

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

## The Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program

*A fellowship program for physicians from historically disadvantaged backgrounds interested in academic careers in*

- *Biomedical Research*
- *Clinical Investigation*
- *Health Services Research*

**Deadline: March 22, 2005**

[Apply Online](#)

This program accepts only proposals submitted online.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

(Please refer to specific sections for complete detail.)

### Purpose

The *Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program*, formerly known as the *Minority Medical Faculty Development Program*, was created 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 and Selection Criteria (page 6)

To be eligible, applicants must be physicians who:

- Are from historically disadvantaged backgrounds (ethnic, financial or educational).
- Are U.S. citizens or permanent residents at the time of application.
- Have excelled in their education.
- Are now completing or have completed their formal clinical training. (Preference will be given to physicians who have recently completed their formal clinical training.)
- Are prepared to devote four consecutive years to research.
- Are committed to pursuing academic careers and to improving the health status of the underserved, decreasing health disparities, and/or serving as role models for students and faculty from historically disadvantaged backgrounds.

### Total Awards

- Up to 12 four-year awards will be funded in this grant cycle.
- Scholars will receive an annual stipend of up to \$65,000, complemented by a \$26,350 annual grant toward support of research activities.

### Deadlines

- **March 22, 2005**—Deadline for receipt of online applications.
- **March 23, 2005**—Deadline for postmark of supporting documents.
- **July 2005**—Interviews with National Advisory Committee members.
- **December 2005**—Official notification of awards.

### How to Apply (page 8)

Apply Online

**This program accepts only applications submitted online.**

Instructions may be obtained by contacting the National Program Office:

Nina Ardery, Deputy Director

Phone: (301) 565-4080

Fax: (301) 565-4088

E-mail: [amfdp@starpower.net](mailto:amfdp@starpower.net)

[www.amfdp.org](http://www.amfdp.org)

## BACKGROUND

The *Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program* of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) is the result of more than 20 years of experience with the Foundation’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 the diversity of 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 furthering the understanding and elimination of health disparities by serving as role models for students and faculty of similar background.

Specifically, 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 National Program 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 (AMFDP)*, formerly known as the *Minority 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 of up to \$65,000, complemented by a \$26,350 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 is pursuing lines of biomedical, clinical, or health services investigation that are 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. While 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 funding for the full duration of the award. When appropriate, the committee has the option to 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 AND SELECTION CRITERIA

To be eligible, applicants must be physicians who:

- Are from historically disadvantaged backgrounds (ethnic, financial or educational).
- Are U.S. citizens or permanent residents at the time of application.
- Have excelled in their education.
- Are now completing or have completed their formal clinical training. (Preference will be given to physicians who have recently completed their formal clinical training.)
- Are prepared to devote four consecutive years to research.
- Are committed to pursuing academic careers and to improving the health status of the underserved, decreasing health disparities, and/or serving as role models for students and faculty from historically disadvantaged backgrounds.

In order to pursue the advanced research training required by this program, applicants must 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 strongly considered. 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 the goals of the AMFDP, 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 the applicants more fully and for the applicants to define their research interests and describe the resources available in their mentors' laboratories. All mentors must be located in scientific institutions 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. Neither the NAC nor RWJF provides individual critiques of applications submitted.

## EVALUATION AND MONITORING

Those chosen as Amos 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 the program must be made through the RWJF Grantmaking Online system. The link to access the system is: <http://grantmaking.rwjf.org/mfd3>.

In addition to the online application, hard copies and supporting materials must be mailed to the National Program Office (NPO) by the deadline listed on page 15.

Complete information on the program and application process can also be found on the program's Web site at [www.amfdp.org](http://www.amfdp.org).

Applications submitted 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 the AMFDP
- Candidate's and mentor's CVs
- 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: (301) 565-4080**

**E-mail: [amdfp@starpower.net](mailto:amdfp@starpower.net)**

## PROGRAM DIRECTION

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

*Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program*

8701 Georgia Avenue, Suite 411

Silver Spring, MD 20910-3713

Phone: (301) 565-4080 phone

Fax: (301) 565-4088 fax

E-mail: [amfdp@starpower.net](mailto:amfdp@starpower.net)

[www.amfdp.org](http://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:

- Constance Pechura, Ph.D., *Senior Program Officer*
- John Lumpkin, M.D., *Senior Vice President and Director, Health Care Group*
- Minna Jung, *Communications Officer*
- Jan Mihalow, *Grants Administrator*

## NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The NAC will evaluate applicants and recommend up to 12 finalists to RWJF for support. The committee 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  
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and Economics  
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University of Texas  
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LEVI WATKINS, JR., M.D.  
Associate Dean, School of Medicine  
Professor of Surgery, Division of Cardiac Surgery  
Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions  
Baltimore, Maryland



## ABOUT RWJF

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation® is the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to health and health care. It concentrates its grantmaking in four goal areas:

- To assure that all Americans have access to quality health care at reasonable cost.
- To improve the quality of care and support for people with chronic health conditions.
- To promote healthy communities and lifestyles.
- To reduce the personal, social and economic harm caused by substance abuse—tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs.

*This document, as well as many other Foundation publications and resources, is available on the Foundation's Web site:*

[www.rwjf.org](http://www.rwjf.org)

Sign up to receive e-mail alerts on upcoming Calls for Proposals at:  
<http://subscribe.rwjf.org>

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