

## Great Rivers Affiliate General Information for Applicants

If your research will be conducted in one of the following states, you are eligible to apply to the Great Rivers Affiliate: **Delaware, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia**

<b>Application Deadline:</b>	<b>January 16, 2008 (5:00 pm EST)</b>
<b>Award Activation:</b>	<b>July 1, 2008</b>

### Contact Information

[GRAresearch@heart.org](mailto:GRAresearch@heart.org)

### Deadlines & Submission

The application deadline is Jan. 16, 2008. Electronic applications must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on Jan. 16, 2008. Early submission is encouraged.

- An original and three paper copies must be received in the Region I Research Consortium office in Baltimore, M.D., by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on Jan. 23, 2008. Failure to submit paper copies by the Jan. 23 deadline will result in the withdrawal of the electronic application. A paper copy that does not have an electronic submission will be rejected.
- Applicants should send the paper copies of the application through a carrier that will guarantee delivery before 5 p.m. on Jan. 23, 2008.
- See instructions for information on electronic submission.
- Late applications will not be accepted.
- Applicants should submit electronic applications as early as possible in case technical difficulties are encountered -- e.g., computer breakdowns, server problems, heavy traffic on the Internet. If you have submission problems, contact Consortium staff immediately. Applicants who encounter technical difficulties with electronic submission must contact the AHA office at the numbers listed in the instructions prior to the deadline (5 p.m. EST, Jan. 16, 2008) to resolve the situation. Late applications from applicants who have technical problems and do not contact the AHA office prior to 5 p.m. EST to resolve the situation will be rejected.

### Read these instructions carefully. Criteria have changed since the last cycle.

- Pay particular attention to the eligibility criteria for each program. The applicant must be the one to determine eligibility for the program to which he/she is applying. Consortium staff will answer questions regarding the programs but cannot determine whether the applicant is eligible to apply to one specific program rather than another. Please make sure you are consulting the correct criteria for the affiliate to which you apply. The program may not be changed once the application is submitted.
- The Consortium affiliates do not offer identical program menus. Make sure that the program to which you apply is offered in the appropriate affiliate.
- Sponsors should pay particular attention to the affiliate guidelines for the maximum number of funded fellows allowed in a lab at any one time.
- Instructions are customized for each program: select the appropriate set of instructions for the program and the affiliate you are applying to.

- **For grant applicants who are acting as sponsors** for postdoctoral fellows, the fellow must have substantial involvement in preparing the fellowship application, understanding that the sponsor will play a significant part in providing guidance to the applicant. Submission of applications with identical or significantly similar content from a sponsor (for project support) and a postdoctoral fellowship applicant is prohibited. If submitted, the peer review committee will recommend a “disapproval” for both applications.
- Pay careful attention to page length, number of pages, font size, margins, method of assembling the application, etc. Applications that do not adhere to the stated criteria will be administratively withdrawn.
- Review the AHA's policies regarding Patent, Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer, Investigatory Financial Disclosure/Objectivity in Research and Falsification of Scientific Data, Plagiarism and Scientific Misconduct. These can be found in a separate document on the AHA Web site.
- Applications will be presented for review as received.

### **Concurrent Awards**

An individual may not hold more than one association grant or other project support award concurrently. Exception: An investigator may hold two association awards (affiliate and national) concurrently if:

1. No more than six months remain on the initial award.
2. The projects have no overlap in specific aims.
3. There is no budgetary overlap between the two projects.

All three criteria must apply.

See program guidelines for the maximum number of years of funding allowed.

### **Applying to National and an Affiliate**

If eligible, an applicant may simultaneously submit applications for affiliate and national awards. If both are funded, the applicant must choose one award. A person can not hold more than one association award concurrently, unless there is a stated exception. The proposed research plan may need to be adjusted based upon different length of award and dollars available. The deadline dates may be different for each submission.

### **Location of Work**

AHA awards are limited to nonprofit institutions within the geographic boundaries of the Great Rivers Affiliate. Such institutions include: medical, osteopathic and dental schools; veterinary schools; schools of public health; pharmacy schools; nursing schools; universities and colleges; public and voluntary hospitals; and other nonprofit institutions that can demonstrate the ability to conduct the proposed research. Applications will not be accepted for work with funding to be administered through any federal institution or work to be performed by a federal employee, with the exception of the Veterans Administration.

### **Science Focus**

Research broadly related to cardiovascular function and disease, stroke or to related clinical, basic science, bioengineering or biotechnology, and public health problems.

### **Disciplines**

All basic disciplines as well as epidemiological, community and clinical investigations that bear on cardiovascular and stroke problems.

## Budget Allowed Expenses

- Please refer to the following affiliate program guidelines for specific information and restrictions on each budget category.
- **Equipment** – an item which has a primary function related to the research project and will ordinarily have a usable life expectancy of over one year.
- **Supplies** -- items which are consumable, expendable, or of low unit cost and are directly related to the functioning of the research project.
- **Volunteer Subjects** -- payment to the research subject for services is permitted. The request must give the unit cost per subject and procedure to be used. Prior to award activation, the payment of research subjects should be incorporated in the project budget, subjected to peer review and should be reinforced by evidence of an appropriate consent form for the studies, approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of the applicant institution. The IRB consent will be required after activation.
- **Fringe Benefits** (including Social Security taxes) -- allowable to the extent that such payments are made under formally established and consistently applied institutional policies. Total salaries and percents of time will be monitored for appropriateness to the project.
- **Alterations and Renovations** – allowable with advance approval. Award funds cannot be expended to construct buildings and can only be used for minor laboratory alterations or renovation of existing facilities when such alterations are absolutely essential to the proposed research project. The principal investigator must submit a written request/justification.

