



Call for Applications

2012 Claflin Distinguished Scholar Awards

Two-Year Awards for Junior Faculty Women Investigators in Basic and Clinical Research

Deadline – 3 pm, March 15, 2012

Applications are invited for Claflin Distinguished Scholar Awards from the Executive Committee On Research (ECOR) and the Office for Women's Careers. Each award includes funding of \$50,000 per year in direct costs, plus 15% for indirect costs. Funds may be used to support a technician, postdoctoral fellow or graduate student and supplies. Funds cannot be used for support of the investigator's salary, except with specific approval of ECOR. Eligibility and other award information are provided below.

The Application deadline is 3 pm, March 15, 2012. Applications must be e-mailed as a single pdf file with your name in the file title to ecor@partners.org. Details are given in the Applications Submission section below. For further information regarding the application process, please e-mail ecor@partners.org.

Background

Although women scientists are recruited to Massachusetts General Hospital programs, their advancement to senior faculty positions is still far less frequent than that of their male counterparts. In 1993, The Women in Academic Medicine Committee, originally chaired by Mrs. R. Morton Claflin, Honorary Trustee, was established to facilitate the academic careers of women in science at MGH. Recognizing that a significant obstacle to career advancement is the difficulty of maintaining research productivity during the child-rearing years, this Committee, with the sponsorship of the Executive Committee On Research (ECOR), established the Claflin Distinguished Scholar Awards. It is intended that this transitional funding will increase opportunities for women to advance to senior positions in academic medicine.

Application Guidelines

- The MGH ECOR Claflin Awards provide bridge funding for junior faculty women to sustain research productivity during their child-rearing years.
- Both basic and clinical research investigators are eligible to apply.
- Current recipients of the HMS 50th Anniversary Scholar Award are not eligible to apply for this award.
- Applications will be evaluated and ranked for funding priority by the Subcommittee on Review of Research Proposals (SRRP), whose recommendations will be submitted to ECOR for final approval.
- ***Applications that exceed the three-page research plan (excluding references) will not be ranked.***

Eligibility

- M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent advanced degree
- Candidate must be within 7 years of first full-time faculty appointment at the time the award is initiated, cumulative of all institutions, inside or outside the United States
- Academic appointment at the level of instructor or assistant professor at Harvard Medical School
- Primary appointment at the Massachusetts General Hospital
- Conducting research at Massachusetts General Hospital
- Evidence of salary support from a grant or other funding source
- Submission of a project description on which the applicant is clearly the principal investigator whose academic progress would benefit from such funding support
- Evidence of strong research training, productivity, and a well-defined focus in either basic or clinical research
- Responsible for care of children

Award Expenditure and Start Date

Awards are effective July 1, 2012 and will be for two years. The awards are \$50,000 in direct costs, plus 15% indirect costs per year. Funds may be used for support of a technician, postdoctoral fellow or graduate student and supplies. Funds cannot be used for support of the investigator's salary, except with the specific approval of ECOR. All applicants will be notified of the results of the review process by e-mail. If applicable, approved Human or Animal Use protocols must be current prior to award of funds.

Application Preparation

Applications for Claflin Distinguished Scholar Awards must include the information outlined below, in the order listed. Applications must be submitted as a single pdf with the applicant's name in the upper right corner of each page.

Incomplete applications or applications that exceed three pages for research plan will not be ranked.

Information required:

1. Completed Standard MGH Research Proposal Coversheet with signatures. The form is available at the following address:

http://resadmin.partners.org/RM_Home/documents/forms/PartnersResearchProposalCoversheet.pdf

Please insert the following information on the coversheet:

- Applicant Org: MGH Chief Code: (department chief code)
- Department Contact (Grant and/or Business Manager)
- Immediate Sponsor Name: ECOR
- Proposal due date: 03/15/12
- Originating Sponsor: n/a
- RFA/RFP/PA No./or cut and paste the Sponsor URL: Leave this box blank
- Activity Type: Indicate if it is clinical or non-clinical research
- Agreement Type: Grant
- Total Project Costs, including indirect costs: \$115,000

2. Title page, including:

- Title of research project
- Applicant's Name, Department, Center or Unit, MGH and HMS professional appointments, office or laboratory address, telephone and e-mail address
- List the year and month of first faculty appointment
- Indicate if you have applied for this award previously and if so, the year of application

3. Research plan (limited to three pages, excluding references)

- Specific aims
- Background and significance
- Preliminary data
- Experimental design and methods
- References

4. NIH Biosketch of the applicant

5. Listing of current and pending other support (NIH format)

6. Most recent IACUC/IRB approval letters, if appropriate

7. Proposed Budget (\$50,000 direct costs per year for 2 years maximum, plus 15% for indirect costs)

8. Letters of support (one from each category, include with application):

- Unit, Service, or Department Chief. This letter should include statement of applicant's independence and institutional commitment of resources.
- Research Colleague or Former Mentor. This letter should be from an individual outside the applicant's current department whenever possible.

9. Briefly describe child-rearing responsibilities

10. (Optional) Provide a statement of ethnicity information, i.e.: CAUCASIAN - (White, non Hispanic), BLACK - (Persons having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa - not of Hispanic origin.), ASIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER – (Persons with origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands.), AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKAN NATIVE – (Persons with origins in any of the original peoples of North America and who maintain cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.), HISPANIC – (Persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.)

Application Submission

Deadline - 3 pm on March 15, 2012.

Please submit your application in a pdf file. The file should be named as follows: "Claflin 2012 – last name, first initial – e.g. Claflin 2011 – Jones, A". Please email this file to the ecor@partners.org mailbox.

For further information regarding the application process or other questions, please e-mail ecor@partners.org or call 617-726-3662.

Frequently Asked Questions for Claflin Award

1. I have been on the faculty for eight years now, and believe this award would be very helpful now that I have had my first child. Can I apply?

You must be within seven years of your first academic appointment, cumulative of all academic institutions.

2. I am a research fellow, but anticipate that I will be an Instructor next summer. Can I apply?

No, you must be an Instructor or Assistant Professor at the time of your application.

3. I am pregnant and this will be my first child. Am I eligible to apply?

No. You must be raising children at the time you submit the application.

4. I am a female faculty member with no children. Am I eligible to apply?

You must be raising children at the time of your application.

5. I split my time between MGH and BWH. Am I eligible to apply?

If your primary appointment is with MGH and your research is conducted at MGH, you are eligible to apply for this award.

6. My research office/laboratory is not located on the campus of MGH. Am I eligible to apply?

The research office/laboratory must be located on a MGH campus, which includes Simches, CNY and the main hospital.

7. Can I request salary support for myself as PI on the project?

The intent of this award is to identify research scholars who have secured salary support and are transitioning to R01 or other federal agency grant support.

8. My research colleague is also my Chief, so may I submit one letter?

Two letters of support are required, so it is suggested that you submit a letter from a former mentor as well as your research colleague/Chief.

9. Does the application need to go through Grants Management for pre-review?

No, the applications must be emailed directly to ecor@partners.org.

10. How many awards are given each year?

The committee selects six awards per year.