

**DORIS DUKE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION (DDCF)
CLINICAL SCIENTIST DEVELOPMENT AWARD**

Please note that the submission deadline has passed and DDCF is no longer accepting pre-proposals for the 2017 CSDA competition

GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Approximately 16 grants of up to \$495,000 each over 3 years (\$150,000 direct cost and \$15,000 indirect costs per year) will be awarded to early career physician-scientists (MD, MD/PhD, DO or foreign equivalent degree) at the Assistant Professor rank working at US degree granting institutions to support clinical research that will enable their transition to independent research funding.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Physician-scientists pursuing research careers face challenges that are particular to their dual roles as researchers and health care providers.¹ The purpose of the Doris Duke Clinical Scientist Development Award (CSDA) is to provide support to physician-scientists at the Assistant Professor rank to: 1) conduct clinical research, 2) enable research time protection to ease the tension between research and clinical responsibilities, and 3) facilitate development of strong research mentorship relations.

Ultimately, the CSDA program aims to enable physician-scientists' achievement of independent and successful research program grants and research careers.

AWARD INFORMATION

The 2017 Clinical Scientist Development Award consists of \$150,000 annual direct costs plus \$15,000 (10%) annual indirect costs for 3 years. The priority of the CSDA program is to fund outstanding individuals with promise for outstanding clinical research careers, whose projects will address highly significant research questions and lead to career advancement. DDCF does not have funding priorities based on disease area or research type.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The CSDA is a highly competitive award with a success rate of 10% for the 2016 competition. Competitive applicants are expected to have research experience and publication records consistent with the rank of Assistant Professor. To be eligible for this award, applicants must:

- Have received an MD, DO, or foreign equivalent degree from an accredited institution.
- Have a valid, active US medical license at the time of application, but *do not* have to be US citizens.

¹ National Institutes of Health Physician-Scientist Workforce Working Group Report. June 2014. http://acd.od.nih.gov/reports/PSW_Report_ACD_06042014.pdf, accessed on 7/27/2015.

- Work at a US academic institution that grants doctoral degrees and is able to receive an award as an organization with 501(c)(3) Internal Revenue Service status. Please see the information on page 3 and consult with your institutional grants office.
- Have a full-time, salaried faculty appointment as Assistant Professor at a US academic institution that grants doctoral degrees. Adjunct, affiliated, temporary, part-time or acting faculty positions are not eligible for this competition. Applicants from Harvard Medical School should check our [FAQs](#) to determine eligibility of their faculty appointment.
- Have been at their first full-time assistant professor faculty position no more than 5 years, but at least 1 year. Exceptions to the five-year requirement will be considered on a case-by-case basis for individuals who do not meet this criterion because of extraordinary situations. Check our [FAQs](#) for examples of situations for which DDCF may make an exception. DDCF approval of exemptions must be obtained prior to submitting a pre-proposal. Exemptions are not granted for applicants with less than one year at their academic position.
- *Not* be the principal investigator of a multi-year research grant with annual direct funding in the amount of \$225,000 or higher, except for NIH career development awards.
- *Not* be the principal investigator or co-principal investigator on a National Institutes of Health R01 research grant or equivalent. This includes but is not limited to: research projects that are part of a P01 program project, P50 center grant or a U01 cooperative agreement, DP1, DP2, R37, and VA Merit grants.
- *Not* be in a graduate degree program at the time of application. All education and training toward advanced degrees must be completed.
- Be guaranteed a minimum overall research time protection of 75% of full-time professional effort by the institution where the applicant has an appointment, in the event an award is made. There is no explicit minimum percent effort that must be dedicated to the CSDA project.

If you have any questions about these eligibility criteria check our [FAQs](#) or email ddcf@aibs.org.

Other requirements

- Propose a clinical research project, as defined by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, in any disease area. A definition of clinical research can be found on page 4.
- If applicable, Investigational New Drug Approvals must be in place by the deadline for submission of a full proposal.
- Institutional Review Board (IRB) approvals are not necessary at the time of application. However DDCF strongly prefers IRB approvals to be in place by the grant start date, July 1st of the award year. IRB approval **must** be in place by October 1st of the award year.

Note: 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 must be no budgetary overlap.