## Expenditures not allowed

- **Books and Subscriptions** -- Subscriptions to journals and purchase of books cannot be made with award funds.
- **Bricks and Mortar** -- It is contrary to the policy of the AHA to extend, grant or lend funds for the purchase, construction or extensive remodeling of buildings other than buildings in which association components occupy space for offices or other direct association purposes. This broad limitation applies specifically not only to hospitals, clinics, institutions for the aged, etc., but also to research or laboratory buildings.
- **Collaborating Investigator Salary/Fringes** -- Collaborating investigators and other participants with faculty/staff appointments cannot receive personal salary from project funds.
- **Expenses in Obtaining a Visa** -- Expenses associated with obtaining a temporary or permanent visa for personnel to work on the award is prohibited.
- **Malpractice Insurance** -- Premiums for malpractice insurance are not permitted.
- **Membership Dues** -- Membership dues to organizations are prohibited.
- **Overhead** -- Charges for standard postage meter, rental of office or laboratory space, furniture and other routine expenses are not permitted to be charged separately to the project.
- **Parking Fees** -- AHA policy prohibits using AHA grant funds for parking fees.
- **Patient Care, Hospitalization, Diagnostic Laboratory Tests** -- AHA policy prohibits using AHA funds for service paid on a fee basis, such as diagnosis, medical and surgical treatment, laboratory studies, hospitalization, drugs or related services when those services are primarily for clinical care and not uniquely in support of the research project.
- **Personnel Recruitment** -- The cost of advertising to recruit personnel for a research project is prohibited.
- **Receptions and Meals** -- The costs of receptions and/or meals are not permitted.

- **Travel, Foreign** – Foreign travel is defined as travel to all countries outside the United States, excluding Canada and Mexico. Travel funds are not to be used to participate in scientific meetings abroad. Funds for foreign travel may be requested; the request will be reviewed and either declined or granted on a case-by-case basis.
- **Tuition Costs** -- Tuition costs or laboratory fees for work leading to an academic degree cannot be charged against research funds.
- **Uniforms, Wearing Apparel** -- The cost of uniforms and other wearing apparel is prohibited.

### **Distinct Research**

Awards are not intended to supplement or duplicate work supported by other funding. Also, the award should not serve as enhanced funding for professional personnel working on the research program of an established scientist. The award is to support a distinct research endeavor.

### **Resolution of Issues**

The final decision on any matter related to research programs or policies rests with the Great Rivers Affiliate Research Committee of the American Heart Association.

### **Method of Payment**

Payments to the institution will be made at the end of each fiscal quarter and disbursed by the sponsoring institution in accordance with institutional policy.

**Evaluation.** Publications, citations by others, awardees' advancement to a postdoctoral fellowship, appointment to a faculty/staff position and/or other evidence of career progression, contribution of Association support to career advancement.

## **Success Rates**

**Due to a recent affiliate merger, there are no previous success rates for this new affiliate at this time.**

## Great Rivers Affiliate Predoctoral Fellowship Program Description

If your research will be conducted in one of the following states, you are eligible to apply to the Great Rivers Affiliate: **Delaware, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia**

<b>Application Deadline:</b>	<b>January 16, 2008 (5:00 pm EST)</b>
<b>Award Activation:</b>	<b>July 1, 2008</b>

### Contact Information

[GRAresearch@heart.org](mailto:GRAresearch@heart.org)

### Objective

To help students initiate careers in cardiovascular and stroke research by providing research assistance and training.

### Science Focus

Research broadly related to cardiovascular function and disease, stroke or to related clinical, basic science, bioengineering or biotechnology, and public health problems.

### Disciplines

All basic disciplines as well as epidemiological, community and clinical investigations that bear on cardiovascular and stroke problems.

### Academic Degree

Predoctoral Ph.D., M.D., D.O. (or equivalent) students

### Target Market

Post-baccalaureate, predoctoral students who are working toward a Ph.D., M.D., D.O. or equivalent degree and are enrolled in degree-seeking programs at accredited schools within the geographic boundaries of the Great Rivers Affiliate and who seek research training and experience under the supervision of a sponsor/mentor prior to embarking on a postgraduate research career. Medical students who wish to take time from their clinical training to obtain research training may apply. This award is not intended for individuals of faculty/staff rank or individuals who have already attained a science-based Ph.D. degree. An individual pursuing a second doctoral degree (e.g., an M.D., D.O., D.V.M., D.D.S. or Phar.M.D. pursuing a Ph.D.) is eligible to apply.

### Citizenship

At time of application, must have one of the following designations:

- U.S. citizen
- Permanent resident
- Pending permanent resident. Applicants must have applied for permanent residency and have filed form I-485 with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and have received authorization to legally remain in the United States (having filed an Application for Employment Form I-765)

- E3 Visa –specialty occupation worker
- F1 - Student Visa
- H1-B Visa -- temporary worker in a specialty occupation
- J-1 Visa – exchange visitor
- O-1 Visa – temporary worker with extraordinary abilities in the sciences
- TN Visa – NAFTA professional

Awardee must meet American Heart Association citizenship criteria throughout the duration of the award.

### **Sponsor**

It is particularly important for the new fellow to receive wise counsel and direction from a senior investigator interested in the conduct and progress of the research project during the research-training period. Each fellow must have a sponsor.

### **Percentage of Effort**

Must devote 80 percent of time to research or activities directly related to research.

### **Annual Award Amount**

\$21,000 per year: \$20,000 stipend plus \$1,000 for health insurance. Indirect costs are not allowed.

### **Award Duration**

One or two years

Fellows who wish to compete for a third-year fellowship, and meet the eligibility criteria, must submit a new fellowship application according to the program guidelines. New applications are allowed in the final year only. This is a new, competitive application, not an application for renewal. An individual may not have more than three years of AHA funded predoctoral fellowship support.

### **Peer Review Criteria**

Criterion 1 – Evaluation of the Investigator

Assessment of the applicant should account for a third of the overall score.

