

**DORIS DUKE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION  
CLINICAL SCIENTIST DEVELOPMENT AWARD 2010  
REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS**

**Key Dates**

Online Nominations due:	November 17, 2009
Proposals due:	December 22, 2009
Notice of Award:	June 1, 2010
Award Start Date:	August 1, 2010

**About the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**

The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) is a nonprofit philanthropic organization that was created in 1996 in accordance with the will of Doris Duke, a life-long philanthropist. The Foundation's mission is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and the prevention of child maltreatment, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties. In addition, in 2007 the foundation launched two special initiatives in Climate Change and African Health. The Clinical Scientist Development Award (CSDA) Program described in this Request for Nominations is part of the Foundation's Medical Research Program.

**Purpose of the Doris Duke Clinical Scientist Development Award Program**

The purpose of the Doris Duke Clinical Scientist Development Award Program is to provide support for mentored research to junior faculty members with an M.D. or M.D./Ph.D. (physician-scientists) working in any disease area as they begin their careers as independent clinical researchers.

The early stage of career development, when a researcher is transitioning from working in a mentor's laboratory to setting up an independent research program and obtaining grant funding, is a critical period. It is often more difficult for physician-scientists who are conducting clinical research to make this transition than it is for other researchers because these individuals typically have to balance the demands of seeing patients with those of conducting research. Those demands, together with the complexity of today's research environment and the pace of progress, make it particularly challenging to maintain the knowledge base needed to be both a clinician and a researcher. Nevertheless, the role of the physician-scientist in providing the bridge between the clinic and the laboratory is critical for the timely translation of basic research findings into therapeutic approaches and for the transfer of clinical knowledge back to the laboratory.

The 2010 Clinical Scientist Development Awards are being offered to eligible junior faculty members at a funding level of \$162,000 per year for 3 years. It is DDCF's hope that by providing stable support at a critical career juncture for physician-scientists, the Clinical Scientist Development Award will encourage physicians to pursue careers in clinical research.

**Definition of Clinical Research**

For the purposes of this award program, clinical research is defined as research conducted with human subjects with direct application to the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, or cure of any human disease.

The Foundation's definition of clinical research includes:

- Studies on the etiology and pathogenesis of human disease
- Therapeutic interventions
- Clinical trials
- Epidemiological studies
- Disease control research
- Operations and implementation research

It is expected that the research protocols of grant applicants will require Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval. Occasionally, the Foundation has funded research that does not require IRB approval, such as research using de-identified patient populations. If a research project is being proposed that does not require IRB approval, applicants or their nominating institutions are strongly encouraged to contact program staff to discuss whether the proposed research falls within the Foundation's definition of clinical research.

**Note: Experiments that utilize animals or primary tissues derived from animals will not be supported by this program.**

### **Nominating Institution**

This Request for Nominations is open to all academic institutions in the United States that are accredited to grant degrees. Nominations must be made through the office of the Dean of the degree-granting institution, which encompass for that institution all affiliated graduate schools, related hospitals and research institute. Different divisions, departments, hospitals, centers, or schools of the same degree-granting institution should confer to submit one slate of nominees.

**DDCF can award grants only to institutions that have letters from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service documenting that they have been determined to be exempt from federal income taxation as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and that they are not a private foundation or a Type III supporting organization as defined in Section 509(a) of the Code.** Please note that the online nomination and the proposal must list the name of the nominating institution and also the specific branch of the institution (related hospital, research institute, etc.) that will accept and administer any award if different from the main institution. The institution accepting and administering any DDCF award must have the IRS tax-status determination letter(s) described above and provide them to DDCF upon notification of selection for award.

### **Number of Nominations**

Each U.S. accredited, degree-granting institution may nominate up to two candidates. We strongly encourage institutions to nominate women and under-represented minorities in medicine, including Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation values the diversity of the nominees; thus, we are collecting data on race/ethnicity and gender to measure progress in the nomination of diverse applicants. Biographical information about the nominee: year of birth, gender, race/ethnicity, and whether the individual is from a historically disadvantaged background are for statistical purposes only, will only be described in aggregate and will not be provided to the review panel.

## Eligibility of Nominee

This program is specifically intended to help physician-scientists make the critical transition from training to independence as clinical investigators.

It is the responsibility of each institution to ensure that its nominees meet **all** of the eligibility requirements. The replacement of nominees will not be permitted.

Applicants **must**:

- Be a physician-scientist conducting clinical research in any disease area;
- Have received an M.D. or a foreign equivalent from an accredited institution;
- Be working in a U.S. degree-granting institution, but do not have to be a U.S. citizen;
- Have a full-time faculty level position not higher than the Assistant Professor level; and
- Have been appointed to their **first** full-time faculty level position between January 1, 2005 and January 1, 2010. (All full-time **post**-fellowship Instructor level positions will be considered full-time faculty level appointments).

