AGA -Takeda Research Scholar Award in Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease Including Barrett’s Esophagus

DESCRIPTION
This award provides $60,000 per year for two years (total $120,000) to young investigators working toward independent careers in gastroenterology, hepatology, or related areas. This award is limited to research relevant to gastroesophageal reflux disease including Barrett’s Esophagus.

OBJECTIVE
The overall objective of the Research Scholar Award (RSA) is to enable young investigators to develop independent and productive research careers in digestive diseases by ensuring protected time for research.

ELIGIBILITY
• Candidates for this award must hold an MD, PhD or equivalent degree (e.g. MB, ChB, MBBS, DO) and a full-time faculty position at a North American institution by July 1, 2012.
• AGA membership is required at the time of application submission. Please visit www.gastro.org or call 301-654-2055, extension 651, for membership information.
• The award is intended to support young faculty (not fellows) who have demonstrated exceptional promise and have some record of accomplishment in research. Candidates should be in the beginning years of their careers; therefore, established investigators are not appropriate candidates.
• MD applicants: No more than five years shall have elapsed following the completion of clinical training (GI fellowship or its equivalent) and the start date of this award.
• PhD applicants: No more than five years shall have elapsed following the awarding of your PhD and the start date of this award.
• Candidates must have protected time for digestive disease research. This grant does not have a percent effort requirement and may be supported by other funding.
• Women and underrepresented minority applicants are strongly encouraged to apply; these applications in particular will receive the review committee’s full consideration.
• Physician/scientist investigators and candidates interested in translational research are especially encouraged to apply for this award.
• An appropriately documented parental leave of absence will not be counted toward the above noted five year eligibility criteria. Exceptional circumstances may also be considered.

AWARD OVERLAP
• At the time of application submission, candidates may not hold or have held a National Institutes of Health R series award or a Veterans Affairs Career Development Award; specifically, a grant with a term of four or more years or that has scientific aims similar to the proposed project. If a candidate is granted the award and notified of a comparable award from another agency prior to the first payment of this award, the recipient must select one of the two awards (i.e. the recipient may not retain both awards). If the recipient is notified that a comparable award has been granted after the first payment of this award, the recipient must
forfeit the remaining balance of this award.

- The intent of this award is to foster the scientific independence of junior investigators. Candidates whose research activities become incorporated into a grant application from a senior mentor will need to delineate clearly the scientific and experimental distinctions between their respective programs. This requirement applies both to pending applications submitted prior to review of this award and to applications submitted during the term of the RSA. It also must be clearly stated that the work submitted by the applicant is that of the applicant and not other senior mentors. Should the contents of other applications be included in the application for this award, the applicant will be disqualified from consideration.

REQUIREMENTS
- Resources allocated through this award are intended to support the career development of the applicant. Accordingly, requests for salary, fringe benefits or other support for the mentor are not allowed. Indirect costs are not allowed. Upon notification of receipt of this award, the recipient must provide institutional approval from the appropriate committee for use of human subjects or animals. If approval is not necessary, the recipient must provide an explanation. Evidence for developing independence in research initiatives should be provided.

- Candidates are required to have a sponsor and preceptor for the award; however, one individual may serve in the capacity of both positions. A sponsor is an individual who takes responsibility for the quality assessment of the proposed research project, the quality of the research environment within which the project will be undertaken, and the experience and expertise of the principal investigator and other key researchers involved. A preceptor will supervise the principal investigator’s research activities and will serve as a mentor.

- Annually, a one-page plain language progress report, a scientific progress report, a financial statement, a list of publications based on the research and a letter of certification from the division chief or department chair, must be submitted by the award recipient on or before October 31. Second year funding is contingent upon submission of this documentation. All publications, presentations and abstracts arising from work funded by this program must acknowledge support of the AGA-Takeda Research Scholar Award in Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease Including Barrett’s Esophagus.

INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT
There must be a strong commitment from the candidate’s institution to support protected time for research and adequate laboratory space and/or other supporting facilities. These commitments must be outlined in a letter from the candidate’s division chief or department chair. The letter must certify that the award is being used to provide protected time, in accord with the terms of the award. In addition, it is expected that the sponsor will outline specific plans for the future development of the candidate’s research career. The institution must commit to ensuring timely and accurate reporting of the awardee’s current and future research activities at the institution; this is to include an annual report of the funding status, grants submitted and pending, and all publications.

SELECTION CRITERIA
The recipient will be selected based on the following criteria: significance, investigator, innovation, approach, environment, relevance to AGA’s mission, and evidence of institutional commitment. The candidate should state clearly how the additional training will benefit his/her research career.
REVIEW PROCESS

A selection committee comprised of members of the AGA Research Awards Panel will review the proposals and select the award recipients. Funding will commence October 2012.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application deadline has been extended to July 13. To download the award application, please visit www.gastro.org. The completed application, letters of support or commitment and other documents, as applicable, must be combined into and submitted as one PDF document. The document must be titled by the applicant’s last name and first initial only. Hard copies are not accepted. Please e-mail the application document to awards@gastro.org. Direct all questions to the Research Awards Manager via telephone at 301-222-4012 or email at awards@gastro.org. For more information about this award and other research funding opportunities, visit the AGA Web site at http://gastro.org/researchfunding.

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