1. Does the trainee have potential for a research career?
2. Are the trainee's career plans specified in the application?
3. Is this supported by the trainee's academic record and the assessment provided by the three letters of reference?
4. Does the trainee have prior research experience and/or publications?
5. Is there a clear rationale supporting the need for the proposed training?
6. What is the sponsor's assessment of the applicant?

Criterion 2 – Sponsor/Training Plan and Environment

Assessment of the sponsor/training plan and environment should account for a third of the overall score.

## Sponsor/Training Plan

1. Is the mentor an independent investigator?
2. Does the mentor have the experience to direct the proposed research training, as evidenced by their track record regarding productivity, funding and prior trainees?
3. Does the mentor have adequate current funding to support the fellow's project?
4. Does the mentor provide a comprehensive training plan that will facilitate the applicant's progress towards his/her research career goals?

## Environment

1. Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success for the training experience?
2. Is there evidence of institutional commitment?

## Criterion 3 – Evaluation of the Proposal

Together, assessment of these three criteria should account for a third of the overall proposal score.

1. **Significance:** Does this study address an important problem broadly related to cardiovascular disease or stroke? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts, methods and technologies that drive this field?
2. **Approach:** A new fellow may not have had adequate time to generate preliminary data. Applicants can present preliminary data generated by the sponsor. The assessment of preliminary data, whether generated by the sponsor or the applicant, should be put into perspective so that bold new ideas and risk taking by beginning investigators are encouraged rather than stymied.  
Are the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, well reasoned, feasible (as determined by preliminary data or the expertise available in the mentor's and/or collaborator's laboratories) and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?
3. **Innovation:** Is the project original?

Applicants should never contact reviewers regarding their applications. Discussing scientific content of an application or attempting to influence review outcome will constitute a conflict of interest in the review. Reviewers are directed to notify the AHA if an applicant contacts them.

## Location of Work

AHA awards are limited to nonprofit institutions within the geographic boundaries of the Great Rivers Affiliate. Such institutions include: medical, osteopathic and dental schools; veterinary schools; schools of public health; pharmacy schools; nursing schools; universities and colleges; public and voluntary hospitals; and other nonprofit institutions that can demonstrate the ability to conduct the proposed research. Applications will not be accepted for work with funding to be administered through any federal institution or work to be performed by a federal employee, with the exception of the Veterans Administration.

## **Restrictions**

- Not intended for individuals of faculty/staff rank or individuals who already have a science-based Ph.D..
- Maximum of three years of predoctoral fellowship support per individual.
- Awardee may not hold another association award concurrently.
- The sponsor can have no more than two association-funded predoctoral fellows in his/her lab at one time.
- An applicant may submit only one affiliate application per deadline.
- Predoctoral fellowships are awarded for a two-year period with possible third year after reapplication. New applications are accepted in the final year only and should address the need for a third year of support. This is a new, competitive application, not an application for renewal.
- The fellow cannot hold a comparable award as a source of supplementation.
- The same or similar unfunded application submitted for the fourth time will be administratively withdrawn and returned to the applicant.\*

## **Interim Reporting**

Interim progress reports are required annually for all continuing multiple year awards. Second-year funding is contingent upon satisfactory progress of first year. Progress reports must include research training and accomplishments, abstracts and publications.

## **Evaluation**

Publications, citations by others, ability to attract ongoing research funding, faculty/staff advancement, contribution of association support to career advancement.

## **Success Rate**

Due to a recent affiliate merger, there are no previous success rates for this new affiliate at this time.

*\*An applicant who is unsuccessful in a competition may resubmit the same or similar application three times (the original plus two resubmissions). See application instructions for resubmission details.*

## Great Rivers Affiliate Postdoctoral Fellowship Program Description

If your research will be conducted in one of the following states, you are eligible to apply to the Great Rivers Affiliate: **Delaware, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia**

<b>Application Deadline:</b>	<b>January 16, 2008 (5:00 pm EST)</b>
<b>Award Activation:</b>	<b>July 1, 2008</b>

### Contact Information

[GRAresearch@heart.org](mailto:GRAresearch@heart.org)

### Objective

To help a trainee initiate a career in cardiovascular and stroke research while obtaining significant research results.

### Science Focus

Research broadly related to cardiovascular function and disease, stroke or to related clinical, basic science, bioengineering or biotechnology, and public health problems.

### Disciplines

All basic disciplines as well as epidemiological, community and clinical investigations that bear on cardiovascular and stroke problems.

### Academic Degree

M.D., Ph.D., D.O., D.V.M. or equivalent degree at activation. Candidates may not hold a postdoctoral fellowship while enrolled in a graduate training program. This award is not intended for individuals with faculty/staff rank. M.D.s or M.D./Ph.D.s with clinical responsibilities who hold a title of instructor or similar due to their patient care responsibilities may be considered eligible if they devote at least 80 percent of their full time effort to research training.

### Target Market

Individuals who seek additional training under the supervision of a sponsor or mentor prior to a career in independent research. At the time of activation, the candidate cannot have more than six years (cumulative) of postgraduate research training and experience post terminal degree.

### Citizenship

At time of application, must have one of the following designations:

- U.S. citizen
- Permanent resident
- Pending permanent resident. Applicants must have applied for permanent residency and have filed form I-485 with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and have received authorization to legally remain in the United States (having filed an Application for Employment Form I-765).
- E3 Visa –specialty occupation worker
- F1 - Student Visa

- H1-B Visa – Temporary worker in a specialty occupation
- J-1 Visa -- exchange visitor
- O-1 Visa – temporary worker with extraordinary abilities in the sciences
- TN Visa – NAFTA Professional

Awardees must meet American Heart Association citizenship criteria throughout the duration of the award.

### **Sponsor**

It is particularly important for the new fellow to receive wise counsel and direction from a senior investigator interested in the conduct and progress of the research project during the research-training period. So each fellow must have a sponsor.

### **Percentage of Effort**

Must devote at least 80 percent full-time effort to research or activities directly related to their development into independent researchers as opposed to administrative, patient care or teaching responsibilities.

