



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program



A national program for physicians from historically disadvantaged backgrounds interested in academic careers in:

- Biomedical Research
- Clinical Investigation
- Health Services Research

2007–2008 Call for Applications

Application Deadline

March 19, 2008

Program Overview

(Please refer to specific sections for complete details.)

Purpose

The *Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program* was established to increase the number of faculty from historically disadvantaged backgrounds who can achieve senior rank in academic medicine and who will encourage and foster the development of succeeding classes of such physicians. Four-year postdoctoral research awards are offered to physicians from historically disadvantaged backgrounds who are committed to developing careers in academic medicine and to serving as role models for students and faculty of similar background. The program defines the term “historically disadvantaged” to mean the challenges facing individuals because of their race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status or similar factors.

Eligibility Criteria (page 5)

To be eligible, applicants must be physicians who:

- are from historically disadvantaged backgrounds (ethnic, financial or educational);
- are citizens or permanent residents of the United States or its territories at the time of application; and
- are now completing or have completed their formal clinical training. (Preference will be given to physicians who have recently completed their formal clinical training.)

Selection Criteria (page 5)

Successful applicants must demonstrate that they:

- have excelled in their education;
- are prepared to devote four consecutive years to research;
- are committed to: 1) pursuing academic careers; 2) serving as role models for students and faculty from historically disadvantaged backgrounds; 3) improving the health status of the underserved; and/or 4) decreasing health disparities.

Total Awards

- Up to 12 four-year awards will be funded in this grant cycle.
- Scholars will receive an annual stipend of up to \$75,000 each, complemented by a \$30,000 annual grant toward support of research activities.

Key Dates and Deadlines

- **March 19, 2008 (8 p.m. ET)**—Deadline for receipt of online applications.
- **March 20, 2008**—Deadline for postmark of supporting documents.
- **July 2008**—Applicant interviews with national advisory committee members.
- **December 2008**—Notification of awards.

How to Apply (page 6)

This program only accepts applications submitted online. Instructions may be obtained by contacting the national program office:

Nina Ardery, *deputy director*

Phone: (317) 278-0500

Fax: (317) 278-0508

E-mail: amfdp@indiana.edu

www.amfdp.org

Background

Our nation’s ability to tackle challenges to the health of our people depends on the skills of the workers and leaders in our health and health care systems. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) has long invested in building and maintaining a strong, capable and diverse leadership and workforce in health and health care in response to ever-evolving systems. RWJF supports programs for promising leaders and scholars in training, research and leadership development; makes investments to build specific fields within health and health care; and helps to ensure that our nation has a sufficient, well-trained workforce that provides direct care and services to patients.

The *Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program* (AMFDP) is the result of more than 20 years of experience with RWJF’s *Minority Medical Faculty Development Program*, which sought to increase the number of underrepresented minorities on medical faculties. Part of the next phase of RWJF’s ongoing efforts to increase diversity in health and health care, the expanded Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program offers four-year postdoctoral research awards to physicians from historically disadvantaged backgrounds who are committed to developing careers in academic medicine and to advancing the understanding and elimination of health disparities by serving as role models for students and faculty of similar background.

The program is named in honor of Harold Amos, Ph.D., who was the first African American to chair a department, now the Department of Microbiology and Medical Genetics, of the Harvard Medical School. Dr. Amos worked tirelessly to recruit and mentor countless numbers of minority and disadvantaged students to careers in academic medicine and science. He was a founding member of the national advisory committee of the Minority Medical Faculty Development Program in 1983, and served as its director between 1989 and 1993. Dr. Amos remained engaged with the program until his death in 2003.

The Program

RWJF created the Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program to increase the number of faculty from historically disadvantaged backgrounds who can achieve senior rank in academic medicine and who will encourage and foster the development of succeeding classes of such physicians. The program defines the term “historically disadvantaged” to mean the challenges facing individuals because of their race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status or similar factors.

The program offers four-year postdoctoral research awards to physicians from historically disadvantaged backgrounds who are committed to developing careers in academic medicine, to improving the health of underserved populations, and to working toward the understanding and elimination of health disparities by achieving senior rank in academic medicine. Each of the Amos Scholars selected (up to 12) will receive an annual stipend up to \$75,000 each, complemented by a \$30,000 annual grant toward support of their research activities. Each scholar will study and conduct research in association with a senior faculty member who is located at an academic center noted for the training of young faculty and who is pursuing lines of biomedical, clinical or health services investigation of interest to the scholar. Amos Scholars are expected to spend at least 70 percent of their time engaged in research.

A distinguished national advisory committee (NAC) assists RWJF with the program. Although these awards are intended to provide four years of support, members of the NAC review the progress of each scholar after the first two years to determine continuing support for the full duration of the award. When appropriate, the committee may recommend that the funding for the fourth year of support be used to assist the scholar in his or her initial years as a full-time medical faculty member.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, applicants must be physicians who:

- are from historically disadvantaged backgrounds (ethnic, financial or educational);
- are citizens or permanent residents of the United States or its territories at the time of application; and
- are now completing or have completed their formal clinical training. (Preference will be given to physicians who have recently completed their formal clinical training.)

Selection Criteria

Successful applicants will demonstrate that they:

- have excelled in their education;
- are prepared to devote four consecutive years to research;
- are committed to: 1) pursuing academic careers; 2) serving as role models for students and faculty from historically disadvantaged backgrounds; 3) improving the health status of the underserved; and/or 4) decreasing health disparities.

