



## DESCRIPTION

This award provides \$60,000 per year for two years (total \$120,000) for young investigators working toward independent careers in gastroenterology, hepatology, or related areas. Third year funding may be available contingent upon the availability of funds and a competitive review.

## OBJECTIVE

The overall objective is to enable young investigators to develop independent and productive research careers in digestive diseases by ensuring that a major proportion of their time is protected for research.

## ELIGIBILITY

- Candidates must hold an MD, PhD or equivalent degree (e.g., MB, ChB, MBBS, DO).
- Applicants must hold full-time faculty positions at North American universities or professional institutes at the onset of the award term. Applicants must be members of the AGA at the time of application submission. Please visit [www.gastro.org](http://www.gastro.org) or call 301-654-2055, extension 651, for membership information.
- The award is intended to support young faculty (not fellows) who have demonstrated unusual promise and have some record of accomplishment in research. Candidates should be in the beginning years of their careers; therefore, established investigators are not appropriate candidates.
- MD applicants: No more than five years shall have elapsed following the completion of your clinical training (GI fellowship or its equivalent) and the start date of this award. PhD applicants: No more than five years shall have elapsed following the completion of your postdoctoral training and the start date of this award.
- An appropriately documented parental leave of absence will not be counted toward the above mentioned five (5) years of eligibility. Other exceptional circumstances will be considered. Candidates must devote at least 70 percent of their efforts to research related to the gastrointestinal tract or liver. Women, minorities and physician/scientist investigators are strongly encouraged to apply.

## AWARD OVERLAP

- At the time of application, candidates are **not** allowed to hold or to have held an R01, R29, R21, K-series award, Veterans Affairs Career Development Award or any award with similar objectives from non-federal sources (such as the American Liver Foundation, Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation or Glaxo Institute of Digestive Health). If an RSA recipient is notified of a similar award on a similar topic from another agency prior to the first payment of the RSA (July 1), the recipient must choose among the awards (i.e. the recipient will not be allowed to retain both the RSA and the other award). If the recipient receives notification from another agency that he/she has received a similar award after the first payment of the RSA (July 1), the recipient must forfeit the RSA. The balance of the forfeited award must be returned to FDHN

for redistribution.

- The intent of this award is to foster the scientific independence of junior investigators. Therefore, applicants whose research activities are incorporated into a federal grant application from a senior mentor will need to clearly delineate the scientific and experimental distinctions between their respective programs. This requirement applies both to pending applications and applications submitted during the term of the RSA. Applications must also state that the work submitted is that of the applicant and not other senior mentors. Should the contents of other applications be included in the application for the Research Scholar Award, the applicant will be disqualified from consideration.

## REQUIREMENTS

- Resources allocated through this award are intended to support the career development of the applicant. Accordingly, requests for salary, fringe or other support for the mentor are not allowed. Indirect costs are not allowed. Upon notification of receipt of this award, the recipient must provide approval from the appropriate committee at his/her institution for use of human subjects or animals. If approval is not necessary, the recipient must provide explanation. Evidence for developing independence in research initiatives should be provided.
- Recipients must file scientific progress reports consisting of a one-page plain language progress report, a list of publications and division chief or department chair certification by April 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. A complete financial statement and scientific progress report are required annually and upon completion of the program. Funding after the first year will be contingent upon submission of these reports.
- If funding becomes available for a 3<sup>rd</sup> year of research support, recipients wishing to obtain this funding will be asked to participate in a competitive review process for 3<sup>rd</sup> year renewal. The competitive review process will require the submission of a short progress report along with a 10-minute presentation to the AGA RSA review panel at DDW. Recipients will be notified in advance if a competitive review will occur.
- All publications, abstracts and presentations arising from work funded by this program must acknowledge support of an *American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) Foundation Research Scholar Award*.

## INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT

- There must be a strong commitment from the candidate's division and/or department to support the candidate by protecting time for research and providing adequate laboratory space and other supporting facilities. These commitments must be carefully described in letters from the candidate's division chief and department chair. The letters must certify that the award is being used to provide protected time to the recipient in accord with the terms of the award. In addition, it is expected that the sponsor will outline specific plans for the future development of the research career of the applicant. The institution must commit to assuring timely and accurate reporting of current research activities of awardees. This includes an annual report of the funding status of the applicant, grants submitted and pending and all publications.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Recipients will be selected based on novelty, feasibility and significance of the proposal, attributes of the candidate, including potential for independence, evidence of institutional commitment and the research environment. The candidate should state clearly how the additional training will benefit his/her research career. Special consideration will be given to those applications with a focus in nutrition or

geriatrics.

## **REVIEW PROCESS**

A selection committee comprised of members of the AGA Research Awards Panel will review the proposals and select the recipients. Funding will begin in July.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

The application deadline date for this award is midnight, January 29. To download the award application, please visit [www.fdhn.org](http://www.fdhn.org). The completed application, letters of support or commitment and other documents, as applicable, must be combined into and submitted as **one** PDF document. The document must be titled by the applicant's last name and first initial only. Hard copies are not accepted. Please email the application document to [awards@fdhn.org](mailto:awards@fdhn.org). Please direct all questions to the Research Awards Manager by telephone at 301-222-4012 or via email at [awards@fdhn.org](mailto:awards@fdhn.org). For more information about this award and other AGA Foundation research funding opportunities, please visit the Foundation Web site at [www.fdhn.org](http://www.fdhn.org).

\* Approved by the AGA Institute Governing Board, 13 VOTED, July 2006