Sidney Kimmel Foundation – Kimmel Scholars Program

In many respects, the Kimmel Scholars Program is the fulfillment of the Sidney Kimmel Foundation’s commitment to cancer research. The Program bridges the funding gap for gifted young cancer researchers at the very outset of their careers. With the pressure to secure resources eased, Scholars are emboldened to pursue innovative, imaginative investigations and to establish their models in independent research, a necessity for obtaining government grants and other backing.

Annually 15 of the nation’s most promising young researchers are selected to receive this $200,000 Award by a world class Medical Advisory Board. Recipients have the opportunity to launch their first research laboratories and build their teams at a point in their development when many of their peers struggle to get started.

Since its inception, the Program has funded 262 scientists and physicians who have gone on to find more effective treatments, develop broader prevention measures and cultivate a deeper understanding of the biology of cancer. The Kimmel Scholars Program has truly given birth to a new generation of our nation’s leading cancer researchers.

Application Process

How to Apply

The Kimmel Scholar Award is a two-year, $200,000 award given to promising young cancer researchers. Of the 15 annual Awards, ten are typically given in the fields of basic cancer research and five for translational science. Please review our Application FAQs for additional information regarding eligibility and selection.

The Sidney Kimmel Foundation uses an online application that will be available shortly. Applications for 2016 Awards are due by 3:00 p.m. EST on December 2, 2015.

All components of the application are to be submitted online with a hard copy mailed within two days of submission to:

Gary I. Cohen, M.D.
Berman Cancer Institute at GBMC
6569 North Charles Street, Suite 300
Baltimore, MD 21204

Contact Kathryn Fletcher at kfletche@gbmc.org with questions about the application process.

Personal Statement (1-2 pages)

Statement of career goals as they relate to cancer research and explanation of how your work addresses the objectives of the Kimmel Scholar Award. Explain how your research will aid the understanding and treatment of human malignant diseases. Your statement should include a description of the work
environment and necessary resources available to conduct research and an approximation of percent effort to be devoted to research, teaching, patient care, administration and other duties.

Curriculum Vitae

Research Description (Limit narrative to 3 pages)

Describe your work in cancer research, including a brief description of pertinent supporting studies. Outline the future direction of current research and include other potential areas of interest. Explain the importance of your work to our understanding of cancer and implications for future therapies of malignant disease or cancer prevention. Graphs, figures, tables and references may be included within this narrative or uploaded to the appendix section below.

Budget (1 page)

The Kimmel Scholar Award provides $100,000 per year for two years. Please approximate the manner in which funds will be allocated among categories such as salary support, research, equipment, travel and administrative costs; funding may not be used for tuition reimbursement of graduate students. The Kimmel Foundation will not provide additional institutional overhead, although a maximum of 15% of the Award may be budgeted toward such costs. Also describe in detail all other current and pending funding including source, amount and duration of such support. The Foundation will not consider applicants who are already fully funded by R01 grants or who are currently the beneficiary of another similar scholar award which supports cancer research.

Personal References (1-2 pages each)

Please provide three letters of reference. One letter must be from the chairman of your division or department, and two from appropriate physicians and/or scientists familiar with your work. At least one letter of recommendation should come from outside your current institution. Each reference should: broadly review the independence and importance of the applicant’s work in the context of similar work from other laboratories; rank the independence and quality of the work within the reference’s experience; and assess the overall contribution of the applicant in published papers which involved collaboration with senior investigators.

During the online application process, an e-mail will be sent automatically to each reference requesting a letter on your behalf and including instructions for submitting. An electronic copy of each letter must accompany the online application by the due date, either uploaded by the applicant with other application materials or via reply e-mail from the reviewer to the Foundation at kimmel@gbmc.org. A signed hard copy of each letter must be sent with the application (in a separate, sealed envelope if desired).

Appendix

Please supply up to three original papers authored by the applicant from peer reviewed journals. If available, submit one or more papers or editorials from other sources which elucidate the background or importance of your work (helpful, but not required). Graphs, figures, tables, and references may be uploaded here or included within the Research Description narrative above.
Cover Page (1 page)

The standardized cover page is automatically generated upon completion of the online application. The cover page should be completed with appropriate contact information and include an abstract of the current research and a brief descriptive title. Please print a copy of the cover page, sign and include with the hard copy application to be mailed. An institutional official responsible for budget oversight must also personally sign the cover page; electronic signatures or copies are not acceptable.

Completed Applications

The full application consists of the Personal Statement, Curriculum Vitae, Research Description, Budget, three Letters of Reference, Appendix and Cover Page. Applications are to be submitted online by 3:00 p.m. EST on December 2, 2015, with an original hard copy of all components mailed within two days of online submission. All letters of reference are to be sent electronically with originals included with the mailed hard copy. Letters may be e-mailed directly from the reference to kimmel@gbmc.org or uploaded by applicant as part of the online application.