

Founders Affiliate Predoctoral Fellowship Program Description

If your research will be conducted in one of the following states, you are eligible to apply to the Founders Affiliate:

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont

Application Deadline:	January 16, 2008 (5:00 pm Eastern Time)
Award Activation:	July 1, 2008

Contact Information

FAresearch@heart.org

Objective

To help students initiate careers in cardiovascular 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

Target Audience

Post baccalaureate, pre-doctoral M.D., Ph.D., D.O., D.V.M. (or equivalent) students seeking research training with a sponsor/mentor prior to embarking on a research career.
Full-time students working towards their degrees.

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)
- E-3 – specialty occupation worker (Australia)
- 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.

Budget Items

Trainee Stipend: \$20,000
Fringe Benefits: \$1,000 for health insurance
Institution may supplement stipend
Indirect Costs: No
Project Support: No
Dependent Allowance: No
Tuition: No

Annual Award Amount

Trainee Stipend: \$20,000
Fringe Benefits: \$1,000 for health insurance

Location

The award may be completed at any accredited institution in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. 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 employees.

Award Duration

One to two years; for third year must reapply for competitive review*

Total Award Amount
\$42,000

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?

****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.*

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 1/3 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

- Not intended for individuals of faculty/staff rank.
- Fellow works under the direction of an established investigator who serves as sponsor.
- Sponsor may have no more than two association-funded fellows (pre-doctoral) at any time.

- Awardee may not hold another association award concurrently.
- An applicant may submit only one affiliate application per deadline.
- Awardee must devote substantially full time to research.
- The fellow cannot hold a comparable award as a source of supplementation.
- Maximum of three years of AHA pre-doctoral fellowship support per individual.
- Awardee may apply for postdoctoral fellowship in final year.
- The same or similar application submitted for the fourth time will be administratively withdrawn and returned to the applicant.*

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 cannot 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.

Interim Reporting

Assessment of annual progress reports from fellow and sponsor, including research and training accomplishments, abstracts, publications

Evaluation

Publications, citations by others, ability to attract ongoing research funding, faculty 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.*

Founders Affiliate Postdoctoral Fellowship Program Description

If your research will be conducted in one of the following states, you are eligible to apply to the Founders Affiliate:

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont

Application Deadline:	January 16, 2008 (5:00 pm Eastern Time)
Award Activation:	July 1, 2008

Contact Information

FAresearch@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 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 Audience

Supports individuals before they are ready for some stage of independent research. M.D., Ph.D., D.O., D.V.M. (or equivalent) at activation. Individuals with no more than five years postdoctoral research training at the time of award activation.

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)
- E-3 – specialty occupation worker (Australia)
- 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

Exception: Postdoctoral fellowship applicants who are outside the United States at time of application must provide visa documentation prior to award activation.

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

Budget Items

Trainee Stipend on the sliding scale below, plus \$1,000 per year for health insurance

Travel Costs: Maximum of \$2,000/yr may be used if desired (included in stipend)

Institution may supplement stipend

Indirect Costs: No

Tuition: No

Annual Award Amount

Postdoctoral research experience and clinical training (years after degree):

Post Graduate Year 0 \$ 37,000

Post Graduate Year 1 \$ 39,000

Post Graduate Year 2 \$ 42,000

Post Graduate Year 3 \$ 43,000

Post Graduate Year 4 \$ 45,000

Post Graduate Year 5+ \$ 47,000

Plus \$1,000 per year for health insurance

Award Duration

Two years

Total Award Amount

\$ 76,000 - \$ 96,000

Location

The award may be completed at any accredited institution in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

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 employees

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 1/3 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 intended for individuals of faculty/staff rank (Exception: M.D.'s or M.D./Ph.D.'s with clinical responsibilities who need instructor or

similar title to see patients, but who devote at least 80 percent of time to research training.)

- Awardee must devote at least 80 percent of effort to research or activities directly related to research.
- Postdoctoral fellowship awardees must resign an award if promoted to a staff or faculty position.
- An awardee may defer the date of promotion to complete the fellowship.
- An awardee may apply for association grant in final year.
- Maximum of two years of AHA postdoctoral fellowship support per individual.
- Awardee may not hold another association award concurrently.
- A sponsor may have no more than two association-funded fellows (pre-doctoral or postdoctoral) at any time.
- 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 application submitted for the fourth time will be administratively withdrawn and returned to the applicant.*

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 cannot 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.

