

2017 Call for Applications

Application Deadline: March 15, 2017 (3 p.m. ET)



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

HAROLD AMOS MEDICAL FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

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 an ever-changing environment. 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. Each investment expands a network of leaders and scholars who are well positioned to move the nation toward a Culture of Health.

The program recognizes the critical role faculty play as leaders, researchers and advisers. The *Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program* (AMFDP) was developed to increase diversity in medical faculty and more recently, in nursing and dentistry faculties.

The program's name honors Harold Amos, PhD, who was the first African American to chair a department at Harvard Medical School—now the Department of Microbiology and Immunobiology. Dr. Amos worked tirelessly to recruit and mentor countless minority and disadvantaged students to careers in academic medicine and science. He was a founding member of the national advisory committee (NAC) of the *Minority Medical Faculty Development Program* in 1983, and served as its director between 1989 and 1993. Dr. Amos remained actively engaged with the program until his death in 2003.

THE PROGRAM

The AMFDP offers four-year postdoctoral research awards to increase the number of physicians, dentists, and nurses from historically disadvantaged backgrounds who are committed to:

- developing careers and achieving senior rank in academic medicine, dentistry, or nursing;
- fostering the development of succeeding classes of physicians, dentists, and nurses from historically disadvantaged backgrounds;
- improving the health of underserved populations; and/or
- working toward understanding and eliminating health disparities by achieving senior rank in academic medicine, dentistry, or nursing.

The program defines the term “historically disadvantaged” to mean the challenges facing individuals because of their race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or similar factors (e.g., possession of a physical, learning, or other disability; first-generation college graduate). Each scholar will study and conduct research with a senior faculty member who is located at an academic center known for the training of

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junior faculty and who is pursuing lines of biomedical, clinical, or health services research of interest to the scholar. Amos Scholars are expected to spend at least 70 percent of their time engaged in research.

A distinguished NAC assists RWJF with the program. Although awards are intended to provide four years of support, NAC members will review each scholar's progress after the first two years to determine if support should continue for the full duration of the award.

TOTAL AWARDS

RWJF will fund up to 10 four-year awards of up to \$420,000 each in this grant cycle. Amos Scholars will receive an annual stipend of up to \$75,000 each, complemented by a \$30,000 annual grant toward support of research activities. As detailed on page 4, additional awards are available through partnerships with the American Society of Hematology, American Society of Nephrology, and the American Heart Association.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for this award, applicants must be physicians, dentists, or nurses who:

- are from historically disadvantaged backgrounds;¹
- are U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or individuals granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (“DACA”) status by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services²; and
- are completing or have completed their formal clinical training. (We will give preference to those who have recently completed their formal clinical training or—in the case of nurses—their research doctorate.)

Physicians must be Board-eligible to apply for this program. A dental applicant must be a general dentist with a master's degree or a PhD or has completed advanced dental education. Nurse applicants must be registered nurses with a research doctorate in nursing or a related discipline completed by the application deadline.

We will select semifinalists from among the applicants and ask them to interview with NAC members. Detailed research plans and budgets for selected finalists must be submitted by a university, school of medicine, dentistry, nursing, or research institution with which the prospective scholar will be affiliated during the term of the fellowship. The university, school, or research institution must meet the following criteria:

- be tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;
- not be a private foundation or nonfunctionally integrated Type III supporting organization, and

¹ The term “historically disadvantaged” refers to the challenges facing individuals because of their race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or similar factors (e.g., possession of a physical, learning, or other disability; first generation college graduate).

² Applicants who are permanent residents and not green card holders should contact the [Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program](#) before applying to determine whether they can satisfy the program’s eligibility and documentation requirements.

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- be based in the United States or its territories.

Additionally, candidates cannot be related by blood or marriage to any Officer³ or Trustee of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, or be a descendant of its founder, Robert Wood Johnson.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Consistent with RWJF values, this program embraces diversity and inclusion across multiple dimensions, such as race, ethnicity, gender, disability, age, and socioeconomic status. We strongly encourage applications in support of individual candidates who will help us expand the perspectives and experiences we bring to our work. We believe that the more we include diverse perspectives and experiences in our work, the more successful we will be as we strive together to build a Culture of Health, enabling all in our diverse society to lead healthier lives now, and for generations to come.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Successful scholars must demonstrate that they:

- have excelled in their education;
- are prepared to devote four consecutive years to research; and
- 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.

To pursue the advanced research training required by this program, applicants must first identify a faculty mentor (or mentors) with whom they would like to work to develop a research plan. The mentor's experience in supervising trainees and the adequacy of the mentor's research environment and support will be a key consideration in the selection of Amos Scholars.

