendation will not be required or accepted for this competition.

# Selection of Investigators

HHMI will assess the research achievements and prospects for future contributions of the applicant's independent research program. Applications will be evaluated by distinguished scientists. Semifinalists will be invited to a symposium at HHMI's Janelia

Research Campus in Ashburn, Virginia, where they will make a brief research presentation to HHMI scientific leadership and the final advisory panel. The dates for notifying applicants of their status in the competition, including if they were selected to be a semifinalist, and the date of the mandatory full day symposium for semifinalists will be provided by September 2, 2020. For those selected as finalists, HHMI Investigator appointments may start as early as September 1, 2022.

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute is an equal opportunity employer.