

American Heart Association

Research Funding

VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY

Sponsored Programs Administration

Twelve Essential Elements

- ▶ The AHA Research Program is guided by 12 Essential Elements developed by a broad group of key stakeholders including science volunteers. These guiding elements were approved by the AHA Board of Directors in 2012.
- ▶ Develop innovative research models that integrate AHA research values.
- ▶ Fund both investigator-initiated and strategically-focused research.
- ▶ Support research in all areas of cardiovascular and stroke science that drive to AHA's 2020 goals and overall Mission.
- ▶ Identify key questions that if answered could provide extraordinary impact in science and toward Mission.
- ▶ Ensure funding mechanisms for investigators at all career stages and across disciplines.
- ▶ Provide programs which in addition to supporting the pursuit of research in question, also facilitate expansion of investigator skills.
- ▶ Focus peer review on funding outstanding individuals, in addition to excellent science.
- ▶ Clearly define and report research outcomes to all stakeholders.
- ▶ Ensure that best practices are used for all governance and operational practices.
- ▶ Ensure that all stakeholders - researchers, donors and other volunteers - are involved as appropriate in research activities.
- ▶ Fund research that could provide a return on investment to be funneled back to fund more future research.
- ▶ Expand collaboration to leverage research dollars and outcomes.

American Heart

- ▶ AHA offers research funding programs to eligible investigators and institutions across the U.S.
- ▶ The AHA generally has two funding cycles per year - always check application deadlines. Not all programs are offered in each cycle. Only those listed on this page are available at this time. Carefully review the program descriptions below for eligibility criteria and restrictions.
- ▶ Applications are created, submitted, and reviewed through our Grants@Heart electronic system.
- ▶ American Heart Association research awards are limited to non-profit institutions, including medical, osteopathic and dental schools, veterinary schools, schools of public health, pharmacy schools, nursing schools, universities and colleges, public and voluntary hospitals and others 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 (1) applications specifically related to the AHA's Institute for Precision Cardiovascular Medicine, and (2) the Veterans Administration employees. Funding is prohibited for awards at non-U.S. institutions.
- ▶ There are two deadline cycles per year.

American Heart Association National

- ▶ The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association is a national voluntary health organization dedicated to building healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke. We are working toward improving the cardiovascular health of all Americans by 20 percent, and reducing deaths from cardiovascular diseases and stroke by 20 percent, by the year 2020.
- ▶ Funding research is a cornerstone of the American Heart Association's lifesaving mission. It is a pillar upon which the AHA was founded nearly a century ago. It is ingrained in our organization's DNA, and will always be part of our ongoing legacy.
- ▶ Applicant, peer review, and awards & policy information can be found at http://professional.heart.org/professional/ResearchPrograms/UCM_316889_Research.jsp

American Heart Southeast Affiliate

- ▶ The Greater Southeast Affiliate serves Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Puerto Rico. We are committed to reducing disability and death due to heart disease and stroke through our mission. "Building healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke."
- ▶ AHA offers research funding programs to eligible investigators and institutions across the U.S.
- ▶ The AHA generally has two funding cycles per year - always check application deadlines. Not all programs are offered in each cycle. Only those listed on this page are available at this time. Carefully review the program descriptions below for eligibility criteria and restrictions.
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- ▶ Applicant information for applicants, the peer review process, and AHA awards & policies can be found at http://professional.heart.org/professional/ResearchPrograms/UCM_316889_Research.jsp

How PI's Register or Log in to Grants@Heart

- ▶ To apply for a research grant PI's must be an Association Professional Member at a cost of \$78 or they can pay the application fee \$125 per submission. Applicants will not be able to submit until the fee is paid.
- ▶ You can find more information at https://professional.heart.org/professional/ResearchPrograms/ApplicationInformation/UCM_473935_Applicant-Information-Guide-Getting-Started.jsp
- ▶ You may also contact American Heart at 214-360-6107 or apply@heart.org for program questions and inquiries.