We strongly encourage applications from women and underrepresented minorities in medicine, including Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

501(c)(3) STATUS OF THE APPLICANT'S INSTITUTION

DDCF can award grants only to institutions that have letters from the US Internal Revenue Service documenting exemption 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 this requirement does not exclude participation from applicants at state universities. State universities may not have a 501(c)(3) status and are encouraged to apply through their grant-receiving arms (e.g. applicants from the University of Texas may apply through the University of Texas Foundation). DDCF encourages applicants to seek guidance from their institutions to identify the appropriate institutional entity through which they can apply. Only the institutions are able to provide this guidance to applicants, DDCF is unable to provide information on the tax ID that applicants must use to gain access to the application site.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applying for this award is a two-stage process:

1. **Pre-proposals.** In brief, the pre-proposal includes investigator information, electronic confidential forms from the mentor and department chair, biographical sketches and a 2-page research plan.
2. **Full proposals.** Submission of full proposals will be by invitation only after review of pre-proposals. Applicants will be invited to submit a full research proposal. Instructions on how to prepare a full proposal will be provided by email with the invitation to participate.

REVIEW AND SELECTION CRITERIA

- **Significance:** Likelihood of the research to influence the field and the career advancement of the applicant.
- **Originality:** Originality of the research proposal to address a clinically meaningful research question.
- **Approach:** Appropriateness of the methodology and scope of the project.
- **Investigator:** Evidence of the applicant's commitment to a clinical research career and promise to make significant contributions to the field. Demonstration of the applicant's inventiveness and talent. Appropriateness of the applicant's formal research training, laboratory experience, and productivity. Evidence of the applicant's original research in the relevant area and that the proposed research will be driven by the applicant with guidance from a mentor only as needed. The review searches for applicants who are still transitioning to independence and developing their research program. This award is not intended for those who are likely to receive an NIH R01 or another major research grant near the time of the CSDA application or start of the award.
- **Environment:** Commitment of the applicant's department and institution to the area of research and to the applicant. Evidence of institutional and mentor commitment to facilitate

access to key resources, including necessary clinical subjects or specimens. Evidence of the mentor's successful research career. Potential of the mentor to facilitate support and enable career advancement for the applicant.

Applicants are encouraged to propose research that is innovative, interfaces with different scientific disciplines, and has the potential to significantly advance the frontiers of clinical research.

Please note: The foundation recognizes the importance of critical feedback but has limited ability to supply written comments for all submitted proposals. No written comments will be provided for pre-proposals. Written comments will be provided for full proposals when possible but may not always be available because of limited resources and unforeseen circumstances. Please evaluate if receipt of written feedback is a requirement for you as you decide whether to submit an application.

DEFINITION OF CLINICAL RESEARCH

For this program, clinical research is defined as the scientific investigation of the etiology, prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of human disease using human subjects, human populations or materials of human origin. Included in the definition are studies that utilize tissues or pathogens only if they can be linked to a patient.

It is expected that the research protocols of grant applicants will require Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval. Occasionally, DDCF 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 are strongly encouraged to contact DDCF program staff to discuss whether the proposed research falls within the DDCF's definition of clinical research. Please email ddcf@aibs.org with questions regarding the eligibility of your research project.

In keeping with the wishes expressed in Doris Duke's will, experiments that utilize animals or primary tissues derived from animals will not be supported by this program.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR USE OF HUMAN RESEARCH SUBJECTS

Institutional Review Board approval, if necessary, is not required at the time of application. However, if necessary, Investigational New Drug approval must be in place by the deadline for submission of a full proposal. If a grant is awarded, DDCF strongly prefers Institutional Review Board approval to be in place by the grant start date, July 1st of the award year. Institutional Review Board approval **must** be in place by October 1st of the award year. 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.

GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

DDCF has adopted a public access policy for grantees. In addition, DDCF, as a member of the Health Research Alliance (www.healthra.org), has agreed to deposit basic grant information into a database of privately funded awards. Find more information on public access, grant information sharing, and other policies [here](#).

ABOUT THE DORIS DUKE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) is a philanthropic organization with the mission to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and child well-being, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions concerning this Request for Applications please consult our online [Frequently Asked Questions](#) or email Joanne Sullivan at ddcf@aibs.org with "CSDA – your last name" as the subject line. Questions will be answered within 2 business days. No phone calls please. To ensure that your questions are addressed quickly, e-mails are the preferred method of communication. We cannot guarantee that all calls will be answered in a timely fashion.