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## **NIH offers \$35,000 in annual student loans repayment**

BETHESDA, MD – Starting Monday, the National Institutes of Health will accept applications to its five Loan Repayment Programs. December 31, 2003, is the application deadline.

The NIH Loan Repayment Programs can repay up to \$35,000 a year of qualified educational debt for health professionals pursuing careers in clinical, pediatric, contraception and infertility, or health disparities research. The programs also provide coverage for Federal and state tax liabilities.

Participants must possess a doctoral-level degree, devote 50% or more of their time to research funded by a nonprofit organization or government entity (federal, state, or local), and have educational loan debt equal to or exceeding 20% of their institutional base salary. U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or U.S. nationals may apply.

The five NIH Loan Repayment Programs are the Clinical Research LRP, Clinical Research for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds LRP, Contraception

### **In brief**

NIH's application cycle for Loan Repayment Programs opens September 1, 2003, and closes December 31, 2003. The NIH awards up to \$35,000 annually in student loan repayments to health professionals engaged in qualifying research. Details and the on-line application are found at <http://www.lrp.nih.gov>,

and Infertility Research LRP, Health Disparities Research LRP, and Pediatric Research LRP.

“The NIH Loan Repayment Programs is one of our nation’s most significant efforts to ensure a solid foundation of clinical, pediatric, and health disparities research professionals for the next generation,” says Ruth L. Kirschstein, M.D., Senior Advisor to the Director, NIH. “These programs provide a means for health professionals to launch their research careers unfettered by the burden of student loan debt.”

All applications for 2004 awards must be completed on line by 5 p.m., December 31, 2003. Visit [www.lrp.nih.gov](http://www.lrp.nih.gov) to apply.

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