Accessing Grants@Heart

- ▶ An individual must be registered as a Principal Investigator with Grants@Heart to apply for research funding from the Association.
- ▶ **First-time Applicants**
First-time applicants must create a user ID using your e-mail address as your user id and password by completing the user registration. On the Grants@Heart login page, click the link "First time applicant, please register here". Data fields marked with a red asterisk are required and must be completed. After you complete the registration, you will have access to the system.
- ▶ **Returning Users/Applicants**
Returning users should use their existing user ID (E-mail address) and password. If you have a role other than Principal Investigator, do not re-register. This will create another user account. You can add the Principal Investigator role to your existing user account. You only need one user account with Grants@Heart. If you have questions about how to add a role to your existing user account, please contact our office at 214-360-6107.
- ▶ The user ID and password are case sensitive. You should use the same user login each time you access Grants@Heart. If you do not remember your login information, please click the "Did you forget your ID or Password?" link on the login page. After the fifth failed attempt, your account may be locked for up to two hours.
- ▶ If you encounter login issues or need instructions on how to register, please contact Grants@Heart or check out the help documents.
- ▶ First-time Grants Officer/Fiscal Officer should register with the link labeled, "Grants/Fiscal Officer" under the log in section for first time users.

Preparing Your AHA Application

- ▶ Many sections of the application may be prepared prior to beginning the submission process in Grants@Heart. Adherence to specified page limits and format requirements is necessary. No applicant should have an advantage over other applicants by providing more content in his/her application by using smaller, denser type.

Internet Web site addresses (URLs) may not be used to provide information necessary to the review because reviewers are under no obligation to view the Internet sites. Moreover, the reviewers are cautioned not to directly access an Internet site as it could compromise their anonymity. The only place a URL may be used is in the biographical sketch as described in the instructions for that form. *Provide a URL to a full list of your published work as found in a publicly available digital database such as SciENcv or My Bibliography, which are maintained by the US National Library of Medicine.*

The AHA has the responsibility to make the final determination of conformance to format requirements and the authority to withdraw applications. This decision is final and not subject to appeal.

Required documents for each program can be found on the supporting documents page. Before submitting the application to the AHA, please double check each section of the application and the documents uploaded. You will not be able to modify or change the application or its content once it is submitted to AHA. Only the documents required for application submission will be accepted. Additional or supplemental documents will not be accepted. You can also find more information regarding preparing the application at https://professional.heart.org/professional/ResearchPrograms/ApplicationInformation/UCM473934_Applicant-Information-Guide-Preparing-Your-Research-Application.jsp

Program Descriptions

- ▶ **Predocctoral Fellowships**
- ▶ Provides predoctoral Ph.D. students with individualized, mentored research training to initiate careers in cardiovascular and stroke research.
- ▶ **Postdoctoral Fellowships**
- ▶ Empowers postdoctoral Ph.D. trainees, who are not independent, with assistance and training from a mentor to initiate careers in cardiovascular and stroke research.
- ▶ **Mentored Clinical and Population Research Award**
- ▶ Encourages early investigators with supportive mentoring relationships to conduct introductory pilot studies that will guide future strategies for reducing cardiovascular disease and stroke.
- ▶ **Clinical Health Profession Student Training Program**
- ▶ Enhances the integrated research and clinical training of promising students who are matriculated in a clinical health professional degree training program, and who intend careers as physician-scientists or other clinician-scientists.
- ▶ **Clinical Scientist Training Program**
- ▶ Supports cardiovascular and stroke research training to clinicians who hold doctoral-level clinical degrees and who are not yet independent. The applicant must be embedded in an appropriate research group with the mentorship, support, and relevant scientific guidance of a research supervisor.

Program Descriptions

- ▶ **Fellow to Faculty Transition Award**
- ▶ Provides funding for trainees with outstanding potential for careers as physician-scientists in cardiovascular or stroke research during the crucial period of career development that spans the completion of research training through the early years of the first faculty/staff position.
- ▶ **Scientist Development Grant**
- ▶ To support highly promising beginning scientists in cardiovascular and stroke research between their initial research training and their complete independence.
- ▶ **Grant in Aid**
- ▶ Supports independent investigators with innovative and advanced projects related to cardiovascular disease and stroke.

Program Description

- ▶ **New AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)**
- ▶ Supports small-scale research projects related to cardiovascular diseases and stroke at educational institutions that provide baccalaureate or advanced degrees but that have not been major recipients of NIH support. The award supports any part of the full range of research and development from very basic to clinical.
- ▶ **Mentor/AHA Mentee**
- ▶ Provides protected time for mentoring activities to investigators who have an established record of accomplishments in mentoring. Mentor candidates must have a demonstrated commitment to cardiovascular or cerebrovascular science, as indicated by publication history and scientific accomplishments. The award facilitates mentoring opportunities for early-career faculty by experts within fields of study important to their career development. Some mentoring may be accomplished face-to-face, but this funding mechanism is designed to include virtual channels (teleconferences, virtual rooms, etc.) and also should include journal clubs, discussions, etc. Creativity is encouraged, and mentoring of researchers from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups in science, or from smaller universities and academic institutions, or working in a particularly difficult or emerging area of science will be particularly encouraged.