In the first stage of the selection process, each candidate will submit a proposal including academic records, a personal statement regarding the candidate's commitment to AMFDP's goals, descriptions of research experience and interests, a statement describing the candidate's disadvantaged status, a summary of career objectives, references, and a preliminary plan for training with the proposed mentor. All mentors must be located in a university, school of medicine, dentistry, nursing, or research institute within the United States.

Based on a review of the submitted materials, the NAC will select semifinalists for interviews. The interview enables the committee to assess candidates more fully. It also allows candidates to define their research interests and describe the resources available in their mentors' laboratories.

Based on these interviews, we will select up to 10 finalists. Finalists will then submit their detailed research plans and budgets. The NAC will review these submissions and make final recommendations to RWJF, the American Society of Hematology, the American Society of Nephrology, and the American Heart Association. Neither the NAC nor RWJF provides individual critiques of applications submitted.

³ The Officers are the Chairman of the Board of Trustees; President and CEO; Chief of Staff; General Counsel; Executive Vice President; Secretary; Assistant Secretary; Treasurer; and Assistant Treasurer of the Foundation.

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ASH-AMFDP PARTNERSHIP

A partnership between the American Society of Hematology (ASH) and AMFDP was 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 the website for the [American Society of Hematology](#).

ASN-AMFDP PARTNERSHIP

A partnership between the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) and AMFDP has been established to increase the number of nephrologists from historically disadvantaged backgrounds with academic and research appointments. The criteria and process for selecting ASN-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 the [AMFDP website](#).

AHA-AMFDP PARTNERSHIP

A partnership between the American Heart Association (AHA) and AMFDP has been established to increase the number of clinician-researchers focused on the cardiology or the cerebrovascular system from historically disadvantaged backgrounds with academic and research appointments. The criteria and process for selecting AHA-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 the [AMFDP website](#).

EVALUATION

The purpose of evaluation at RWJF is learning rather than accountability. An independent research group selected and funded by RWJF will conduct an evaluation of the program. RWJF intends for this program to contribute to national efforts to promote a Culture of Health. As a condition of accepting RWJF funds, scholars must participate in the evaluation, which may include assisting with necessary data collection to accomplish evaluation objectives.

MONITORING

RWJF monitors the grantees' efforts and careful stewardship of grant funds to assure accountability. Grantees will be required to submit periodic narrative and financial reports.

APPLICANT SURVEY PROCESS

To help measure the effectiveness of RWJF grantmaking and improve the grant application experience, we will survey the project director (PD) listed within the application submitted under this call for applications. Shortly after the application deadline, the PD will be contacted by Princeton Survey Research Associates International (PSRAI), an independent research firm, and asked to complete a brief, online survey about the application process and applicant characteristics. This voluntary questionnaire will take no more than 15 minutes to complete. Responses provided to PSRAI will not impact the funding decision for the applications in any way.

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PSRAI will protect the confidentiality of the responses. RWJF will not receive any data that links a name with the survey responses.

If you have any questions about the survey or the use of the data, feel free to email applicantfeedback@rwjf.org.

USE OF GRANT FUNDS

Grants made to the participating universities will be in accordance with RWJF's funding guidelines. Under the program, the universities provide scholars with their stipends and health insurance. Financial support is also available at each university for expenses associated with scholars' research, including travel.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for this solicitation must be submitted via the RWJF online system. Visit www.rwjf.org/cfp/mfd17 and use the *Apply Online* link. If you have not already done so, you will be required to register at <http://my.rwjf.org> before you begin the application process.

In addition to the online application due on March 15, 2017, a hard copy must be mailed to the national program office (NPO) and postmarked by March 16, 2017. Complete information on the program and application process can also be found on the program's website 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
- Statement describing the candidate's disadvantaged status
- Curricula vitae of candidates and mentors
- Mentor's statement
- Preliminary plan for training with the proposed mentor

Please direct inquiries to:

Nina Ardery, *deputy director*

Phone: (317) 278-0500

Email: amfdp@indiana.edu

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All applicants should log in to the system and familiarize themselves with online submission requirements well before the final submission deadline. 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 submissions.

RWJF does not provide individual critiques of applications submitted.

This program has a national advisory committee that makes recommendations about grants to Foundation staff. RWJF will make all final grant decisions.