### **Budget Items**

Trainee stipend (includes fringe benefits), health insurance and travel. No indirect costs.

### **Annual Award Amount**

Award amount differs by year

Year one \$43,000 Stipend in the amount of \$41,000, plus \$1,000 for health insurance and \$1,000 for travel

Year two \$45,000. Stipend in the amount of \$43,000 plus \$1,000 for health insurance and \$1,000 for travel.

### **Award Duration**

Two years. May apply for a third year, competitive review\*, if eligible.

If a third year is requested, the award amount would be \$47,000, stipend in the amount of \$45,000 plus \$1,000 for health insurance and \$1,000 for travel. Application for a third year will be a competitive review\*.

*What is competitive review? If you hold an award that's expiring and the program allows for an additional year, you must reapply for competitive review. You must reapply, using the normal AHA application form and process to submit a new proposal which will be peer-reviewed with all current applications.*

## Peer Review Criteria

### Criterion 1 – Evaluation of the Investigator

Assessment of the applicant should account for a third of the overall score.

1. Does the trainee have potential for a research career?
2. Are the trainee's career plans specified in the application?
3. Is this supported by the trainee's academic record and the assessment provided by the three letters of reference?
4. Does the trainee have prior research experience and/or publications?
5. Is there a clear rationale supporting the need for the proposed training?
6. What is the sponsor's assessment of the applicant?

### Criterion 2 – Sponsor/Training Plan and Environment

Assessment of the sponsor/training plan and environment should account for a third of the overall score.

#### Sponsor/Training Plan

1. Is the mentor an independent investigator?
2. Does the mentor have the experience to direct the proposed research training, as evidenced by their track record regarding productivity, funding and prior trainees?
3. Does the mentor have adequate current funding to support the fellow's project?
4. Does the mentor provide a comprehensive training plan that will facilitate the applicant's progress towards his/her research career goals?

#### Environment

1. Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success for the training experience?
2. Is there evidence of institutional commitment?

### Criterion 3 – Evaluation of the Proposal

Together, assessment of these three criteria should account for a third of the overall proposal score.

1. Significance: Does this study address an important problem broadly related to cardiovascular disease or stroke? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts, methods and technologies that drive this field?
2. Approach: A new fellow may not have had adequate time to generate preliminary data. Applicants can present preliminary data generated by the sponsor. The assessment of preliminary data, whether generated by the sponsor or the applicant, should be put into perspective so that bold new ideas and risk taking by beginning investigators are encouraged rather than stymied.  
Are the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, well reasoned, feasible (as determined by preliminary data or the expertise available in the mentor's and/or collaborator's laboratories) and appropriate to

the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?

3. Innovation: Is the project original?

Applicants should never contact reviewers regarding their applications. Discussing scientific content of an application or attempting to influence review outcome will constitute a conflict of interest in the review. Reviewers are directed to notify the AHA if an applicant contacts them.

### **Location of Work**

AHA awards are limited to nonprofit institutions within the geographic boundaries of the Great Rivers Affiliate. Such institutions include: medical, osteopathic and dental schools; veterinary schools; schools of public health; pharmacy schools; nursing schools; universities and colleges; public and voluntary hospitals; and other nonprofit institutions that can demonstrate the ability to conduct the proposed research. Applications will not be accepted for work with funding to be administered through any federal institution or work to be performed by a federal employee, with the exception of the Veterans Administration.

### **Restrictions**

- Not intended for individuals of faculty/staff rank. (Exception, M.D.s or M.D./Ph.D.s with clinical responsibilities who need an instructor or similar title to see patients, but who devote at least 80 percent full time effort to research training may apply.)
- The sponsor can have no more than two association-funded postdoctoral fellows in his/her lab at one time.
- A fellow must have substantial involvement in the preparation of the fellowship application, understanding that the sponsor will play a significant part in providing guidance to the applicant.
- Submission of applications with identical or significantly similar content from a sponsor (for project support) and a postdoctoral fellowship applicant is prohibited. If submitted, the peer review committee will recommend a "disapproval" for both applications.
- The applicant must have a doctoral degree prior to award activation. A delayed start will not be allowed if the investigator does not have a doctoral degree on July 1. Candidates may not hold a research fellowship while enrolled in a graduate training program.
- Awardee may not hold another association award concurrently.
- Maximum 3 years of AHA postdoctoral fellowship support per individual.
- An applicant may submit only one affiliate application per deadline.
- The fellow cannot hold a comparable award as a source of supplementation.
- At time of award activation, the fellow cannot be pursuing a doctoral degree. Applicants in this situation should be referred to the AHA Predoctoral Fellowship.
- The same or similar unfunded application submitted for the fourth time will be administratively withdrawn and returned to the applicant.\*\*

*\*\*An applicant who is unsuccessful in a competition may resubmit the same or similar application three times (the original plus two resubmissions). See application instructions for resubmission details.*

**Interim Reporting**

Interim progress reports are required annually for all continuing multiple-year awards. Second-year funding is contingent upon satisfactory progress in the first year. Progress reports must include research training and accomplishments, abstracts and publications.

**Evaluation**

Publications, citations by others, ability to attract ongoing research funding, faculty/staff advancement, contribution of Association support to career advancement.

**Success Rate**

Due to a recent affiliate merger, there are no previous success rates for this new affiliate at this time.

## Great Rivers Affiliate Physician-Scientist Fellowship Program Description

If your research will be conducted in one of the following states, you are eligible to apply to the Great Rivers Affiliate: **Delaware, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia**

<b>Application Deadline:</b>	<b>January 16, 2008 (5:00 pm EST)</b>
<b>Award Activation:</b>	<b>July 1, 2008</b>

### Contact Information

[GRAresearch@heart.org](mailto:GRAresearch@heart.org)

### Objective

To help physicians initiate careers in cardiovascular or stroke research; supports individuals before they are ready for fully independent research.

