



# Investigator Program

## Announcing a Competition to Select New HHMI Investigators

APPLICATION DUE DATE: MARCH 21, 2023

**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 25 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.**

The most exciting and innovative breakthroughs come when exceptional individuals are given the freedom to pursue their boldest ideas. In keeping with this philosophy, HHMI Investigators receive generous and flexible support that allows the pursuit of high-risk/high-reward projects based upon visionary scientific ideas, leading to novel discoveries. We also foster interaction and collaboration among a community of more than 260 HHMI Investigators and other HHMI-funded scientists spanning a range of career stages.

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 diverse perspectives ask different questions, which can lead to new insights that drive science forward. HHMI also encourages inclusive lab cultures that provide effective mentorship and professional development to enable scientists from all backgrounds to thrive. We seek a broad applicant pool and welcome 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/investigators](https://hhmi.org/investigators). Address questions to [sciencecomp@hhmi.org](mailto:sciencecomp@hhmi.org).

## 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 U.S. institution. Federal government employees are not eligible.
- have more than 5, but no more than 15, years of post-training, professional experience. To meet this requirement, the applicant's first post-training professional appointment must have begun no earlier than March 1, 2008, and no later than April 1, 2018.
- 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, 2023. Mentored awards and training grants do not qualify. Multi-investigator grants may qualify.

## Important Conditions of Note

- Investigators retain academic appointments and laboratories at their respective institutions but 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 percent 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 March 21, 2023. Alternatively, appointments may be made at a different institution, provided the applicant notifies HHMI of the institution change no later than October 12, 2023. 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.
- HHMI Investigators must abide by HHMI's policies for lab heads, including the conduct of science and the open access policy concerning scientific publication. This includes sharing of materials, data, and software. More information about HHMI policies is available at <https://www.hhmi.org/about/policies>.

## Application Process

Applicants can establish eligibility via the HHMI Application and Review channel [website](#) beginning October 27, 2022. In December 2022, the full application will become available at the same website.

**Applications must be submitted through the website by March 21, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. (ET).**

## Application Components:

- 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 research contributions supported by publications or preprints deposited in a repository that highlight the applicant's most important scientific contributions with a focus on the most recent five years, as well as a description of the significance and impact of each contribution.
- Additional applicant information such as a bibliography, list of current research support, education and training history, and mentoring and trainee outcomes.

## 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. Finalists will be selected by November 7, 2023, and asked to record a video presentation describing their research accomplishments and research vision. From March 18-20, 2024, finalists will be required to participate in a virtual interview by giving a brief presentation and answering questions from members of HHMI's advisory panel. The selection of New Investigators will be made in early April 2024, with HHMI Investigator appointments starting as early as September 1, 2024.

*The Howard Hughes Medical Institute is an equal opportunity employer.*