ASH-AMFDP Partnership

A partnership between the American Society of Hematology (ASH) and AMFDP has been established to increase the number of hematologists from historically disadvantaged backgrounds with academic and research appointments. The criteria and process for selecting ASH-AMFDP Scholars are identical to those for the AMFDP, and scholars and their mentors will have the same obligations and benefits. For more information, please visit www.hematology.org/education/awards/ash-amfdp.cfm.

To pursue the advanced research training required by this program, applicants must first identify faculty mentors with whom a research plan will be developed. The mentor’s experience in the supervision of trainees and the adequacy of the mentor’s research environment and support will be a key consideration in the selection of Amos Scholars. Once these linkages have been established, the applicant and proposed mentor may begin the application process.

In the first stage of the selection process, each candidate is asked to submit a proposal, including academic records, a personal statement regarding commitment to AMFDP's goals, descriptions of research experience and interests, summary of career objectives, references and a preliminary plan for training with the proposed mentor. Based on a review of these materials, the NAC will select semifinalists for interviews. The purpose of the interviews is to enable the committee to assess applicants more fully and for applicants to define their research interests and describe the resources available in their mentors' laboratories. All mentors must be located in a university, school of medicine or research institute within the United States. Based on these interviews, up to 12 finalists will be selected. Finalists will then submit their detailed research plans and budgets.

The NAC will review these submissions and make final recommendations to RWJF and ASH. Neither the NAC nor RWJF provides individual critiques of applications submitted.

Evaluation and Monitoring

As a condition of accepting RWJF funds, those chosen as Amos and ASH-AMFDP Scholars will be expected to meet all RWJF requirements for the submission of annual and final narrative and financial reports. All scholars and their mentors must attend annual program meetings and give reports on their progress.

How to Apply

Applications to this program must be made only through the RWJF Grantmaking Online system at <http://grantmaking.rwjf.org/mfd6>.

In addition to the online application due March 19, 2008, hard copies and supporting materials must be mailed to the national program office (NPO) by March 20, 2008. Complete information on the program and application process can also be found on the program's Web site at www.amfdp.org.

Applications must include:

- Academic records
- References
- Description of the candidate's research experience and interests
- Summary of career objectives
- Statement of commitment to the goals of AMFDP
- Curricula vitae of candidates and mentors
- Mentor's statement
- Preliminary plan for training with the proposed mentor.

Please direct all inquiries about the program and application process to:

Nina Ardery, *deputy director*

Phone: (317) 278-0500

E-mail: amfdp@indiana.edu

Program Direction

Direction and technical assistance for this program is provided by the NPO located at:

Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program
714 N. Senate Avenue, EF212

Indianapolis, IN 46202

Phone: (317) 278-0500

Fax: (317) 278-0508

E-mail: amfdp@indiana.edu

Web site: www.amfdp.org

Responsible staff members at the NPO are:

- James Gavin III, M.D., Ph.D., *program director*
- Nina Ardery, *deputy director*

Responsible staff members at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are:

- Jeane Ann Grisso, M.D., M.Sc., *senior program officer*
- John Lumpkin, M.D., M.P.H., *senior vice president and director, Health Care Group*
- Linda Wright Moore, *communications officer*
- Stephen Theisen, *grants administrator*

**National Advisory
Committee**

The NAC will evaluate applicants and recommend finalists to RWJF and ASH for support. The NAC will have active monitoring responsibility for those chosen and will maintain an ongoing interest in the scholars, providing advice and counsel regarding the direction and development of their academic careers.

Rose Marie Robertson, M.D., *Chair*

Professor of Medicine and Obstetrics/Gynecology
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Chief Science Officer
American Heart Association
Dallas, Texas

Stanley H. Appel, M.D.

Professor and Chairman
Department of Neurology
Methodist Neurological Institute
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Robert S. Dittus, M.D., M.P.H.

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Albert and Bernard Wertham Professor of Medicine
and Public Health
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Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Director, Geriatric Research, Education and
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Senior Vice President, Clinical Research
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Levi Watkins, Jr., M.D.
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Professor of Surgery, Division of Cardiac Surgery
Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions
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Tadataka Yamada, M.D.
Adjunct Professor of Internal Medicine
University of Michigan Medical Center
President, Global Health Program
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Seattle, Wash.

Timetable

■ **March 19, 2008 (8 p.m. ET)**

Deadline for receipt of completed applications submitted online.
Materials submitted after this date will not be considered.

■ **March 20, 2008**

Deadline for postmark of supporting documents.

■ **July 2008**

Applicant interviews with NAC members.

■ **December 2008**

Notification of awards.

** All applications must be submitted only through the RWJF Grantmaking Online system. All applicants should log in to the system and familiarize themselves with online submission requirements well before the final submission deadline. Program staff may not be able to assist all applicants in the final 24 hours before the submission deadline. In fairness to all applicants, the program will not accept late applications.*

About the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, we work with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change.

For more than 35 years we've brought experience, commitment and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those we serve. When it comes to helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, we expect to make a difference in your lifetime.

For more information visit www.rwjf.org.

Sign up to receive e-mail alerts on upcoming calls for proposals at www.rwjf.org/services.



Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation

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