

**Call for Applications for the 2007  
MGH Physician-Scientist Development Award**  
**Deadline: 4 p.m., February 15, 2007**

The Massachusetts General Hospital (“MGH”) Multicultural Affairs Office (“MAO”), the Executive Committee on Research (ECOR), and the Harvard Medical School Center of Excellence in Minority Health and Health Disparities (“COE”)<sup>1</sup> announces the 2007 MGH Physician-Scientist Development Award designed for physician-scientists at MGH. MAO's mission, in part, is to promote the careers of outstanding clinical and basic science underrepresented minority<sup>2</sup> researchers at MGH, and build a more diverse workforce. Despite some improvement in the number of underrepresented minorities entering U.S. medical schools, the number of physicians-of-color entering training programs in academic medicine has not kept pace with this available pool. This fact is particularly manifested in the number of underrepresented minority physicians occupying academic research faculty positions in this country. The reasons for this disparity are multifaceted and complex, but two factors -- a lack of carefully structured, effective mentoring, and the large level of indebtedness facing many physicians of color -- are often cited. The dearth of minority physician representation in academic hospital programs creates a critical void: It dilutes the effort to break new ground in basic and clinical investigation of disease and is an impediment to the delivery of innovative, culturally competent care to our patients.

This Award is intended to provide transitional funding for support in the development of underrepresented minority physician-scientists, and thereby increase opportunities for underrepresented minority researchers to advance to senior positions in academic medicine at MGH. The Multicultural Affairs Office will evaluate the need for this Award on a regular basis.

***Eligibility***

- M.D. and/or Ph.D., within 5 years of completion of fellowship training.
- Must have a primary appointment at the Massachusetts General Hospital at the time of the Award and throughout the full period of the Award.
- Must hold an appointment at the level of assistant professor, instructor, or fellow at Harvard Medical School. (If Award recipient is a fellow, the person must receive a faculty appointment at MHS & MGH within 2 years of commencement of the Award.)
- Must have demonstrated superior academic and/or clinical skills and be committed to a career in academic medicine.
- U.S. citizenship or permanent residence.

***Award***

- The duration of the Award is four (4) years, and the Award cycle will commence on July 1, 2007. A maximum of \$120,000.00 will be awarded over a four-year period, with up to \$30,000.00 per year of funding as detailed below.
- This Award has two components: (1) A grant consisting of a minimum of \$15,000 per year, which may be used only for laboratory assistance and non-capital equipment. Funds may be used for Awardee salary only with specific approval. (2) Loan repayment funds up to a maximum of \$15,000 per year. Loan repayment funds must be used to repay qualified educational loans, and must be based on documented need. Any funds awarded to repay outstanding loans will be paid as a cash bonus to the Awardee and is taxable.

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<sup>1</sup> The COE at Harvard Medical School, is designed, in part, to promote and support the careers of exceptional underrepresented minority junior faculty affiliated with HMS. For more information about the COE, visit their website at: [http://www.mfdp.med.harvard.edu/coe/about\\_us/](http://www.mfdp.med.harvard.edu/coe/about_us/)

<sup>2</sup> Underrepresented minorities in academic medicine as currently defined by the COE, the American Association of Medical Colleges and the National Institutes of Health, and as may be modified from time to time by these institutions, include Hispanics, African Americans, Alaskan Natives and American Indians, among other underrepresented racial/ethnic groups in medicine.

- The Award is non-transferable. If the Awardee leaves MGH during the duration period of the Award, the Awardee must notify MAO and will forfeit any remaining funding or loan forgiveness of the Award.
- The Awardee will be required to submit a yearly progress report and budget to MAO, which must provide details of how the Award funding is being used.

### ***Application Format***

Each application must include:

1. MGH Research Proposal Coversheet: completed and signed by applicant and Chief of Service [http://mghra.partners.org/forms/docs/pc\\_forms/MGHCoverSheet.doc](http://mghra.partners.org/forms/docs/pc_forms/MGHCoverSheet.doc)
2. Title Page: project title, candidate's name, MGH unit number, Service/Department/Unit, MGH and HMS professional appointments, office or laboratory address, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail address.
3. Research Proposal Summary (5 page limit, including references): research objectives; background; preliminary data; experimental methods; references.
4. Current biosketch in NIH format and bibliography in NIH format.
5. Other Support (NIH format).
6. Grant Proposal budget per year/ for 4 years. (The total budget for grant and debt repayment cannot exceed \$30,000/year for 4 years. A minimum of \$15,000/ year should be allocated to the grant component of this Award.)
7. Debt information for which you are requesting loan repayment. (The total combined budget for grant and debt repayment cannot exceed \$30,000/year for 4 years. A maximum of \$15,000/year may be allocated to the Loan Repayment component of this Award).
8. Personal Statement -- in which the candidate states the importance of this Award to furthering his/her career development and advancement in academic medicine.
9. Project plan -- 4 years in duration -- completion of which substantially benefits from the support derived from this Award. The plan should be structured around laboratory or clinical investigation.
10. Letters of support from:
  - a) Department Chair. This letter must include:
    - Commitment to hire this individual on faculty, if not already an MGH faculty member, within 2 years of Award commencement.
    - Commitment to continue to support this individual in their career development over time.
    - Potential role this individual will play in the department/division over time.
    - Statement explaining how the funds supplied by this Award (up to \$30,000.00/ year for 4 years) will alter the Awardee's activities and relate to his/her career goals.
    - Agreement to meet with this individual bi-annually for career planning meetings.
  - b) Mentor. This letter must include:
    - Description of the mentor's role in the project.
    - Commitment from mentor to support the Awardee for a minimum of the 4-year grant period.

### ***Proposal Submission and Review***

**One application with original signatures, and 5 copies of the application, following the *Application Format*, should be submitted to Research Management, Grants and Contracts Office, 50 Staniford St., 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, ATTN Irene Hionidis, by 4 pm, Thursday, February 15, 2007.**

Proposals will be evaluated and ranked for funding priority by a special review group to be convened by the ECOR Subcommittee on Review of Research Proposals (SRRP), whose recommendations will be submitted to MAO for final approval. All applicants will be notified of the results of the review process by mail following approval by MAO. The Award recipients will be announced in late March 2007.

For further information, please contact Elena Olson, Executive Director, at 4-3831 or [ebolson@partners.org](mailto:ebolson@partners.org).