HHMI MEDICAL RESEARCH FELLOWS PROGRAM

FOR MEDICAL, DENTAL, AND VETERINARY STUDENTS

Presented by M. Celeste Simon, PhD
1994-2014 HHMI Investigator
• Purpose: to increase the number and quality of physician-, dentist-, and veterinarian-scientists

• Mechanism: engage medical, dental, and veterinary students in research during professional education

• Program: year-long mentored research training experiences for students from U.S. schools
ELIGIBILITY

• In good standing at a U.S. medical, dental, or veterinary school
• Not currently in a combined professional degree/PhD program
• May not have a PhD in a laboratory-based biomedical science
• May apply as a 4th year student, if you defer graduation
• Previous laboratory research experience **required**
• U.S. citizenship not required but you must be eligible to work in the U.S.
8 FUNDING PARTNERS

1. Burroughs Wellcome Fund supporting up to 2 veterinary students.
2. Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy (CURE) supporting up to 3 fellows in epilepsy research.
3. Duchenne Research Fund supporting up to 1 fellow studying Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.
4. Foundation Fighting Blindness supporting up to 4 fellows doing research in inherited retinal degenerative diseases.
5. K-RITH supporting 2 fellows in HIV/AIDS or TB research in Durban, South Africa.
6. Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation (OREF) for up to 1 fellow doing orthopaedic research.
7. Parkinson’s Disease Foundation (PDF) for up to 1 fellow doing Parkinson’s disease research.
8. Society of Interventional Radiology Foundation funding up to 1 fellow doing preclinical interventional radiology research.
MEDICAL FELLOWS AT JANELIA

• Live and work at HHMI’s Janelia Research Campus in Ashburn, VA (near Washington, D.C.) for a year

• Use innovative and emerging technologies to research neuronal network function or imaging at the cellular and molecular level

• Two-step application process requiring:
  • Prescreening application due by November 2

2014 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, Eric Betzig (left), co-mentor of 2011 Med Fellow Andrew Sung (right)
MEDICAL FELLOWS AT K-RITH

- Live in Durban, South Africa and work at the KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for Tuberculosis and HIV (K-RITH) for a year
- Conduct research in HIV, TB or co-infection at the heart of the disease epidemics
- Two-step application process requiring:
  - Prescreening application due by November 2
HHMI VALUE-ADDED BENEFITS

- Attend HHMI investigator science meeting (closed to the public)
- Gain career advice from HHMI physician-scientists
- Meet with renowned physician-scientists at professional meetings (e.g., AANS, ARVO, etc.)
- Take part in Med Fellows kick-off and regional meetings
- Benefit from multi-level mentoring by physician-scientists at end-of-year meeting
- Present your work at a scientific conference
FINANCIAL SUPPORT

• Annual stipend of $30,000
• $5,500 fellow’s allowance for medical, dental, and vision insurance, and education-related expenses
• $5,500 research allowance for travel to scientific meetings, Med Fellows kick-off, regional meetings, end-of-year meeting, some research costs
LOAN DEFERMENT

• Some schools have special status to remain enrolled; fees vary per school

• Check with registrar and financial aid office

• HHMI can help complete deferment forms (request from your loan servicing center)
APPLICATION INFORMATION

• Application opens: end of August
• Deadline: January 11
• About 200 applications, 60-70 awards
• Must select mentor and write a research plan as part of the application process
• No interview (except for selected Janelia and K-RITH* applicants)
• External review panel of scientists
• Apply online: www.hhmi.org/medfellowships

* Janelia and K-RITH applicants selected for interviews will do in-person interviews at Janelia, or Skype interviews for K-RITH.