

AHA Research: Grant Funding and Other Opportunities

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BRIEF OVERVIEW

❖ **Grant Funding Opportunities at AHA**

- Across the career stage
- Application expectations and timelines
- The peer review process
- Program success rates

❖ **Other Award Opportunities**

❖ **Service and Career Development Opportunities**

RESEARCH IS THE FOUNDATION

- 
- ✓ **AHA is the largest nonprofit funder of CVD and stroke research outside of the federal government**
 - ✓ **More than \$4.5 billion in research funding since 1949**
 - ✓ **About 800 – 850 new awards each year**
 - ✓ **Roughly 2,000 active awards are currently funded**



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AHA FUNDING TO PITT

- Since 2016, 62 grants totaling 10.3M

- Broad array of funding mechanisms

- High submission volume



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OUR 12 RESEARCH ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

Develop innovative research models which integrate research values and fund highly meritorious or “best” research.

Fund both investigator-initiated and strategically-focused research, including **implementation** research.

Support all areas of cardiovascular, **cerebrovascular and brain health research, with a focus on overall health and well-being across the lifespan** that drives to AHA’s 2030 goals and overall mission.

Identify key questions, that if answered, could provide extraordinary impact in science and toward mission.

Ensure a focus on diverse populations in both the makeup of the investigators we support, and the participant populations of AHA-funded research.

Provide programs which in addition to supporting the pursuit of the research in question also facilitate expansion of investigator skills.

Focus on funding outstanding individuals, not just projects.

Clearly define and report research and translationally-oriented outcomes to all stakeholders.

Assure that best practices are used for all governance and operational guidelines.

Assure that all stakeholders – researchers, donors, lay volunteers – are involved in research activities.

Fund research which provides a return on investment which can be funneled back into more research.

Expand collaboration to leverage research dollars and outcomes.



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ESSENTIAL ELEMENT THREE

- *Prior:* Support research in all areas of cardiovascular and stroke science that drive to AHA's 2020 goals and overall mission
- *New:* Support all areas of cardiovascular, cerebrovascular and brain health research, with a focus on overall health and well-being across the lifespan that drives to AHA's 2030 goals and overall mission



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FEATURES OF ALL AHA AWARDS



- ✓ open to all academic and health professionals
- ✓ clinical, translational, population, behavioral, and basic science
- ✓ strongly encourage applications by women, those from groups under-represented in research, and those who have experienced non-traditional career trajectories
- ✓ No minimum percent effort required



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FEATURES OF ALL AHA AWARDS

- Fully transferrable
- Straightforward re-budgeting
-
- Strategically Focused Research Network personnel may hold individual AHA awards



2019-20 RESEARCH AWARD OFFERINGS

AWARD AMOUNTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Program	Description/Target	Award Amount	Duration
Institutional Undergraduate Student Award	To institutions that can offer a meaningful research experience to undergraduate college students.	Total Award Amount: \$24,000 - \$60,000	3 Years
AHA Predoctoral Fellowship	Promising students in pre-doctoral or clinical health professional degree training programs and who intend careers as scientists, physician-scientists or other clinician-scientists, or related careers aimed at improving global cardiovascular health.	Total Award Amount: \$26,844 - \$53,688 Mirrors NIH Scale	1 – 2 Years
AHA Postdoctoral Fellowship	Enhances the integrated research training of postdoctoral trainees. The applicant must be embedded in an appropriate research group with the mentorship, support, and relevant scientific guidance of a research supervisor.	Total Award Amount: \$51,484 - \$125,120 Mirrors NIH Scale	1 – 2 Years

2019-20 RESEARCH AWARD OFFERINGS

Program	Description/Target	Award Amount	Duration
Career Development Award	Highly promising investigators, early in careers. <i>New flexibility with concurrent holding of NIH K award</i>	Total Award Amount: \$231,000	3 Years
Established Investigator Award	Mid-career investigators with great promise, established records, demonstrated commitment.	Total Award Amount: \$400,000	5 Years
Merit Award	Exceptional scientists with established track records, who propose novel approaches to major research challenges, potential for high impact.	Total Award Amount: \$1,000,000	5 Years
Innovative Project Award	High risk/high reward type projects. <i>Preliminary data is not accepted.</i> However, a solid rationale for the work must be provided.	Total Award Amount: \$200,000	2 Years

