



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation **Physician Faculty Scholars**



2008 Call for Applications

Application Deadline

August 29, 2008

Program Overview

(Please refer to specific sections for complete detail.)

Purpose

The *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Physician Faculty Scholars* program is designed to strengthen the leadership and academic productivity of junior medical school faculty who are dedicated to improving health and health care. Under the program, scholars receive:

- funds to support a research project;
- at least 50 percent protected time for three years to do their research;
- active mentorship by nationally recognized leaders; and
- the opportunity to work with other talented scholars.

Eligibility Criteria (page 5)

Each candidate must meet the following requirements:

- be a physician (M.D. or D.O.) who is a citizen or a permanent resident of the United States or its territories;
- be a junior faculty member (instructor or assistant professor) for four years or less at the time the award begins (July 1, 2009) in any discipline in a regular line faculty position that could lead to tenure;
- be committed to a career in academic medicine;
- provide evidence of research skills (e.g., past research fellowship or equivalent training);
- have published at least two papers in peer-reviewed journals;
- demonstrate excellence as a teacher; and
- care for patients at least one half-day per week.

This program seeks racial, ethnic, gender and disciplinary diversity, and encourages candidates with diverse backgrounds to apply.

Selection Criteria (page 6)

Complete selection criteria can be found on page 6.

Total Awards

Up to 15 awards of up to \$300,000 each over three years will be available in 2009.

Key Dates and Deadlines

- **August 29, 2008 (5 p.m. PT)**—Deadline for receipt of applications.
- **March 2009**—Finalist interviews with national advisory committee.
- **April 2009**—Notification of awards.
- **July 1, 2009**—Appointments begin.

How to Apply (page 8)

The dean of a four-year, fully accredited U.S. medical school (allopathic or osteopathic) may nominate one applicant per year. Detailed application instructions can be found on the program's Web site or by contacting:

Sally Schroeder, *deputy director*
Phone: (650) 566-2348
E-mail: rwjfpfsp@stanford.edu

<http://rwjfpfsp.stanford.edu>

Background

Affecting the health of America's population requires new, evidence-based strategies that will improve the quality of health services. Physician-scientists historically have made substantial contributions to this national effort. For young physician-scientists, a critical period in their academic careers comes after they have completed their clinical fellowship training and taken their first faculty position. They are expected to teach, provide patient care and conduct independent research. This period is particularly challenging for junior faculty who are interested in health policy, epidemiology, health services or community-based research fields in which few career development programs exist.

The *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Physician Faculty Scholars* program addresses this gap by providing junior faculty with mentoring, protected time, networking and the opportunity to gain valuable research experience. The program produces academic leaders who are creative and well-positioned to improve the nation's health care.

This program is part of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's (RWJF) Human Capital Portfolio, which seeks to attract, develop and retain a high-quality health and health care workforce, with an emphasis on diversity and leadership development.

The Program

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Physician Faculty Scholars program will make up to 15 three-year awards of up to \$300,000 each to help outstanding junior faculty in medical schools to develop their careers in academic medicine.

Talented junior faculty, who are nominated by their medical schools and selected by the program, will receive support to enhance their skills and productivity through institutional and national mentoring, specific research experience and protected time in which to acquire it. The program strongly prefers applicants interested in the fields of health policy research, epidemiology, health services research or community-based research. *Physician-scientists who conduct basic biomedical research should not apply.*

RWJF will make grants to sponsoring institutions to help cover the scholars' salary and research costs. Each sponsoring institution must agree to protect 50 percent of each scholar's time from clinical and teaching responsibilities to spend on the scholarly activities outlined in the scholar's proposals. Each institution must identify at least one mentor who will advise the scholar on his or her research project, provide career development guidance and attend one annual national meeting with the scholar.

Scholars will also interact with the medical leaders who serve on the program's national advisory committee (NAC). The program will assign to each scholar a NAC mentor, who will discuss project management and career development with him or her at the program's annual meeting and throughout the year. NAC mentors may offer additional assistance, such as reviewing and critiquing manuscripts and grant proposals and writing letters of recommendation.