**Note:** To be competitive, it is recommended that nominees have significant research experience and strong publication records.

## Other Funding

- An award will not be made if, prior to the commencement of this award, the applicant has been or becomes the principal investigator on a National Institutes of Health, peer-reviewed, R01 research grant and/or the principal investigator on a research project that is part of a P01 program project or a P50 center grant.
- Applicants are allowed to hold a National Institutes of Health K series award or other career development award at the same time as the CSDA grant. However, the applicant must propose distinct and different research aims in their CSDA application and there should be no scientific overlap.

## Research Commitment

The intent of this award is to provide support for intensive, mentored research career development to help establish the grantee as an independent clinical investigator. Therefore, should an award be made, the institution must agree to provide the grantee with a minimum of 75% of full-time professional effort to conduct research. There is no explicit minimum percent effort that must be dedicated to the CSDA project. However, if salary support is requested, the percent effort committed must be equal or greater than the percentage of salary charged. Milestones met and progress will be evaluated to assess whether adequate time is spent on the CSDA project.

## Institutional Review Board Approval

Institutional Review Board approval, if necessary, is not required at the time of nomination or proposal submission. However, if a grant is awarded, DDCF strongly prefers Institutional Review Board approval be in place by the grant start date, **August 1, 2010**. Institutional Review Board approval **must** be in

place by **November 1, 2010**. The grantee may not conduct activities supported by the CSDA that involve human subjects until a copy of the Institutional Review Board approval is received at the foundation. We recommend that you coordinate with your Institutional Review Board to ensure timely approval.

### **Investigational New Drug Approval**

While FDA approval for an Investigational New Drug is not required at the time of nomination or proposal submission, if a proposal is recommended for funding, evidence of IND approval, if necessary, must be provided to the Foundation before an award can be made.

### **Funding Level**

DDCF will award up to 14 grants in this funding cycle. Awardees will receive a total of \$162,000 per year for three years: \$150,000 per year for direct costs plus 8% (\$12,000) for indirect costs.

### **Application Process**

1. Online nominations are due on November 17, 2009 (see instructions below).
2. Nominated applicants must electronically submit a full proposal online by December 22, 2009 (see instructions below).
3. Awards will commence August 1, 2010.

### **Review Process**

All applicants are required to submit a full proposal. The Foundation will employ a two-stage peer-review process to select awardees. In the first stage, a panel of experts will review the applicant biography and proposal abstract. Candidates deemed to have the strongest applications will then move onto the second stage, where the full proposal will be critiqued and discussed for funding priority by the review panel. **Please note:** only those candidates whose proposals are reviewed in the second stage will receive written reviewers' comments upon completion of the competition.

### **Criteria for Review and Selection**

- Suitability of the proposed research to the Foundation's mission and definition of clinical research.
- Evidence of the applicant's commitment to a clinical research career.
- Applicant's formal research training, laboratory experience, and productivity.
- Evidence of the applicant's original research in the relevant area.
- Importance of the research to the field.
- Originality of the research proposal.
- Appropriateness of the methodology and scope of the project.
- Commitment of the applicant's department and institution to the area of research and to the applicant.
- Resources available to the applicant. (Candidates will not be penalized for having other sources of funding; however there should be no scientific overlap between any of the proposed aims of the CSDA research and the aims of research supported by other awards.)

**Note:** Applicants are encouraged to propose research that is innovative, interfaces with different scientific disciplines, and has the potential of pushing the frontiers of clinical research.

### **Online Submission of Nominations**

Institutions nominating candidates must submit their nominations using the online system on or before 5 pm EST on November 17, 2009. Before entering the online system, please be sure that you gather all the required information listed in the instructions for nomination; nomination instructions and a hyperlink to the online system will be posted on the DDCF Medical Research Program website at <http://www.ddcf.org/mrp-csda>. All of an institution's nominations must be entered at the same time. Nominations submitted by other methods will not be accepted. It is the responsibility of the institutions to ensure that candidates nominated meet **all** of the eligibility requirements. The replacement of nominees will not be permitted.

### **Online Submission of Application Materials**

Nominated applicants must submit a complete research proposal electronically using the foundation's online system on or before 5 pm EST on December 22, 2009. Proposals will not be accepted for anyone who was not nominated by their institution using the procedures outlined above.

Complete application instructions and templates will be emailed to all nominees after the nominations are received. Proposals that do not meet the page limits (including letters) and formatting instructions will not be accepted. The online proposal submission system will not be available until after the nomination process is complete.

### **Questions**

If you have any questions concerning this Request for Nominations or completing the nomination submission or proposal, please read the Frequently Asked Questions at <http://www.ddcf.org/mrp-csda>. If your question is not answered there, please send an email to [ddcf@aibs.org](mailto:ddcf@aibs.org) with "2010 CSDA" as the subject line.