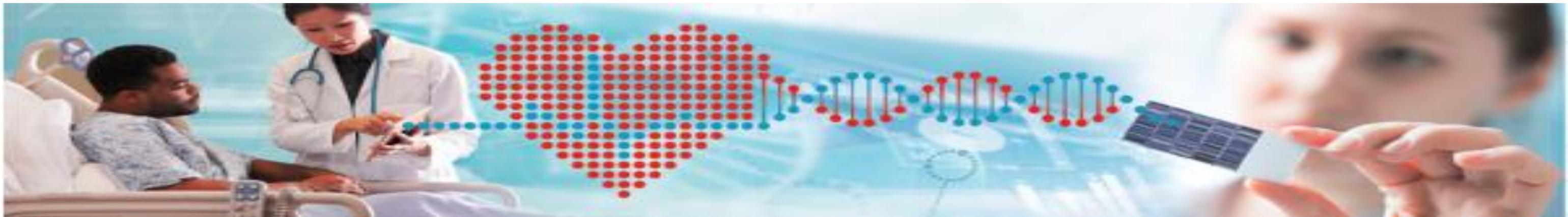
2019-20 RESEARCH AWARD OFFERINGS

Program	Description/Target	Award Amount	Duration
Transformational Project Award	<p>Next logical step of previous work. Should be suggestive of a high probability of success in new avenue; should include preliminary data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Similar to the former Grant-In-Aid.• Eliminated the “other accessible funds” restriction.	Total Award Amount: \$300,000	3 Years
Collaborative Sciences Award	<p>Two or more primary investigators from disparate disciplines to work on a project that is achievable only with combined efforts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At least one investigator at early or mid-career stage.	Total Award Amount: \$750,000	3 Years
AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)	<p>Supports researchers at institutions that have not been major recipients of NIH support.</p> <p>Goals: 1) meritorious research; expose students; enhance research environment.</p>	Total Award Amount: \$154,000	2 Years

FOCUSED RESEARCH PROGRAMS



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Institute for Precision Cardiovascular Medicine

The American Heart Association's Institute for Precision Cardiovascular Medicine aims to advance the science and practice of personalized medicine to improve cardiovascular health of individuals and populations.

[Institute for Precision Cardiovascular Medicine](#)



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INSTITUTE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Recurring Opportunities for Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning applications

.....
Fellowships and Training Grants

Data Challenge Grants

Research Goes Red



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EXAMPLE INSTITUTE GRANTS

Deep-learning based platform for accurate quantification of scar burden in hypertrophic cardiomyopathy

..... A cloud-computing machine learning and computational fluid dynamics framework for assessment of coronary disease

Machine and deep learning to identify heart failure trajectory phenotypes in atrial fibrillation

Developing An Artificial Intelligence Based Radiotherapy Cardiotoxicity Analysis Platform