### Science Focus

Research broadly related to cardiovascular function and disease and stroke, or to related clinical, basic science, bioengineering or biotechnology, and public health problems.

### Disciplines

All basic disciplines as well as epidemiological, community and clinical investigations that bear on cardiovascular and stroke problems.

### Target Markets and Eligibility

- Physicians who hold an M.D., M.D./Ph.D., D.O. or equivalent doctoral degree at the time of application submission and who seek additional research training under the supervision of a sponsor/mentor prior to embarking on a career of independent research.
- Applicants must have completed two years of residence training in an ACGME-approved program by the time of award activation.
- The mentor may hold an M.D., Ph.D., D.O. or other equivalent degree.

### Citizenship

At time of application, must have one of the following designations:

- U.S. citizen
- Permanent resident
- Pending permanent resident. Applicants must have applied for permanent residency and have filed Form I-485 with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and have received authorization to legally remain in the United States (having filed an Application for Employment Form I-765).
- E3 Visa –specialty occupation worker
- F1 Student Visa
- H1-B Visa -- Temporary worker in a specialty occupation
- O-1 Visa – Temporary worker with extraordinary abilities in the sciences

- TN Visa – NAFTA professional

Awardee must meet American Heart Association citizenship criteria throughout the duration of the award.

### **Location of Work**

The award may be completed at any accredited institution in the Great Rivers Affiliate (Delaware, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia). American Heart Association research awards are limited to non-profit institutions. Applications will not be accepted for work with funding to be administered through any federal institution or work to be performed by a federal employee, with the exception of the Veterans Administration employee.

### **Award Duration**

Two year award, subject to annual review and satisfactory progress

In second year, awardees may apply for a competitively peer reviewed third year of support.\*

### **Budget Items**

Awardee salary and fringe benefits, and travel.

The association will not pay dependent allowances.

The institution may supplement the awardee's salary.

### **Annual Award Amount**

Award amount differs by year

Year 1: \$43,000 Stipend in the amount of \$41,000, plus \$1,000 for health insurance and \$1,000 for travel

Year 2: \$45,000. Stipend in the amount of \$43,000 plus \$1,000 for health insurance and \$1,000 for travel.

May apply for a third year, competitive review if eligible. If a third year is requested, the award amount would be \$47,000, stipend in the amount of \$45,000 plus \$1,000 for health insurance and \$1,000 for travel

### **Indirects**

No indirect costs

*\*What is competitive review? If you hold an award that's expiring and the program allows for an additional year, you must reapply for competitive review. You must reapply, using the normal AHA application form and process to submit a new proposal which will be peer-reviewed with all current applications.*

## Peer Review Criteria

### Criterion 1 – Evaluation of the Investigator

Assessment of the applicant should account for a third of the overall score.

1. Does the trainee have potential for a research career?
2. Are the trainee's career plans specified in the application?
3. Is this supported by the trainee's academic record and the assessment provided by the three letters of reference?
4. Does the trainee have prior research experience and/or publications?
5. Is there a clear rationale supporting the need for the proposed training?
6. What is the sponsor's assessment of the applicant?

### Criterion 2 – Sponsor/Training Plan and Environment

Assessment of the sponsor/training plan and environment should account for a third of the overall score.

#### Sponsor/Training Plan

1. Is the mentor an independent investigator?
2. Does the mentor have the experience to direct the proposed research training, as evidenced by their track record regarding productivity, funding and prior trainees?
3. Does the mentor have adequate current funding to support the fellow's project?
4. Does the mentor provide a comprehensive training plan that will facilitate the applicant's progress towards his/her research career goals?

#### Environment

1. Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success for the training experience?
2. Is there evidence of institutional commitment?

### Criterion 3 – Evaluation of the Proposal

Together, assessment of these three criteria should account for a third of the overall proposal score.

1. Significance: Does this study address an important problem broadly related to cardiovascular disease or stroke? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts, methods and technologies that drive this field?
2. Approach: A new fellow may not have had adequate time to generate preliminary data. Applicants can present preliminary data generated by the sponsor. The assessment of preliminary data, whether generated by the sponsor or the applicant, should be put into perspective so that bold new ideas and risk taking by beginning investigators are encouraged rather than stymied.  
Are the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses adequately developed,

well integrated, well reasoned, feasible (as determined by preliminary data or the expertise available in the mentor's and/or collaborator's laboratories) and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?

3. Innovation: Is the project original?

Applicants should never contact reviewers regarding their applications. Discussing scientific content of an application or attempting to influence review outcome will constitute a conflict of interest in the review. Reviewers are directed to notify the AHA if an applicant contacts them.

### Restrictions

- This award is not for individuals of faculty/staff rank (exception: M.D. or M.D./Ph.D. with clinical responsibilities who need instructor or similar title to see patients, but who devote at least 80 percent of time to research training.)
- Fellows are expected to devote 80 percent of effort to research
- Current AHA pre-doctoral awardees may apply for this award, if eligible.
- Current postdoctoral awardees may apply for one additional year of support; a full application and peer review evaluation is required (competitive review).
- Maximum of three years of American Heart Association postdoctoral fellowship support per individual.
- Awardees may apply for an association grant in final year of the award.
- Awardee may not hold another association award concurrently.
- The fellow cannot hold a comparable award as a source of supplementation.
- An applicant may submit only one affiliate application per deadline.
- The same or similar unfunded application submitted for the fourth time will be administratively withdrawn and returned to the applicant.\*\*

### Interim Reporting and Progress Assessment

- Research Committee assessment of annual progress reports to include research findings, abstracts, publications.
- Audit of annual expenditure reports. Carryover of funds will be allowed as specified in current AHA policies/procedures.
- Any publications resulting from this award should acknowledge the American Heart Association's support.

### Evaluation

Publications, citations by others, awardee's advancement to a postdoctoral fellowship, appointment to a faculty/staff position and/or other evidence of career progression, contribution of association support to career advancement.

