



Howard Hughes Medical Institute

## Hanna H. Gray Fellows Program

### **2018 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) seeks to increase diversity in the biomedical research community. We know that the biggest challenges in science call for diverse perspectives and original thinking. Through the Hanna H. Gray Fellows Program, HHMI will recruit and retain individuals from groups underrepresented in the life sciences. The program will support early career scientists with the potential to become leaders in academic research. Through their successful careers, HHMI Hanna Gray Fellows will inspire future generations of scientists from America's diverse talent pool.

Fellows will receive funding for their postdoctoral training and may continue to receive funding during their early years as independent faculty. The program includes opportunities for career development, including mentoring and active involvement in the HHMI scientific community. The Institute will select and support up to 15 fellows in this competition. This grant competition is open to all eligible applicants and no nomination is required. The competition opens September 19, 2017.

Following the “people, not projects” philosophy of HHMI, the competition is open to basic science researchers and physician-scientists in the biomedical and life science disciplines including plant biology, evolutionary biology, biophysics, chemical biology, biomedical engineering, and computational biology. Fellows will have freedom to change their research focus and follow their own curiosity during the duration of the award.

## ELIGIBILITY:

- The program is open to individuals who are from gender, racial, ethnic and other groups underrepresented in the life sciences at the career stages targeted by this program, including those individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- The program is open to basic science researchers and physician-scientists in the biomedical and life science disciplines.
- The program is open to applicants of any citizenship or nationality who:
  - have a PhD and/or MD or equivalent from an academic research institution in the U.S. (including Puerto Rico) by the start of the grant term.
  - have been accepted to join a laboratory as a postdoctoral researcher at an academic research institution located in the U.S. (including Puerto Rico) at the time of the application due date. The training mentor must hold a tenured or tenure-track position (or equivalent).
- Applicants can have no more than 12 months of postdoctoral research experience at the time of the application due date.

## POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING PHASE:

Fellows will receive annual support for salary (\$60,000, initial year) and a \$20,000 expense allowance, paid through a non-renewable grant to the training institution. This phase of the award has a maximum length of four years and a minimum of two years.

## FACULTY PHASE:

Fellows will receive \$250,000 per year in research funding and a \$20,000 expense allowance, paid through a non-renewable grant to the institution where they have attained a faculty position. This phase of the award has a maximum length of four years.

## CONDITIONS OF THE AWARD:

- Fellows in both postdoctoral training and faculty phases are required to devote at least 75% of their total effort to research.
- To transition to the faculty phase of the program, fellows must obtain a faculty position in the tenure-track (or equivalent) at a U.S. (including Puerto Rico) research institution with a doctoral-level graduate program in their area of interest.
- Fellows will be expected to attend an HHMI science meeting each year and provide an annual progress report.

## APPLICATION PROCESS:

Applicants can establish eligibility and submit an application via the HHMI online competition site [www.hhmi.org/research/application/fellow2018](http://www.hhmi.org/research/application/fellow2018) starting September 19, 2017.

The deadline for applications is January 10, 2018, at 3:00 p.m. (ET). Mentor and reference letters must be received by January 18, 2018.

The application includes the following components:

- Summary of applicant's educational and training record
- Personal statement relating past experiences and career goals
- Overview of the applicant's prior research experience
- A publication list with statements of significance
- Summary of the applicant's planned research for postdoctoral phase
- An evaluative statement provided by the applicant's research training mentor
- A statement of support with a training plan provided by the postdoctoral training mentor
- A curriculum vitae and list of prior trainees provided by the postdoctoral training mentor
- One additional letter of reference

## SELECTION OF FELLOWS:

HHMI will assess the applicant's potential for a career as an independent academic researcher and quality of training environment with the selected mentor. Finalists will be selected by late April 2018 and will be invited to make a scientific presentation to a panel of reviewers June 18–20, 2018. The selection of awardees will be made by the end of June 2018. Awards may begin as early as September 18, 2018, but no later than January 15, 2019.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Further details are available at [www.hhmi.org/hanna-h-gray-fellows](http://www.hhmi.org/hanna-h-gray-fellows). For questions, contact HHMI program staff at [fellows@hhmi.org](mailto:fellows@hhmi.org).