

THE IMPACT OF AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION (AHA) RESEARCH

Working with Universities to support early-career scientists



American
Heart
Association.

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

ENHANCING CAREERS

The importance of early career research funding

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The American Heart Association is a catalyst for early career researchers, providing a springboard for individuals and institutions often overlooked.

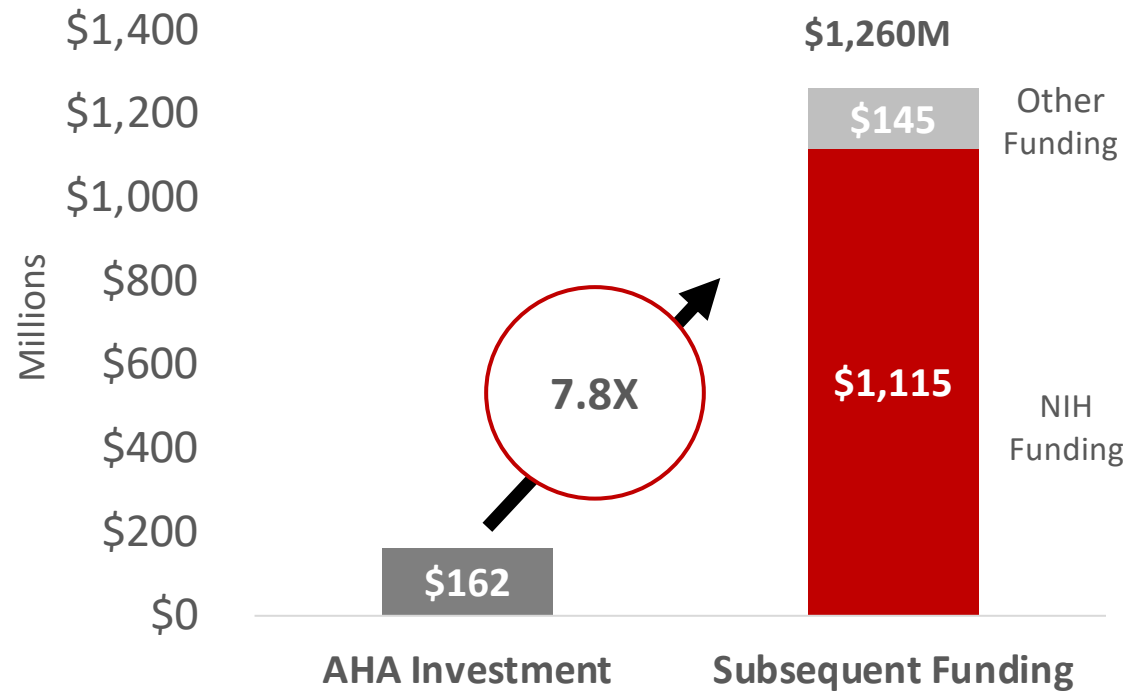




ENHANCING CAREERS

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



RESEARCH PROGRAM OFFERINGS FY23-24

Heart
Association.

Program	Description/Target	Award Amount	Duration
Institutional Undergraduate Student Award	To institutions that can offer a meaningful research experience to undergraduate college students.	Total Award Amount: \$160,000	3 Years Jan 1 start
AHA Predoctoral Fellowship	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.	Total Award Amount: Approx. \$70,000 for 2 years Mirrors NIH Scale	1 or 2 Years Jan 1 start (flexibility)
AHA Postdoctoral Fellowship	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.	Total Award Amount: Approx. \$150,000 for 2 years Mirrors NIH Scale	1 or 2 Years Jan 1 start (flexibility)

RESEARCH PROGRAM OFFERINGS FY23-24



Program

Description/Target

Award Amount

Duration

Research Supplement to Promote Diversity in Science

Under the mentorship of a current AHA awardee, this mechanism supports **predoctoral and postdoctoral fellows** from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups in science.

Total Award Amount: matches NIH scales as per other AHA fellowships
Deadline: Dec. 5th

1 or 2 Years
April 1 start

Career Development Award

Highly promising investigators who are **newly in or are transitioning into their first non-training position** (must have faculty/staff appointment at time of award activation).

Total Award Amount: \$231,000
Deadline: Dec. 6th

3 Years
April 1 start

AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)

Supports researchers at institutions that have not been major recipients of NIH support. Goals: support meritorious research; expose students to research; enhance research environment.

Total Award Amount: \$154,000

2 Years

CAREER DEVELOPMENT/SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



Peer Review Opportunities – *AHA-Funded* Postdoctoral Fellows

- 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.*



S.U.R.E PROGRAM HISTORY

- 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.



Scientific Sessions

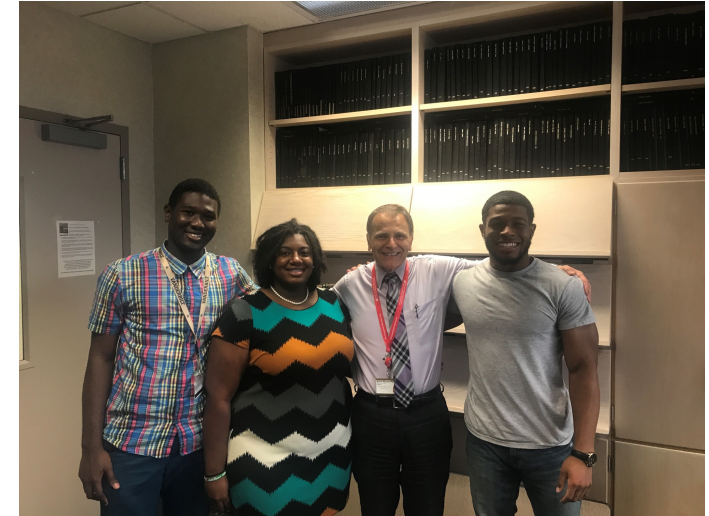
- Every scholar is invited to join one of AHA's annual meeting (specifically: Scientific Sessions) during the year of their program, all expenses paid by AHA.

- 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.



ENGAGING PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS (cont.)

- 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.

AHA SURE Scholars Program

A unique summer research program for underrepresented college students interested in STEM careers.

New Awardees

Diversity in Science Matters

Become a SURE Scholar. Be seen, learn and help your community.

- Work with leading researchers.
- Sample career paths.
- Attend AHA Scientific Sessions.



See current and past Scholars

About the Program

A science workforce that reflects and responds to underrepresented communities is crucial to the AHA's mission to be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives. This 8- to 10-week program provides a rich academic experience for students considering careers in research and health services.

Learn more about the SURE Program >

Who Can Apply?

This program supports underrepresented college students entering their sophomore, junior or senior years who are exploring careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. These include African American/Black, Hispanic/Latino(a), Native Indian/Pacific Islander and/or LGBTQ+ undergraduates.

Get involved >

Participating Institutions

Six major institutions are taking part - Boston University, Medical College of Wisconsin, Northwestern University, University Hospitals of Cleveland and Vanderbilt University. Applications are available through the institutions, tailored to their respective requirements.

Connect with institutions/apply >

THANK YOU!