PROGRAM DIRECTION

Direction and technical assistance for this program are provided by the Indiana University School of Medicine, which serves as the national program office (NPO), located at:

Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program

702 Rotary Circle, Suite 132

Indianapolis, IN 46202

Phone: (317) 278-0500

Email: amfdp@indiana.edu

Website: www.amfdp.org

Responsible staff members at the NPO are:

- David S. Wilkes, MD, *program director*
- Nina Ardery, *deputy director*

Responsible staff members at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are:

- David M. Krol, MD, MPH, *senior program officer*
- Kaytura Felix, MD, *senior program officer and director*
- Maddalena Moreira, *program financial analyst*

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

Rose Marie Robertson, MD, *Chair*

Professor of Medicine and Obstetrics/Gynecology

Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

Chief Science Officer

American Heart Association

Dallas, TX

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Cindy M. Anderson, PhD, WHNP-BC, FNAP, FAHA, FAAN

Associate Professor

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Educational Innovation

College of Nursing

The Ohio State University

Columbus, OH

Ivor Benjamin, MD, FAHA, FACC

Professor of Medicine, Department of Cardiology

Director, Cardiovascular Center

Medical College of Wisconsin

Milwaukee, WI

Carrie L. Byington, MD

Dean, College of Medicine

Senior Vice President for Health Sciences

Vice Chancellor for the Health Services

Texas A&M University

Bryan, TX

Robert S. Dittus, MD, MPH

Albert and Bernard Werthan Professor of Medicine and Public Health

Associate Vice Chancellor for Public Health and Health Care

Senior Associate Dean for Population Health Sciences

Director, Institute for Medicine and Public Health

Vanderbilt University

Nashville, TN

Glenn Flores, MD, FAAP

Distinguished Chair of Health Policy Research

Medica Research Institute

Minneapolis, MN

James R. Gavin III, MD, PhD

Clinical Professor of Medicine

Emory University School of Medicine

Atlanta, GA

Esteban González Burchard, MD, MPH

Harry Wm. and Diana V. Hind Distinguished Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences II

Professor, Bioengineering & Therapeutic Sciences and Medicine

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University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA

Jeane Ann Grisso, MD, MSc

Professor Emerita of Nursing and Medicine
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

Ralph I. Horwitz, MD

Professor of Medicine
Director, Transformative Medicine Institute
Temple University
Philadelphia, PA

Kevin B. Johnson, MD, MS

Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor and Chair of Biomedical Informatics
Professor of Pediatrics
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Nashville, TN

Juanita L. Merchant, MD, PhD

H. Marvin Pollard Professor of Gastrointestinal Sciences
Departments of Internal Medicine and Molecular & Integrative Physiology
University of Michigan Medical Center
Ann Arbor, MI

Arturo Molina, MD, MS, FACP

Chief Medical Officer
Sutro Biopharma
South San Francisco, CA

Aubrey R. Morrison, MD

Professor of Medicine, Molecular Biology, and Developmental Biology
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, MO

Daniel J. Pesut, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC, FAAN

Professor of Nursing Population Health and Systems Cooperative Unit
Director, Katharine Densford International Center for Nursing Leadership
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN

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Neil R. Powe, MD, MPH, MBA

Constance B. Wofsy Distinguished Professor of Medicine
Chief of Medical Services, San Francisco General Hospital
Vice Chair of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA

Francisco Ramos Gomez, DDS, MS, MPH

Professor, Section of Pediatric Dentistry
University of California, Los Angeles School of Dentistry
Los Angeles, CA

Lee W. Riley, MD

Professor and Chair, Division of Infectious Disease and Vaccinology
University of California–Berkeley
School of Public Health
Division of Public Health Biology and Epidemiology
Berkeley, CA

Griffin P. Rodgers, MD, MBA, MACP

Director, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD

David D. Sabatini, MD, PhD

Frederick L. Ehrman Professor
Department of Cell Biology
New York University School of Medicine
New York, NY

J. Sanford Schwartz, MD

Professor of Medicine and Health Management and Economics
School of Medicine and The Wharton School
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

George W. Taylor, DMD, MPH, DrPH

Professor, Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences
Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion
University of California, San Francisco School of Dentistry
San Francisco, CA

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David S. Wilkes, MD

Dean and James Carroll Flippin Professor of Medical Science
University of Virginia School of Medicine
Charlottesville, VA

KEY DATES AND DEADLINES

March 15, 2017 (3 p.m. ET)

Deadline for receipt of completed online applications. *

March 16, 2017

Deadline for postmark of hard copy of application.

July 12–14, 2017

Applicant interviews with national advisory committee members in Chicago.

December 2017

Notification of awards.

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ABOUT THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

For more than 40 years the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has worked to improve health and health care. We are working with others to build a national Culture of Health, enabling everyone in America to live longer, healthier lives. For more information, visit www.rwjf.org. Follow the Foundation on Twitter at www.rwjf.org/twitter or on Facebook at www.rwjf.org/facebook.

Sign up to receive email alerts on upcoming calls for proposals at www.rwjf.org/manage-your-subscriptions.html.

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