Automated Vessel Wall Screening to Predict Cardiovascular Risk

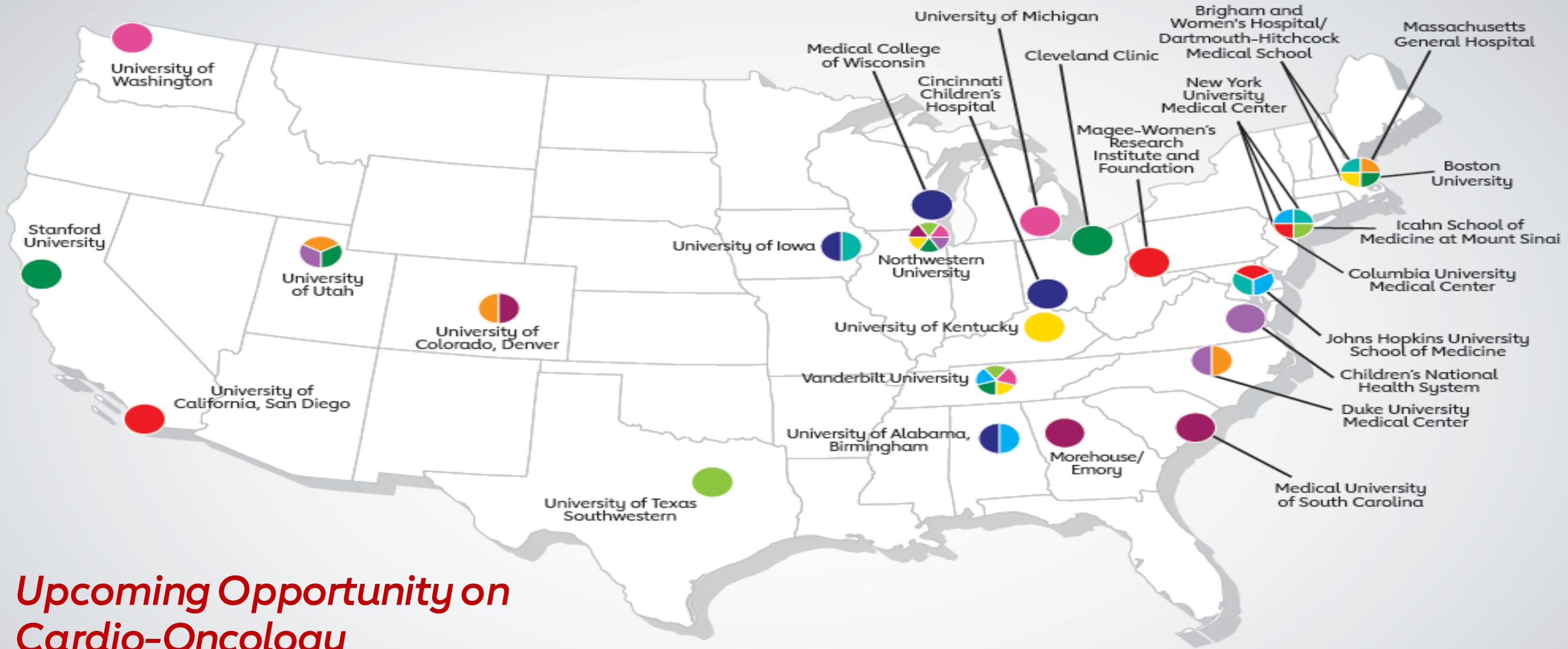


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JOINT FUNDING INITIATIVES

- Research Partnership w/ **V**ascular **I**nter**V**entional **A**dvances (VIVA)
- AHA/CHF Congenital Heart Disease Research Award
- AHA and The Society of Thoracic Surgeons Research Awards
- AHA/ASA/American Brain Foundation Lawrence M. Brass, M.D. Stroke Research
- AHA Enduring Hearts Foundation Research and AHA
 - July deadline on pediatric heart transplantation
- AHA/CCF Pediatric Cardiomyopathy Joint Research Award - The Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation and AHA
- AHA/Myocarditis Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship Award
- AHA/Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group

STRATEGICALLY FOCUSED RESEARCH NETWORKS



Upcoming Opportunity on Cardio-Oncology



- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| ● Prevention* | ● Go Red For Women | ● Children's | ● Arrhythmias & Sudden Cardiac Death |
| ● Hypertension* | ● Heart Failure | ● Vascular Disease | ● Cardiometabolic Health |
| ● Disparities in CVD & Stroke* | ● Obesity | ● Atrial Fibrillation | |
- *Networks Completed

KEY APPLICATION DATES (see website)