Program Description

▶ Collaborative Sciences Award

- ▶ To foster innovative, new collaborative approaches to research projects which propose novel pairings of investigators from at least two broad disciplines. The proposal must focus on the collaborative relationship, such that the scientific objectives could not be achieved without the efforts of at least two co- principal investigators and their respective disciplines. The combination and integration of studies may be inclusive of basic, clinical, population and/or translational research.

- ▶ Applications by existing collaborators are permitted, provided that the proposal is for a new idea or new approach that has not been funded before.

Letter of Intent deadline was Thursday, November 3, 2016, 5 pm Central Time. AHA will contact the applicants who have been selected to submit a full application by February 9, 2017.

Program Description

▶ AHA Merit Award

- ▶ To fund highly promising investigators with stellar track records of accomplishment, demonstrated by federal or equivalent funding [NIH, AHRQ, HRSA, etc.] from multiple sources and excellent publication records with accelerating impact, who have the potential to move a field of science forward with creative approaches that are aligned with the mission of the American Heart Association

This award will support individual scientists with a trajectory of success, who propose novel approaches to major research challenges in the areas of CV and stroke that have the potential to produce unusually high impact.

The required Letter of Intent deadline is Tuesday, November 22, 2016, 5 pm Central Time. AHA will contact the applicants who have been selected to submit a full application by February 1, 2017.

▶ Institute for Precision Cardiovascular Medicine Awards

- ▶ The American Heart Association Institute for Precision Cardiovascular Medicine strives to preserve and prolong health by more precisely predicting, preventing and treating cardiovascular diseases and stroke. We look to accomplish this by supporting grants which utilize innovative ideas, strategic collaborations and access to integrated data with state-of-the-art technology will cohesively work to eliminate cardiovascular diseases and stroke for families and for future generations.

Precision cardiovascular medicine takes into account an individual's lifestyle, environment and biology to help identify the underlying causes of cardiovascular related risk factors and events to help decrease and prevent these risk factors and events. This new field of precision medicine utilizes advanced methods of aggregating, integrating and analyzing patient data. Our grant mechanisms will be focused on many aspects of precision cardiovascular medicine to reach our goals.

Please check our [Funding Opportunities Page](#) for more information about our grant mechanisms and deadlines.

Predoctoral, Postdoctoral, Clinical Health Profession Student, and Clinical Scientist

- ▶ **Application Content**
- ▶ Research Plan (5 pages)
- ▶ Biographical Sketch/Bibliography (5 pages)
- ▶ Academic Record (no page limit)
- ▶ Literature Cited (no page limit)
- ▶ Publication or Abstracts (3)
- ▶ Vertebrate Animals Subjects (no page limit)
- ▶ Resubmission Modification (2 pages)

Third Party Personnel Application Content

- ▶ Sponsor's Biosketch/bibliography
- ▶ Sponsor's Past/Current Trainees
- ▶ Sponsor's Research Project Environment
- ▶ Collaborating Investigator's Biosketch/Bibliography
- ▶ Collaborating Investigator's Letter
- ▶ Consultant's Letter
- ▶ Reference Report (3)

Mentored Clinical and Population Research Award Application Content

- ▶ **Application Content**
- ▶ Research Plan (12 pages)
- ▶ Research Project Environment Form - Word template (2 pages)
- ▶ Budget Justification Form - Word template (2 pages)
- ▶ Biographical Sketch/Bibliography (5 pages)
- ▶ Academic Record
- ▶ Training/Career Goals (1 page)
- ▶ Literature Cited (no page limit)
- ▶ Publications or Abstracts (3 count)
- ▶ Vertebrate Animal Subjects (no page limit)
- ▶ Resubmission Modifications (if applicable, 2 pages)

Third Party Application Content

- ▶ Sponsor's Biographical Sketch/ Bibliography
- ▶ Sponsor's History of Training/ Special Expertise
- ▶ Sponsor's Research Program Information
- ▶ Collaborating Investigator's Biographical Sketch/ Bibliography
- ▶ Collaborating Investigator's Letter
- ▶ Consultant's Letter
- ▶ Reference Letter (3 count)

Scientist Development Grant Application Content

- ▶ Applicant
- ▶ Research Plan (12 pages)
- ▶ Biographical Sketch/Bibliography (5 pages)
- ▶ Literature Cited (no page limit)
- ▶ Publications or Abstracts (3 count)
- ▶ Research Project Environment Form - Word template (2 pages)
- ▶ Budget Justification Form - Word template (2 pages)
- ▶ Vertebrate Animal Subjects (no page limit)
- ▶ Resubmission Modifications (if applicable, 2 pages)

