

Howard Hughes Medical Institute

UC Irvine Foundation Relations

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Approaching the Howard Hughes Medical Institute

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) seeks to advance biomedical research and science education by empowering exceptional scientists and students to pursue fundamental questions about living things.

Characteristics of HHMI scientists: HHMI grantees demonstrate a combination of the following attributes that distinguish them from other highly competent scientists in their field:

- Identify and pursue significant biological questions in a rigorous and deep manner
- Push their chosen research field into new areas of inquiry
- Develop new tools, methods, and resources that enable creative experimental approaches to biological questions, bringing to bear, when necessary, concepts or techniques from other disciplines
- Forge links between basic biology or physical sciences and medicine; and
- Demonstrate great promise of future original and innovative contributions.

HHMI Professors Program: HHMI supports highly accomplished research scientists who have compelling ideas to advance science education, and provides them with flexible support to try out these ideas. HHMI expects to appoint up to 15 new HHMI professors in 2017.

Team Option: In addition to individual grants, there is an opportunity for teams of two eligible scientists from the same institution to apply for collaborative awards.

Awards

HHMI Professors

Individual: \$1M over 5 years

2-faculty team: \$1.5M over 5 years

Deadlines

July 1, 2016: Intent to apply
October 6, 2016: Full Application due
Spring 2017: Selection of finalists
September 2017: Appointments announced

HHMI Investigators become HHMI employees for the five-year renewable term. There is no open competition for Investigators at this time.

Watch the HHMI website for new competitions in HHMI Scholar and Inclusive Excellence programs.

Professors Program, continued

Eligibility

- Ph.D. and/or M.D.
- Tenured or tenure-track position
- Full time and in position for at least three consecutive years
- More than five, but no more than 15, years of post-training, professional experience
- Have an assigned role in the development or implementation of the undergraduate curriculum
- PI on one or more active, national peer-reviewed research grants with a duration of at least three years. Mentored awards, career development and training grants do not qualify. Multi-investigator grants may qualify.

Faculty Scholars Program: Together with the Gates and Simons Foundations, HHMI supports early career researchers with impressive accomplishments who have strong potential to make groundbreaking contributions. The last competition closed in 2015 with award notification in July 2016. The next competition is expected to open in 2017. HHMI expects to make up to 70 five-year awards ranging from \$100,000 to \$400,000 per year.

Characteristics of Faculty Scholars

- Applies molecular, genetic, computational and theoretical approaches to fundamental problems in biology
- Scientists conducting research at the interface of the biological and physical sciences
- Physician scientists and others studying biological questions emerging from and applicable to global human health issues, including malaria, tuberculosis, HIV, and other diseases.

Eligibility:

- Ph.D. and/or M.D.
- Tenured or tenure-track position
- More than four, but no more than 10, years of postdoctoral training, professional experience
- PI or co-PI on at least one active, nationally competitive grant.

HHMI Investigators Program: HHMI Investigators are based at host institutions across the United States and become Institute employees receiving full salary, benefits, and a research budget from HHMI. Investigators are basic researchers and physician scientists with outstanding records and who have shown evidence of significant originality and accomplishments. Program provides long-term, flexible funding that gives freedom to explore and, if necessary, change direction. In 2015, 25 new biomedical researchers were named. There are no restrictions on the number of applications from any eligible institution. Researchers with faculty appointments may apply directly.

Areas of Interest: Investigation of biological problems through the biomedical disciplines of genetics, cell biology, developmental biology, biochemistry, and neuroscience as well as adjacent fields of biophysics, chemical biology, biomedical engineering, and computational biology.

Eligibility:

- Ph.D. and/or MD and tenured or tenure-track
- Have more than 5 but no more than 15 of post-training, professional experience
- Be the PI in one or more active, national, peer-reviewed grants with a duration of at least 3 years.

Inclusive Excellence is a new \$60 million initiative designed to help institutions build their capacity to effectively engage all students in science throughout their undergraduate years, especially those who come to college via non-traditional pathways. UCI was not invited to Phase II but will compete again in 2017. *If you are interested in this area, please contact Roxanne Ford (Roxanne.Ford@uci.edu) or Mike Dennin (mdennin@uci.edu).*

- Seeks institutions committed to measurably increase infrastructure, resources, and expertise to involve undergraduate students in science, resulting in expanded access to excellence for all students.
- Ideas will be connected solidly to broader institutional initiatives while maintaining focus on supporting the achievement of all undergraduate students in science.
- Offers two categories: Building Capacity Within the Institution and Helping Others Build Capacity
- Aims for successful strategies to serve as models to be adapted and adopted by other institutions.
- Open to more than 1,500 U.S. institutions that offer baccalaureate degrees in the natural sciences
- Approximately 60 grants of \$1 million for five year duration
- To be conducted at least twice over the next few years
- First round opened July 2015. Second competition will be announced in 2016 with awards to begin September 2018.

Tips for a Successful Application

Ed McCleskey, HHMI Scientific Program Director

- Application should discuss the accomplishments of the faculty and his/her vision for the future
- Evaluation is based on how the faculty has already impacted his/her field of expertise
- Do not include specific aims
- Describe a vision of where the field is going, how the faculty can affect the field and what resources he/she will provide to drive the effect.
- Interested in clinically relevant biological problems—epidemiology is not a focus area.

UC Awardees

Investigators

UC Berkeley, Britt Glaunsinger, Virology
UC Berkeley, Andreas Martin, Biochemistry
UC San Diego, Susan Ackerman, Genetics
UC San Francisco, Yifan Cheng, Structural Biology
UC San Francisco, Loren Frank, Neuroscience

Professors

UC Irvine, Diane O'Dowd, Neuroscience (2006)
2014
UC Davis, Mark Goldman, Computational Biology
UC San Diego, Susan Golden, Microbiology
UC Los Angeles, Tracy Johnson, Biochemistry
UC Los Angeles, Aydogan Ozcan, Engineering

Websites

Professors:

<http://www.hhmi.org/programs/hhmi-professors>

Investigators:

<http://www.hhmi.org/programs/biomedical-research/investigator-program>

UCI Foundation Relations:

<http://grants.give.uci.edu/>