Program	Letter of Intent Deadline (If required)	Application Deadline	Award Start Date
AHA Predoctoral Fellowship		Wed, Sept 9, 2020	January 1, 2021
AHA Postdoctoral Fellowship		Thurs, Sept 10, 2020	January 1, 2021
Institutional Undergraduate Student Training Program		Tues, Sept 15, 2020	January 1, 2021
Merit Award	Thurs, Oct 1, 2020	Invited Applicants:	April 1, 2021
		Tues, Nov 10, 2020	
Established Investigator Award	Wed, Oct 14, 2020	Invited Applicants:	April 1, 2021
Career Development Award		Thurs, Jan 14, 2021	
AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)		Thurs, Dec 3, 2020	April 1, 2021
Innovative Project Award	Tues, Nov 3, 2020	Invited Applicants:	April 1, 2021
		Tues, Feb 2, 2021	
Transformational Project Award		Tues, Feb 16, 2021	July 1, 2021
Collaborative Sciences Award	Thurs, Jan 7, 2021	Invited Applicants:	July 1, 2021
		Tues, March 16, 2021	
Strategically Focused Research Funding Opportunities			
AHA and Enduring Hearts Research Awards in Pediatric Heart Transplantation		Invited Applicants:	
	Mon, June 1, 2020	Tues, Sept 1, 2020	January 1, 2021
American Stroke Association-Bugher Foundation Centers of Excellence in Hemorrhagic Stroke	Thurs, July 16, 2020	Thurs, Aug 27, 2020	January 1, 2021
AHA and Children's Heart Foundation Congenital Heart Defects Research Awards		Tues, Sept 22, 2020	January 1, 2021
Cardio-Oncology Strategically Focused Research Network	Tues, Oct 12, 2020	Tues, Dec 8, 2020	April 1, 2021

*Deadlines are subject to change.

MUST BE A MEMBER TO APPLY

- All applicants -- including predoctoral and postdoctoral fellows -- must be an American Heart Association professional member (memberships start under \$100).
- Applicants may renew or join membership during the application process through grants@heart.
- Join or renew by phone at 301-223-2307 or 800-787-8984

There is a 3-5 day waiting period to process membership, so do not wait until the application deadline to renew or join.



PEER REVIEW



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THE PEER REVIEW PROCESS

Assigned to committee, reviewers (3)

NIH-style review

- ✓ Mix of face-to-face and teleconference
- ✓ Streamline process
-
- ✓ Review criteria (general)
 - The science: Innovation, Impact, Significance, Approach, Investigator, Environment
 - Fellowships: 1) the Applicant; 2) Sponsor/Training Plan and Environment; 3) the Proposal
 - Somewhat similar for CDA



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THE PEER REVIEW PROCESS

- Lay summary now part of scoring
- Normalized priority and percentile scores
- See website for specifics for every program

RECENT SUCCESS RATES

<u>PROGRAM</u>	FY17-18	FY18-19
AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)	32%	37%
AHA-AMFDP Scholar (Amos)		
Career Development Award	32%	36%
Collaborative Sciences Award	20%	19%
Established Investigator Award	21%	23%
Innovative Project Award	23%	32%
Institute	46%	11%
Merit Award	9%	8%
Postdoctoral Fellowship	32%	43%
Predoctoral Fellowship	34%	37%
Strategic Collaborative Grant	22%	13%
Strategic Renewal Grant	30%	14%
Strategically Focused Research Network	21%	20%
Transformational Project Award	23%	28%
Undergraduate Fellowship	50%	43%



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OPTIMIZE YOUR CHANCE OF FUNDING

- Choose the right program
- Follow the application instructions
- Reach out for help when you have questions
- Write your lay summary for nonscientists

How to Share Your AHA-Funded Research
by researcher Georgia Papavasiliou, Ph.D.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04ZEyfm1T2s&list=PLtzTeR_CJNHJBtkiHnTJ-uhYq3WGDYkP5&index=1



Council Awards and Lectures

The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association scientific councils' awards acknowledge significant achievements in cardiovascular diseases and stroke, ranging from basic research to service to the councils and the association.

These awards recognize the achievements of researchers, scientists, clinicians, nurses and allied health professionals throughout their careers. They also provide opportunities for financial rewards, special presentations and funding to attend Scientific Sessions and other AHA scientific meetings.

Early Career

Early Career Investigator Awards recognize promising and outstanding trainees, investigators and clinicians in the early stages of their careers and stimulate continued interest in basic or clinical research.

