



Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation

Physician-Scientist Training Award

Unlimited funding opportunity

From: Office of the Provost
Opportunity <https://www.damonrunyon.org/for-scientists/application-guidelines/physician-scientist>
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Foundation Deadline: 4:00 PM on December 2, 2019

Application Requirements Includes a letter of commitment endorsed by both the Dean or Center Director and the Head/Chair of the department. Also a Mentor's Letter of Support.

<https://www.damonrunyon.org/for-scientists/application-guidelines/physician-scientist/forms>

Description of Opportunity

Physician-scientists who are both clinically trained and expert researchers are essential to the successful translation of scientific discovery into more effective patient therapies. The decline in this vital cadre of cancer researchers is occurring at a time when cancer research holds the greatest promise of improving survival and quality of life among cancer patients. In an effort to confront the crisis arising from a growing dearth of physician-scientists, Damon Runyon wishes to encourage more physicians to pursue research careers. This program was designed to recruit outstanding U.S. Specialty Board eligible physicians into cancer research careers by providing them with the opportunity for a protected research training experience under the mentorship of a highly qualified and gifted mentor after they have completed all of their clinical training. The goals are a) to transform these individuals into the highest quality physician-scientists, capable of conducting research that has the potential to transform the diagnosis, treatment and/or prevention of cancer and b) to eliminate the financial disincentive to entering this career path.

This award will provide funding to enable these individuals to pursue research intensively (at least 80% effort) for up to four years, while, if they wish to maintain their clinical skills, continuing to be clinically active (no more than 20% effort). It is structured to provide recipients with significant salary support and necessary research expenses, with the expectation that their institutions will provide an environment and additional support (such as benefits and institutional overhead) to ensure their success. In addition, the Foundation will retire up to \$100,000 of any medical school debt still owed by an award recipient.

Funding

The award will be for a period of four years. Funds are to be used for stipend and/or research expenses. No part of this grant can be used for indirect costs or institutional overhead. (Year 1 - \$100,000; Year 2 - \$110,000; Year 3 - \$120,000; Year 4 - \$130,000; Total \$460,000)

The Foundation will retire up to \$100,000 of qualifying medical school debt still owed by the awardee.

Eligibility

Physician-scientist applicants (MDs and DOs only) must have completed their residencies and clinical training, be U.S. Specialty Board eligible prior to the award start date, and be able to devote at least 80% of their time and effort to Damon Runyon-supported research. MD/PhDs are not eligible to apply. The candidate may not have had more than three years of postdoctoral laboratory research experience.

Candidates must apply with a Mentor. The Mentor's role is to foster the development of the applicant's knowledge, technical and analytical skills, and capacity for scientific inquiry in the field of basic or translational research chosen by the candidate and in which the Mentor is an outstanding figure. The Mentor will also serve as an advocate for the applicant at departmental, institutional, and other relevant professional levels.