### Success Rates

Due to a recent affiliate merger, there are no previous success rates for this new affiliate at this time.

*\*\*An applicant who is unsuccessful in a competition may resubmit the same or similar application three times (the original plus two resubmissions). See application instructions for resubmission details.*



## Great Rivers Affiliate Clinical Research Program Program Description

If your research will be conducted in one of the following states, you are eligible to apply to the Great Rivers Affiliate: **Delaware, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia**

<b>Application Deadline:</b>	<b>January 16, 2008 (5:00 pm EST)</b>
<b>Award Activation:</b>	<b>July 1, 2008</b>

### Objectives

To encourage early career investigators who have appropriate and supportive mentoring relationships to engage in high quality introductory and pilot clinical studies that will guide future strategies for reducing cardiovascular disease and stroke while fostering new research in clinical and translational science, and encouraging community- and population-based activities.

This grant is not intended to fund basic science or to support senior researchers, but encourages mentoring of early career investigators.

### Science Focus

Funding is available for research related to cardiovascular disease and stroke prevention or treatment, or to related clinical and public health problems. Proposals are encouraged on provider behavior, patient behavior, behavioral outcomes, risk factor outcomes, disease outcomes, cost benefit analyses, efforts to evaluate outcomes of patient care delivery and patient/provider and/or system compliance and adherence to recommendations, as well as pilot clinical research studies that may provide preliminary data for larger-scale investigation. Also, encouraged are studies utilizing existing databases. Ancillary studies or a clearly defined sub-study of an ongoing clinical research study are also encouraged. There must, however, be clear justification that the proposal is a sub-study and not a piece of an already funded project.

It is inappropriate to require that applicants work in laboratories whose primary orientation is cardiovascular. The important factor is that the project be broadly related to CVD or stroke, not the laboratory.

### Target Market/Eligibility:

Health care professionals with a Masters or a Doctoral degree. Also, post baccalaureate, predoctoral students seeking a PhD, MD, DO, or equivalent degree who seek research training and experience under the supervision of a sponsor/mentor prior to embarking on a postgraduate research career. Individuals who have held NIH RO1 grants or American Heart Association grant-in-aid awards (or equivalent awards) are not eligible to be the principal investigator.

Interdisciplinary research teams are eligible. All principal investigators must also identify a senior co-investigator/mentor with an earned doctorate and a track record of high quality clinical investigation.

### Citizenship

At time of activation, applicants must be U.S. citizens or foreign nationals holding a permanent residence visa (e.g., in possession of an alien registration receipt card), or foreign nationals who

have applied for permanent residency (form I-485 on file with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services) and who have received authorization to legally remain in the U.S. (having filed an Application for Employment form I-765), exchange visitor (J-1), temporary worker in a specialty occupation (H-1, H-1B, E-3), Canadian or Mexican citizen engaging in professional activities (TC, TN), temporary worker with extraordinary ability in the sciences (O-1), or student visa (F-1).

Awardee must meet American Heart Association citizenship criteria throughout the duration of the award.

Applicants are not required to reside in the U.S. for any period of time before applying for American Heart Association funding.

### **Peer Review Criteria**

The following general points are considered when reviewing the applications:

- **Investigator:** Is the investigator appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers? Do the investigative team and mentor bring complementary and integrated expertise to the project (if applicable)? Will this grant support the investigator's further development into an independent investigator?
- **Environment:** Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Do the proposed studies benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, or subject populations, or employ useful collaborative arrangements? If applicable, is the strength and nature of the mentoring relationship appropriate? Is there evidence of institutional support?
- **Significance:** Does this study address an important problem broadly related to cardiovascular disease or stroke? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge or clinical practice be advanced? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts, methods and technologies that drive this field?
- **Approach:** Are the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, well reasoned and feasible (as determined by preliminary data) and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics? Does the investigator have access to an appropriate population group for the study? Does the investigator address issues of statistical power when appropriate? If the proposal is for a pilot study is there a rationale for development of more definitive studies?
- **Innovation:** Is the project original and innovative? For example: Does the project challenge existing paradigms and address an innovative hypothesis or critical barrier to progress in the field? Does the project develop or employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools or technologies for this area?

### **Appropriate Budget Items**

Project-related expenses, such as salaries of essential technical personnel, supplies, equipment, volunteer subject costs, publications and travel.

**Equipment** – the PI must use equipment for at least 6 months.

**Computer Equipment** -- Up to \$2,500, must be justified in the application

**Travel** -- \$1,000 per year.

**Indirect Costs** -- Up to 10 percent of the award amount allowed, a maximum of \$5,500.

**PI Salary** -- Up to 15% of the funds may be used for salaries and fringe benefits of the principal investigator, collaborating investigator(s), and other participants with faculty appointments.

Institutions may supplement the stipend

**Other Salary** -- May include salary support for technical personnel with or without doctoral degrees excluding faculty/staff members.

## **Award**

\$55,000 per yr project support, investigator may add up to 10 percent or \$5,500 indirect costs. \$60,500 per year, maximum.

## **Duration**

2 years

## **Restrictions**

- The amount of other research funding available to the principal investigator, at the time of award activation, may not exceed \$150,000 per year (direct funds exclusive of PI salary/fringe and intramural funding).
- A Clinical Research Grant awardee may not hold another Association award concurrent with the Clinical Research Grant. Awardees may apply for another AHA award as appropriate for career stage and qualifications, in the final year of the Clinical Research Grant.

## **Interim Reporting**

Periodic reports and a final progress report from primary investigator(s) including research and training accomplishments, abstracts, and publications will be expected.

## **Evaluation**

Publications, citations by others, ability to attract ongoing research funding, faculty advancement, and contribution of Association support to career advancement.