Career Achievement

These awards recognize individuals for specific career endeavors and achievements that made a significant impact on the field of cardiovascular diseases and stroke, and helped further the mission of the scientific councils and the AHA/ASA.

Travel Grants

These stipends help defray travel costs for early career investigators, trainees and students to participate in the AHA Scientific Sessions.

International Travel Awards

International Committee Early Career Travel Awards

Scholarships

The student scholarship programs, administered under qualified supervision, provide an important stimulus to interest medical and master's-level students in research in cardiovascular diseases, stroke and basic scientific research.

Lifetime Achievement

Lifetime Achievement Awards recognize contributions to the fields of cardiovascular disease and stroke over a sustained period. Recipients of these awards exemplify excellence and are notable representatives of the best in their fields.

Lectures

Council named lectures feature presentations from some of today's foremost clinicians and researchers as well as those with a lifetime of contributions to the field of cardiovascular disease.



https://professional.heart.org/professional/MembershipCouncils/AwardsLectures/UCM322102_Early-Career-Council-Awards.jsp

CAREER DEVELOPMENT/SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



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PEER REVIEW OPPORTUNITIES – NEW PILOT PROGRAM FOR AHA-FUNDED POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

2nd year postdoctoral fellows eligible

Approval of sponsor

Training sessions

One specifically for fellows, one attended by all reviewers

Assigned up to 3 grants (Fellowship applications currently)

Will prepare full written critiques and assign preliminary scores (won't submit final scores)





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CONSIDER BECOMING AN AHA PEER REVIEWER

JOIN OUR TEAM

- All ranks
- Basic, clinical and population research expertise
- Research experience needed (funding, publication record)
- Excellent experience
- Scientifically stimulating, see the newest science, important academic service, establish new colleagues, collaborations, potential leadership opportunity

Peer Reviewer Home Page

<http://My.AmericanHeart.org/PeerReview>

Peer Review Contact

peerreview@heart.org

Can also use this email to suggest potential Lay Reviewers

Register to become a Peer Reviewer

- Visit Grants@Heart <http://bit.ly/2uilWf5>
- Flyers up front



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RESOURCES

FOLLOW US
@AHA RESEARCH
.....
TO SEE WHAT'S
COOKIN'

WEB PAGE

ENCOURAGE POTENTIAL APPLICANTS TO MONITOR THE AHA APPLICATION PAGE FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION.

HELP

AHA RESEARCH: APPLY@HEART.ORG OR (214) 360-6107 (OPTION 1).

RESEARCH INSIDER

SIGN UP

[HTTP://PROFESSIONAL.HEART.ORG/PROFESSIONAL/RESEARCHPROGRAMS/RESEARCHACCOMPLISHMENTS/UCM_484116_RESEARCH-INSIDER-SIGN-UP.JSP](http://PROFESSIONAL.HEART.ORG/PROFESSIONAL/RESEARCHPROGRAMS/RESEARCHACCOMPLISHMENTS/UCM_484116_RESEARCH-INSIDER-SIGN-UP.JSP)



RESEARCH

Since 1949, the AHA has invested more than \$3.9 billion in research to enhance our knowledge of cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

ABOUT AHA RESEARCH

The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association is a national voluntary health organization dedicated to building healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke. We are working toward improving the cardiovascular health of all Americans by 20 percent, and reducing deaths from cardiovascular diseases and stroke by 20 percent, by the year 2020.

We fund research programs that support the development of beginning investigators and those that enrich existing bodies of knowledge – by identifying new ways to prevent, detect and treat cardiovascular disease and stroke.

The AHA Research Program is guided by [12 Essential Elements](#) developed by a broad group of key stakeholders including science volunteers.



Applicant

View the Application Information page to find all the resources needed for preparing and submitting your application for funding.



Peer Review

The AHA is continually enhancing and refining its review process to ensure that we are able to identify and fund the most meritorious research projects in support of our mission.



Awards & Policies

Learn more about all policies and procedures that govern all applications and awards.

QUESTIONS?

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