THE IMPACT OF AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION (AHA) RESEARCH

Working with Universities to support early-career scientists
RESEARCH: The Foundation of our Work

$5.7 BILLION since 1949

1,700 active awards

$479 million committed

2,234 volunteers reviewed

3,775 proposals in 2022-23
AHA Second’s Century of Science Initiatives

**Clinical Fellow Research Education Program**

Pilot program for cardiology and vascular neurology fellows to attend and present at an AHA scientific meeting, plus related training and experience

Up to **$52,500** over three years

**AHA’s Second Century Implementation Science Award**

Supports early and mid-career investigators in implementation research studies

**$400,000** over three years

**AHA’s Second Century Early Faculty Independence Award**

For highly promising early career investigators in critical, emerging areas of research

**$300,000** over three years
Research Portfolio Highlights

Over **860** new research awards in FY23

Overall success rate of **>25%**

Over **390** predoctoral and postdoctoral fellowships

Over past 5 years, **>80%** of awards have been to early career investigators
The American Heart Association is a catalyst for early career researchers, providing a springboard for individuals and institutions often overlooked.
ENHANCING CAREERS
The multiplier effect of Association funding

A recent analysis found that about 60% of AHA early career awardees receive subsequent funding from the National Institutes of Health.

Early Career Faculty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AHA Investment</th>
<th>Subsequent Funding</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$162M</td>
<td>$1,260M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.8X</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

NIH Funding

| $1,115          |

Other Funding

<p>| $145            |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Description/Target</th>
<th>Award Amount</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Undergraduate Student</td>
<td>To institutions that can offer a meaningful research experience to undergraduate college students.</td>
<td>Total Award Amount: $160,000</td>
<td>3 Years Jan 1 start</td>
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<tr>
<td>Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHA Predoctoral Fellowship</td>
<td>Enhances the training of promising students in pre-doctoral or clinical health professional degree training programs and who intend careers as scientists, clinician-scientists, or related careers. Supports non-citizen, non green card holders.</td>
<td>Total Award Amount: Approx. $70,000 for 2 years Mirrors NIH Scale</td>
<td>1 or 2 Years Jan 1 start (flexibility)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AHA Postdoctoral Fellowship</td>
<td>Enhances the training of postdoctoral applicants who are not yet independent. The applicant must be embedded in an appropriate investigative group with the mentorship, support, and relevant scientific guidance of a research mentor. Supports non-citizen, non green card holders.</td>
<td>Total Award Amount: Approx. $150,000 for 2 years Mirrors NIH Scale</td>
<td>1 or 2 Years Jan 1 start (flexibility)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Description/Target</td>
<td>Award Amount</td>
<td>Duration</td>
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<td>Research Supplement to Promote Diversity in Science</td>
<td>Under the mentorship of a current AHA awardee, this mechanism supports <strong>predoctoral and postdoctoral fellows</strong> from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups in science.</td>
<td>Total Award Amount: matches NIH scales as per other AHA fellowships</td>
<td>1 or 2 Years</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Deadline: Dec. 5</strong>&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>April 1 start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Development Award</td>
<td>Highly promising investigators who are <strong>newly in or are transitioning into their first non-training position</strong> (must have faculty/staff appointment at time of award activation).</td>
<td>Total Award Amount: <strong>$231,000</strong></td>
<td>3 Years</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Deadline: Dec. 6</strong>&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>April 1 start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)</td>
<td>Supports researchers at institutions that have not been major recipients of NIH support. Goals: support meritorious research; expose students to research; enhance research environment.</td>
<td>Total Award Amount: <strong>$154,000</strong></td>
<td>2 Years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CAREER DEVELOPMENT/SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES
2nd year postdoctoral fellows eligible
Approval of sponsor
Training sessions
One specifically for fellows, one attended by all reviewers
Assigned up to 3 grants (Fellowship applications currently)
Prepare full written critiques and assign preliminary scores (won’t submit final scores)
SUPPORTING UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (S.U.R.E)

ENGAGING INSTITUTIONS FOR COLLABORATION WITH AHA ON A SCHOLAR PROGRAM
AUDIENCE:
Undergraduate* 
Underrepresented Racial & Ethnic Groups (UREGs) + LGBTQ  
interested in Sciences and Health Professions

*Undergraduates need to be at least in their sophomore year to be considered for the program.
This AHA board approved program, supports undergraduate students from Underrepresented Racial & Ethnic Groups of students, by providing an immersive summer research and mentoring opportunity.

Program was started in 2019. The AHA research team piloted a 3-year SURE (collaborative) program with research institutions to take advantage of respective strengths.

AHA knows that universities and other research institutions share the goal of diversifying the science pipeline and many have existing programs in place to increase UREG participation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields.
BENEFITS TO SCHOLARS

- Scholars participate in a full-time 10 weeks experience (during their summer break) at their respective host institutions.

- Scholars are paired with 1 or 2 mentors and fully immersed in research activities in their mentor(s)’ lab/clinic.

- End of program virtual symposium is conducted each year for scholars to share their work.

- Scholars travel expenses to and from their host sites at the beginning and end of their program, plus their stipend ($6000/scholar), are covered by AHA.
BENEFITS TO SCHOLARS

- AHA also supports non-local scholars with housing (room & board) expenses.

- Every scholar is invited to join one of AHA’s annual meeting (specifically: Scientific Sessions) during the year of their program, all expenses paid by AHA.

- Other memorabilia, (AHA shirt/polo, other packages) are provided to scholars.

- Scholars also receive a $25 gift card upon completing end of program interview by the AHA.
ENGAGING PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

- AHA reached out to long-time volunteers of the organization to help champion this effort through collaborative work at their respective institution.

- A representative (“Site Director”) was selected at each institution to champion the program.

- This individual agrees to oversee every aspect of program at his/her institution and be the main point of contact.

- AHA launched its program in 2019 with 5 leading sites/institutions:
  - Boston University
  - Medical College of Wisconsin
  - Northwestern University
  - Stanford University
  - Vanderbilt University.

In 2022 University Hospitals of Cleveland/Case Western was added as a site.
Site Directors agreed to leverage their institutions leverage their infrastructure to recruit, select, and place scholars.

AHA promotes institutional opportunities via links from its webpage.

Since 2020, AHA has helped institutions facilitate joined virtual programming across sites.

AHA host monthly calls with all institutions’ representatives for continuous capacity building.

AHA evaluation team works with site directors to design pre/post survey questions for the scholars.

Scholars therefore also have access to other sites seminar/teaching materials through this common access.
THANK YOU!