## Great Rivers Affiliate Beginning Grant-in-Aid Program Description

If your research will be conducted in one of the following states, you are eligible to apply to the Great Rivers Affiliate: **Delaware, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia**

<b>Application Deadline:</b>	<b>January 16, 2008 (5:00 pm EST)</b>
<b>Award Activation:</b>	<b>July 1, 2008</b>

### Contact Information

[GRAresearch@heart.org](mailto:GRAresearch@heart.org)

### Objective

To promote the independent status of promising beginning scientists initiating research careers.

### Science Focus

Research broadly related to cardiovascular function and disease, stroke or to related clinical, basic science, bioengineering or biotechnology, and public health problems.

### Disciplines

All basic disciplines as well as epidemiological, community and clinical investigations that bear on cardiovascular and stroke problems.

### Academic Degree

M.D., Ph.D., D.O. or equivalent doctoral degree.

### Target Market

Faculty or staff members initiating an independent research careers, up to and including rank of assistant professor (or equivalent). At activation, no more than four years since first faculty or staff appointment at assistant professor level or equivalent.

Must meet institutional requirements for grant submission at the time of application.

### Citizenship

At time of application, must have one of the following designations:

- U.S. citizen
- Permanent resident
- Pending permanent resident. Applicants must have applied for permanent residency and have filed form I-485 with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and have received authorization to legally remain in the United States (having filed an Application for Employment Form I-765)
- E3 Visa –specialty occupation worker
- H1-B Visa -- temporary worker in a specialty occupation
- J-1 Visa – exchange visitor
- O-1 Visa – temporary worker with extraordinary abilities in the sciences
- TN Visa – NAFTA professional

Awardee must meet American Heart Association citizenship criteria throughout the duration of the award.

**Percentage of Effort**

None specified

**Budget Items**

Project-related expenses, such as salaries of essential technical personnel, supplies, equipment, volunteer subject costs, publications and travel.

**Equipment** – the PI must use equipment for at least 6 months.

**Computer Equipment** -- Up to \$2,500, must be justified in the application

**Travel** -- \$1,000 per year.

**Indirect Costs** -- Up to 10 percent of the award amount allowed, a maximum of \$5,500.

**PI Salary** -- Up to \$25,000 per year for PI salary, not to exceed 50% of the award amount

**Other Salary** -- May include salary support for technical personnel with or without doctoral degrees excluding faculty/staff members.

Note: Collaborating Investigators are not permitted to receive salary from grant funds. Special consultative services from individuals may be requested, provided the costs and circumstances are fully justified.

**Annual Award Amount**

\$60,500 per year.

A maximum of \$55,000 per year for project support. Investigator may add up to \$5,500 per year in indirect costs. Indirect costs shall not exceed 10 percent of the total amount requested.

**Award Duration**

Two years

**Peer Review Criteria**

1. **Future Independence of Investigator:** Is there demonstrated evidence that the award will promote independent status for the applicant? The award is not intended to provide enhanced funding for professional personnel working on the research program of an established scientist.
2. **Significance:** Does this study address an important problem broadly related to cardiovascular disease or stroke? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge or clinical practice be advanced? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts, methods and technologies that drive this field?
3. **Approach:** Are the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, well reasoned and feasible (as determined by preliminary data), and appropriate to the aims of the project? The assessment of preliminary data should be put into perspective such that bold new ideas and risk-taking on the part of beginning investigators are encouraged rather than stymied. Does the applicant

acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?

4. **Innovation:** Is the project original and innovative? For example: Does the project challenge existing paradigms and address an innovative hypothesis or critical barrier to progress in the field? Does the project develop or employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools or technologies for this area?
5. **Investigator:** Is the investigator appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers? Does the investigative team bring complementary and integrated expertise to the project (if applicable)?
6. **Environment:** Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Do the proposed studies benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, or subject populations, or employ useful collaborative arrangements? Is there evidence of institutional support as demonstrated in the department head letter?

Applicants should never contact reviewers regarding their applications. Discussing scientific content of an application or attempting to influence review outcome will constitute a conflict of interest in the review. Reviewers are directed to notify the AHA if an applicant contacts them.

### **Location of Work**

AHA awards are limited to nonprofit institutions within the geographic boundaries of the Great Rivers Affiliate. Such institutions include: medical, osteopathic and dental schools; veterinary schools; schools of public health; pharmacy schools; nursing schools; universities and colleges; public and voluntary hospitals; and other nonprofit institutions that can demonstrate the ability to conduct the proposed research. Applications will not be accepted for work with funding to be administered through any federal institution or work to be performed by a federal employee, with the exception of the Veterans Administration.

### **Restrictions**

- The amount of other research funding available to the principal investigator, at the time of award activation, may not exceed \$150,000 per year (direct funds exclusive of PI salary/fringe and intramural funding).
- Awards are not intended to supplement or duplicate currently funded work.
- An individual may receive only one award from any association funding source (either national or affiliate) even when the proposals are scientifically distinct. See previous information on concurrent funding.
- An applicant may submit only one affiliate application per deadline.
- Awardees may reapply for the Beginning Grant-in-Aid, if eligible, or may apply for the Grant-In-Aid in the final year of the Beginning Grant-In-Aid only. An individual may hold a Beginning Grant-in-Aid only two times.
- Investigators who have held/or currently have an AHA Scientist Development Grant are not eligible to apply for a Great Rivers Affiliate Beginning Grant-in-Aid.

- The same or similar unfunded application submitted for the fourth time will be administratively withdrawn and returned to the applicant.\*\*

**Interim Reporting**

Interim progress reports are required annually for all continuing multiple year awards. Second-year funding is contingent upon satisfactory progress in the first year. Progress reports must include narrative description of research findings, abstracts, publications and names of trainees (optional).

**Evaluation**

Publications, citations by others, ability to attract ongoing research funding, faculty/staff advancement, contribution of Association support to career advancement.

**Success Rate**

Due to a recent affiliate merger, there are no previous success rates for this new affiliate at this time.