All scholars are expected to attend each annual meeting, where they will present their ongoing research and take part in a broad array of discussions relevant to the program's focus. They must also

attend one additional scientific meeting of their choosing annually.

Consistent with all RWJF programs, this program embraces racial, ethnic, gender and disciplinary diversity and encourages candidates with diverse backgrounds to apply.

Eligibility Criteria

Each candidate must:

- be a physician (M.D. or D.O.) who is a citizen or a permanent resident of the United States or its territories;
- be a junior faculty member in any discipline in a regular line faculty position that could lead to tenure. Junior faculty are defined as those who are at the instructor or assistant professor level and have held a faculty position for four years or less at the time the award begins (July 1, 2009);
- be committed to a career in academic medicine;
- provide evidence of research skills (e.g., past research fellowship or equivalent training);
- have published at least two papers in peer-reviewed journals;
- demonstrate excellence as a teacher; and
- care for patients at least one half-day per week.

As the program is focused on new researchers, a physician is ineligible for the Physician Faculty Scholars program if he or she is currently serving or has previously served as the *principal investigator* of a grant (whether career development or research) that carries more than 48 months of funding. However, an applicant's eligibility is not affected if notice of such a funding award is dated *after* the program's application deadline (August 29, 2008).

The program strongly prefers applicants interested in the fields of health policy research, epidemiology, health services research or community-based research. Physician-scientists who do basic biomedical research should not apply.

Selection Criteria

The NAC reviews applications and invites selected applicants to present their research proposals to the committee. The committee uses the following criteria to guide the selection process:

- Evidence that the candidate is committed to an academic career and is well prepared to conduct research.
- The research proposal is creative, of high quality and feasible.
- The applicant's research is in the fields of health policy, epidemiology, health services or community-based research.
- Availability of qualified research mentors and research resources at the candidate's institution.
- Evidence that the candidate is an excellent clinical teacher.
- Evidence that the nominating institution and its senior leadership are committed to supporting the candidate's academic career.

Evaluation and Monitoring

Grantee institutions will be expected to meet RWJF requirements for the submission of annual narrative and financial reports, as well as periodic information needed for overall project performance monitoring and management. We expect faculty scholars to participate in all of the program's annual meetings. At the close of the grant, the scholar shall provide a written report of the research project and its findings that can be widely disseminated.

Use of Grant Funds

Grant funds may be used for a portion of the scholar's salary, research assistants, community partners, medical student or other trainee summer stipends, project-related domestic travel, and other essential direct project expenses. Grants are made to the sponsoring institutions and follow RWJF's regular funding guidelines. In keeping with RWJF policy, grant funds may not be used to subsidize individuals for the costs of their health care, to support clinical trials of unapproved drugs or devices, to construct or renovate facilities, for lobbying, or as a substitute for funds currently being used to support similar activities.

How to Apply

Each applicant must be nominated by the dean of a four-year, fully accredited U.S. medical school (allopathic or osteopathic). A school may nominate only one physician per year. Schools may have up to two physicians in the program at any one time, provided they are each in different disciplines.

Applicants must complete the application form, including a proposal for research (maximum length: 13 pages, double-spaced, using a minimum text size of 11 point). We also require letters of recommendation. For details about the research proposal and the application process, applicants should go to the program's Web site at <http://rwjfpfsp.stanford.edu>. The site also contains application documents for downloading.

The national program office (NPO) must receive completed application forms no later than 5 p.m. PT on August 29, 2008. We will not accept applications sent via e-mail or fax.

Members of the NAC will conduct interviews with selected applicants in March 2009. We will notify scholars of their awards by April 2009. Appointments begin July 1, 2009.

RWJF does not provide individual critiques of written applications or presentations given at the finalist interview meeting.

Program Direction

Stanford University, which serves as the national program office, provides direction and technical assistance for this program:

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Web site: <http://rwjfpfsp.stanford.edu>

Responsible staff members at the NPO are:

- Iris F. Litt, M.D., *national program director*
- Sally Schroeder, *deputy director*
- Erin O'Rourke Amundson, *program administrator*

Responsible staff members at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are:

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

Please direct all questions about the program, selection criteria or application requirements to:
Sally Schroeder, *deputy director*
Phone: (650) 566-2348
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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.



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