Third Party Personnel Application Content

- ▶ Department Head's Letter
- ▶ Collaborating Investigator's Biosketch/ Bibliography
- ▶ Collaborating Investigator's Letter
- ▶ Consultant's Letter
- ▶ Reference Report (3 count)

Grant-in-Aid and AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)

- ▶ Application Content
- ▶ Research Plan (12 pages)
- ▶ Research Project Environment Form - Word template (2 pages)
- ▶ Budget Justification Form - Word template (2 pages)
- ▶ Biographical Sketch/Bibliography (5 pages)
- ▶ Literature Cited (no page limit)
- ▶ Publications (3 count)
- ▶ Vertebrate Animal Subjects (no page limit)
- ▶ Resubmission Modifications (if applicable, 2 pages)

Third Party Personnel Application Content

- ▶ Collaborating Investigator's Biographical Sketch/Bibliography
- ▶ Collaborating Investigator's Letter
- ▶ Consultant's Letter

Fellow to Faculty Transition Award Application Content

- ▶ Application Content
- ▶ Research Plan (12 pages)
- ▶ Biographical Sketch/Bibliography (5 pages)
- ▶ Academic Record
- ▶ Literature Cited (no page limit)
- ▶ Budget Justification - Word template
- ▶ Publications or Abstracts (3)
- ▶ Vertebrate Animal Subjects
- ▶ Resubmission (if applicable)

Third Party Personnel Application Content

- ▶ Sponsor's Biosketch/Bibliography
- ▶ Sponsor's Past/Current Trainees
- ▶ Sponsor's Training Plan
- ▶ Sponsor's Research Project Environment
- ▶ Collaborating Investigator's Biosketch/Bibliography
- ▶ Collaborating Investigator's Letter
- ▶ Consultant's Letter
- ▶ Department Head Letter
- ▶ Reference Report (3)

Mentor/AHA Mentee Award

- ▶ **Application Content**
- ▶ Biographical Sketch/Bibliography (5 pages)
- ▶ Mentoring Plan (5 pages)

- ▶ **Third Party Application Content**
- ▶ There are no current Third Party Personnel documents for this program.

Collaborative Sciences Award

- ▶ **Application Content**
- ▶ Biosketch/Bibliography (5 pages maximum per Co-PI)
- ▶ Research Plan (12 pages)
- ▶ Research Project Environment - Word template (2 pages)
- ▶ Budget Justification - Word template (2 pages)
- ▶ Literature Cited (no page limit)
- ▶ Publications or Abstracts (6 ct.)

- ▶ **Third Party Application Content**
- ▶ Collaborating Investigator Biosketch/Bibliography
- ▶ Collaborating Investigator's Letter
- ▶ Consultant's Letter

Institute for Precision Cardiovascular Medicine Grants

- ▶ **Application Content**
- ▶ Research Plan (5 pages)
- ▶ Budget Justification Form - Word template (2 pages)
- ▶ Biographical Sketch/Bibliography (5 pages)
- ▶ Literature Cited (no page limit)

- ▶ **Third Party Personnel Application Content**
- ▶ Collaborating Investigator's Biographical Sketch/Bibliography
- ▶ Collaborating Investigator's Letter
- ▶ Consultant's Letter

Referent Information

- ▶ Applicants are strongly encouraged to work with their references to have referent documents submitted before the deadline.

Referent is asked to provide a reference document because you are familiar with the applicant's scientific interests and abilities. You will be required to upload a reference document to the AHA's online application system, Grants@Heart. A reference document is confidential and is not viewable by the applicant (principal investigator) or others associated with the application. References are critical to the applicant's peer review, however, missing reference documents will not prevent an application from proceeding in the peer review process.

Forms are provided for your convenience. Click on the link below to download the appropriate form for your program type. Download the referent form to your computer and complete it. After completing the form convert it to Portable Document Format (PDF).

https://professional.heart.org/professional/ResearchPrograms/ApplicationInformation/SupportingResources/UCM_320635_Referent-Information-Page.jsp

American Heart Association Awards & Policies

- ▶ You can find information on current and past research announcement, research facts, and award policies at:
- ▶ http://professional.heart.org/professional/ResearchPrograms/AwardsPolicies/UCM_475340_Awards.jsp

- ▶ By: Michele Austin
- ▶ January 2016