*\*\*An applicant who is unsuccessful in a competition may resubmit the same or similar application three times (the original plus two resubmissions). See application instructions for resubmission details.*

## Great Rivers Grant-in-Aid Program Description

If your research will be conducted in one of the following states, you are eligible to apply to the Great Rivers Affiliate: **Delaware, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia**

<b>Application Deadline:</b>	<b>January 16, 2008 (5:00 pm EST)</b>
<b>Award Activation:</b>	<b>July 1, 2008</b>

### Contact Information

[GRAresearch@heart.org](mailto:GRAresearch@heart.org)

### Objective

To encourage and adequately fund the most innovative and meritorious research projects from independent investigators.

### Science Focus

Research broadly related to cardiovascular function and disease and stroke, or to related clinical, basic science, bioengineering or biotechnology, and public health problems.

### Disciplines

All basic disciplines as well as epidemiological, community and clinical investigations that bear on cardiovascular and stroke problems.

### Academic Degree

Applicants must have an M.D., Ph.D., D.O. or equivalent doctoral degree.

### Target Market

Faculty/staff members conducting independent research at time of application. At application, principal investigator must hold an M.D., Ph.D., D.O. or equivalent doctoral degree and must meet institutional requirements for grant submission. Other than the requirement that the principal investigator be independent, eligibility for the Grant-in-Aid is not restricted based on experience level or seniority. Seniority should not be used as a criterion in evaluating an application's merit.

### Percent of Effort

None specified

### Citizenship

At time of application, must have one of the following designations:

- U.S. citizen
- Permanent resident

- Pending permanent resident. Applicants must have applied for permanent residency and have filed form I-485 with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and have received authorization to legally remain in the United States (having filed an Application for Employment Form I-765)
- E3 Visa –specialty occupation worker
- H1-B Visa -- temporary worker in a specialty occupation
- J-1 Visa –exchange visitor
- O-1 Visa – temporary worker with extraordinary abilities in the sciences
- TN Visa – NAFTA professional

Awardee must meet American Heart Association citizenship criteria throughout the duration of the award.

### **Budget**

Project-related expenses, such as salaries of essential technical personnel, supplies, equipment, travel, volunteer subject costs

**Equipment** – the PI must use equipment for at least 6 months.

**Computer Equipment** -- Up to \$2,500, must be justified in the application

**Travel** -- \$1,000 per year.

**Indirect Costs** -- Up to 10 percent of the award amount or a maximum of \$5,500 allowed.

**PI Salary** -- Up to \$25,000 per year for PI salary and fringe, may not exceed 50% of the award amount.

**Other Salary** -- May include salary support for technical personnel with or without doctoral degrees excluding faculty/staff members.

Note: Collaborating Investigators are not permitted to receive salary from grant funds. Special consultative services from individuals may be requested, provided the costs and circumstances are fully justified.

### **Annual Award Amount**

\$60,500 per year. A maximum of \$55,000 per year for project support. Investigator may add up to \$5,500 per year in indirect costs; indirect costs shall not exceed ten percent of the amount requested for project support.

### **Award Duration**

Two years

### **Per Review Criteria**

1. **Significance:** Does this study address an important problem broadly related to cardiovascular disease or stroke? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge or clinical practice be advanced? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts, methods and technologies that drive this field?
2. **Approach:** Are the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, well reasoned and feasible (as determined by preliminary data) and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?

3. **Innovation:** Is the project original and innovative? For example: Does the project challenge existing paradigms and address an innovative hypothesis or critical barrier to progress in the field? Does the project develop or employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools or technologies for this area?
4. **Investigator:** Is the investigator appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers? Does the investigative team bring complementary and integrated expertise to the project (if applicable)?
5. **Environment:** Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Do the proposed studies benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, or subject populations, or employ useful collaborative arrangements? Is there evidence of institutional support?

Applicants should never contact reviewers regarding their applications. Discussing scientific content of an application or attempting to influence review outcome will constitute a conflict of interest in the review. Reviewers are directed to notify the AHA if an applicant contacts them.

### **Location of Work**

AHA awards are limited to nonprofit institutions within the geographic boundaries of the Great Rivers Affiliate. Such institutions include: medical, osteopathic and dental schools; veterinary schools; schools of public health; pharmacy schools; nursing schools; universities and colleges; public and voluntary hospitals; and other nonprofit institutions that can demonstrate the ability to conduct the proposed research. Applications will not be accepted for work with funding to be administered through any federal institution or work to be performed by a federal employee, with the exception of the Veterans Administration.

### **Restrictions**

- The amount of other research funding available to the principal investigator, at the time of award activation, may not exceed \$200,000 per year (direct funds exclusive of PI salary/fringe and intramural funding).
- Awards are not intended to supplement or duplicate currently funded work. Rather, it is expected that submitted applications will describe projects that are clearly distinct from ongoing research activities in the applicant's laboratory. Minor variations from existing research projects are not sufficient to constitute independent and distinct project.
- An individual may receive only one award from any association funding source (either national or affiliate) even when the proposals are scientifically distinct. See previous information on concurrent funding. If an affiliate awardee submits an application to the National Center and that application is funded, the applicant must give up one of the awards.
- Current Affiliate Grant-in-Aid awardees may submit a new Great Rivers Affiliate Grant-in-Aid application in the final year of the award only.
- The same or similar unfunded application submitted for the fourth time will be administratively withdrawn and returned to the applicant.\*\*

*\*\*An applicant who is unsuccessful in a competition may resubmit the same or similar application three times (the original plus two resubmissions). See application instructions for resubmission details.*

**Interim Reporting**

Interim progress reports are required annually for all continuing multiple year awards. Second-year funding is contingent upon satisfactory progress in the first year. Progress reports must include narrative description of research findings, abstracts, publications and names of trainees.

**Evaluation**

Publications, citations by others, ability to attract ongoing research funding, faculty/staff advancement, contribution of association support to career advancement.

**Success Rate**

Due to a recent affiliate merger, there are no previous success rates for this new affiliate at this time.