Interim Reporting

Assessment of annual progress reports from fellow and sponsor, including research and training accomplishments, abstracts, publications

Evaluation

Publications, citations by others, ability to attract ongoing research funding, faculty 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.*



Founders Affiliate Clinical Research Program

If your research will be conducted in one of the following states, you are eligible to apply to the Founders Affiliate: **Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont**

Application Deadline:	January 16, 2008 (5:00 pm Eastern)
Deadline for Letter of Intent:*	November 30, 2007
Award Activation:	July 1, 2008

Contact Information

FAresearch@heart.org

*Submit the letter of intent via email to FAresearch@heart.org. Enter "Clinical Program LOI" in the subject line. The letter of intent must address the following items:

- Is the principal investigator a new researcher, or at the junior level?
- Is there appropriate mentoring support? Explain the support plan.
- Are the research goals and objectives suitable for the timeframe and budget?
- Will a multi-disciplinary team be involved? Explain.

Objective

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.

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.

Science Focus

Research broadly related to CV function and disease, stroke or to related clinical, basic science, and public health problems

Disciplines

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

Target Market

Health care professionals with a Masters, M.D., D.O. or Ph.D. degree. Also, post baccalaureate, pre-doctoral students seeking a Ph.D., M.D., D.O., 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.

Awards are limited to non-profit institutions such as medical, universities and colleges, public and voluntary hospitals and other non-profit institutions that can demonstrate the ability to conduct the proposed research in the Founders Affiliate. 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 Veterans Administration employees.

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)
- E-3 – specialty occupation worker (Australia)
- 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.

Budget Items

Salaries of technical personnel essential to the conduct of the project, supplies, equipment, travel, volunteer subject costs, and publication costs. 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. Institution may supplement the stipend. 10% institutional indirect costs.

Annual Award Amount

\$50,000 per year, plus 10% indirect costs

Location

The award may be completed at any accredited institution in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. 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 employees.

Award Duration

2 years

Total Award Amount

\$110,000

Peer Review Criteria

Make sure that you and your Mentor or Co-Investigator are fully addressing the peer review criteria given below.

- **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?

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

Not intended to fund basic science or to support senior researchers, but encourages mentoring of early career investigators.

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.

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.

Interim Reporting

Assessment of annual progress reports from fellow and sponsor, including research and training accomplishments, abstracts, publications

Evaluation

Assessment of annual progress reports to include research findings, abstracts, publications and names of trainees supported. (A list of trainees supported is optional for Clinical Research Program, Beginning Grant-in-Aid, Scientist Development Grant, and Established Investigator Award.)

Founders Affiliate Scientist Development Grant Program Description

If your research will be conducted in one of the following states, you are eligible to apply to the Founders Affiliate:

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont

Application Deadline:	January 16, 2008 (5:00 pm Eastern Time)
Award Activation:	July 1, 2008

Contact Information

FAresearch@heart.org

Objective

To support highly promising beginning scientists in their progress toward independence by encouraging and adequately funding research projects for which there is no financial support from any other research granting agency and that can serve to bridge the gap between completion of research training to readiness for successful competition as an independent investigator.

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 Audience

- M.D., Ph.D., D.O., D.V.M. or equivalent doctoral degree at application; up to and including the rank of Assistant Professor (or equivalent) at application.
- Must have faculty/staff appointment at activation.
- At time of award activation, no more than four years will have elapsed since an applicant's first faculty/staff appointment (after receipt of doctoral degree) at the assistant professor level or its equivalent (including, but not limited to, research assistant professor, research scientist, staff scientist, etc.).
- Applications may be submitted for review in the final year of a postdoctoral research fellowship or in the initial years of the first faculty/staff appointment.
- Must meet institutional requirements for grant submission at time of application.
- Individuals are ineligible for the Scientist Development Grant if they have been or are currently funded (extramurally) by any one award for more than one year at a level greater than \$95,000 per year in direct costs (salary and project costs). An SDG and an NIH mentored K-series award cannot be held simultaneously.

