**About**  
Designed for up to 20 medical students with limited research experience relevant to clinical or neuroscience fields who have a supporting preceptor and a project with clearly defined goals. The project is to be conducted through a US or Canadian institution of the student's choice and jointly designed by the student and sponsoring institution.

**Benefits**  
Offers members of SIGN a stipend of $3,000 to conduct a project in either an institutional, clinical, or laboratory setting where there are ongoing programs of research, service or training, or a private practice.

**Eligibility**

* Only applicants from schools with established SIGN chapters
* The program is not intended for medical students with an extensive background in research; therefore, these students should not apply. Extensive research refers to multiple publications and multiple years of research experience at a graduate school level.

**Application Requirements**  
Project Criteria:

* The project is to be undertaken in either an institutional, clinical, or laboratory setting that has ongoing programs of research, service, or training, or in a private practice setting
* The research being conducted MUST be neuroscience-based
* The intention of the scholarship is to provide research funding support to students with limited research experience relevant to clinical or neuroscience fields; projects already completed will not be considered
* There must be a registered SIGN chapter at the student applicant’s institution; however, there does not need to be a SIGN chapter at the site where the research will be done, although this is encouraged
* Applicants must be current AAN members and SIGN chapter members at their institution at the time of application submission
* Applicants must not have received the scholarship previously
* Sponsoring investigators must confirm compliance with local IRB requirements regarding the student’s role in human subjects’ research
* If the project preceptor and SIGN faculty advisor are the same person, two separate letters should be provided. The first letter should focus on how the student is involved with the SIGN chapter and the second should focus on the role he/she will play in the research project.
* The student should write the proposal, clearly delineating his/her role in the project. More details on this may be found below.
* Applications in which the role of the student is not clearly defined will not be considered.
* Multiple sources of funding are allowed; however, applicants must provide information regarding what funds have been applied for and/or received

**Note:** Project proposal, budget proposal, CV and bibliography should be Arial, 11 point font or greater, and have at least 0.5 inch margins.

* 1-2 page project proposal
* 1 page budget proposal
* 1-2 page Curriculum Vitae
* 1 page bibliography
* 2 letters of recommendation: one from the project preceptor/mentor and one from the SIGN faculty advisor or from neurology or neuroscience faculty.

**Student will include in the Project Proposal:**

* Student name and contact information including phone and email address
* Faculty mentor name and contact information including phone and email address
* Title of project
* Specific aims of the project (List as specific aims, the specific objectives for the research proposed. If the research is part of a larger project, briefly describe the goals of the over-all project and how the proposed research is related. The student should concisely state his/her specific role in the project, and the outcomes expected for each Specific Aim).
* Background and Significance (Explain the importance to biomedicine of the problem motivating this research, here and elsewhere; indicate citations by number in parentheses, corresponding to their order of appearance in the Bibliography).
* Experimental Design (Keyed to the Specific Aims, describe the experiments/studies intended and the experimental and analytical methods that will be used)
* Bibliography (authors, titles of article, journal, book, volume, pages, year; list citations numerically in the order in which they appear in the application).
* Time-Line (Present a 10-week time-line identifying anticipated key points in the progress of the research).
* Mentorship (Describe arrangements made with the mentor and lab associates for structured guidance).
* Formal budget for research. Students are encouraged to think practically and realistically about the cost of their proposal. Note: The scholarship amount is $3,000 regardless of how much your formal budget is. The formal budget is an exercise to give you experience in writing a formal budget. For guidance, some basic budget categories could include:
* Personnel Materials and Supplies: This should include animal costs (cost for animal and cost for housing), costs to pay human subjects (if applicable), and/or costs for supplies (including molecular biology kits, pipette tips, assay supplies, etc.). Include any new equipment that needs to be purchased for the project as well as costs associated with presenting data at meetings (includes cost of registration + travel expenses).

**Awardee Expectations**

Student will return the following upon being notified of winning:

* A Statement of Intent form, signed by student and preceptor, supplied with winner notification letter.
* W-9 or W-8BEN Tax form for Canadian citizens

Student will submit the following after project completion:

* A one-page abstract of the project
* Evaluation forms completed by the student and preceptor, supplied with the winner notification letter.
* Students are encouraged to submit completed abstracts to the AAN

Award, presentation and publication

* Any publications resulting from the funded project must acknowledge the support of the American Academy of Neurology (AAN). Upon publication, copies should be forwarded to the AAN.
* Recipient will provide the AAN with name, year of Medical Student Research Scholarship award received, academic institution, publications, presentations and/or awards related to the research project, presentations relating to the research project.
* Scholarship winners are encouraged to submit their abstract to the AAN for the Annual Meeting Scientific Program. The AAN’s acceptance of the abstract is not guaranteed.

**Application Timeline**

This scholarship is offered during the winter and summer.

Winter application period: December 2, 2020 - March 8, 2021 (11:59 pm Central Daylight Time)  
Summer application period: June 1, 2021 - August 23, 2021 (11:59 pm Central Daylight Time)

**Questions?**  
For more information, please contact Genevieve Gates at [ggates@aan.com](mailto:ggates@aan.com) or Maggie Rock at [mrock@aan.com](mailto:mrock@aan.com)