Citizenship

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

- U.S. citizen
- Permanent resident
- 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)
- E-3 – specialty occupation worker (Australia)
- 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 --Canadian or Mexican citizen engaging in professional activities

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

Budget Items

- PI Salary/Fringe: Up to 50 percent of total (\$30,000) may be budgeted
- Project Support: Yes. Project-related expenses such as salaries of essential technical personnel, supplies, equipment, volunteer subject costs, publication costs
- Travel: Yes, not to exceed \$2,000/yr; international travel must have prior AHA approval
- Indirect Costs: Yes, not to exceed 10 percent (\$6,000)

Annual Award Amount

\$66,000

Location

The award may be completed at any accredited institution in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. 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 employees.

Award Duration

Three years

Total Award Amount

\$198,000

Peer Review Criteria

1. **Future Independence of Investigator:** Is there demonstrated evidence that the award will promote independent status for the applicant by the end of the three- or four-year award? 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 so that bold new ideas and risk-taking by the 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.

Restrictions

- Awardee may not hold another association award concurrently.*
- Awardees may apply for AHA Beginning Grant, Established Investigator Award or Grant-in-Aid in final year of this award.
- An awardee may hold the Scientist Development Grant only once (national or affiliate).
- This award is non-renewable.
- The project submitted can have no scientific overlap with other funded work.
- No sponsor required or accepted for this award.
- Individuals are ineligible for the Scientist Development Grant if they have been or are currently funded (extramurally) by any one award for more than one year at a level greater than \$95,000 per year in direct costs (salary and project costs). An SDG and an NIH mentored K-series award cannot be held simultaneously.
- An applicant may submit only one affiliate application per deadline.
- Successful applicants who hold any postdoctoral fellowship or training award must resign that award when activating the SDG award. The SDG award serves as a first independent award; therefore, training or fellowship awards (such as the NRSA) cannot be held simultaneously.

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

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 cannot 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.

Interim Reporting

Assessment of annual progress reports to include research findings, abstracts, publications and names of trainees supported, if any.

Evaluation

Publications, citations by others, ability to attract ongoing research funding, faculty 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.

**Exception: An investigator may hold two association grants (affiliate and national) concurrently if (all three apply): 1) there will be no more than six months remaining on the initial award; 2) the projects have no overlap in specific aims; and 3) there is no budgetary overlap between the two projects.*

***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.*

Founders Affiliate Grant-in-Aid Program Description

If your research will be conducted in one of the following states, you are eligible to apply to the Founders Affiliate:

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont

Application Deadline:	January 16, 2008 (5:00 pm Eastern Time)
Award Activation:	July 1, 2008

Contact Information

FAresearch@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

Target Audience

Faculty or staff of any rank conducting independent research.

At application, M.D., Ph.D., D.O., D.V.M. or equivalent.

Must have faculty or staff appointment at application.

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

Citizenship

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

- U.S. citizen
- Permanent resident
- 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)
- E-3 – specialty occupation worker (Australia)
- 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 --Canadian or Mexican citizen engaging in professional activities

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

Budget Items

- PI Salary/Fringe: Up to 50 percent of the total (\$30,000) may be budgeted.
- Project Support: Yes, project-related expenses, such as salaries of essential technical personnel, supplies, equipment, volunteer subject costs, publication costs
- Travel Costs: Not to exceed \$2,000/yr. International travel must have prior AHA approval.
- Indirect Costs: Not to exceed 10 percent (\$6,000)

Annual Award Amount

\$66,000

Location

The award may be completed at any accredited institution in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. 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 employees.

Award Duration

Three years

Total Award Amount

\$198,000

Peer 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.

Restrictions

- Applicant with more than or equal to \$200,000 annually in extramural research funding (direct funds exclusive of PI salary/fringes and intramural funding) at the time of award activation will not be funded
- Awardee may not hold another association award concurrently
- An applicant may submit only one affiliate application per deadline
- No minimum research effort required
- Awardee may reapply for the Grant-in-Aid in final year
- Other than the requirement that the PI be independent, eligibility is not restricted by seniority or academic rank
- The same or similar application submitted for the fourth time will be administratively withdrawn and returned to applicant.*

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.

Interim Reporting

Assessment of annual progress reports to include research findings, abstracts, publications and names of trainees supported (list of trainees supported is optional for Clinical Research Program, Beginning Grant-in-Aid, Scientist Development Grant, and Established Investigator Award.)

Evaluation

Publications, citations by others, ability to attract ongoing research funding, faculty 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.*