

# The Hilda and Preston Davis Foundation Awards Program for Eating Disorders Research



**Guidelines for  
JUNIOR FACULTY  
INVESTIGATORS**

**Initial Proposal  
Online Application Deadline:**  
Friday, September 28, 2018  
12:00 PM ET

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Established in 2009, the Hilda and Preston Davis Foundation was created to “...to advance the development of all areas of the lives of children and young adults...with special emphasis...on those suffering from eating disorders.” The primary goal of The Hilda and Preston Davis Foundation Awards Program for Eating Disorders Research is to support innovative, clinically relevant research that seeks to understand the underlying biology of eating disorders, including anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa, leading to improved patient care. To meet this goal, the Program provides vital support to Junior Faculty Investigators and Senior Postdoctoral Fellows working in non-profit academic, medical and research institutions in the United States to build a strong workforce dedicated to the etiology of eating disorders, its associated pathologies, and to drive therapeutic and treatment development. Applicants at the Senior Postdoc level should refer to the Guidelines for Senior Postdoctoral Fellows.

## AWARD OVERVIEW

The new Davis Foundation Awards Program for Eating Disorders Research is designed to distribute up to two (2) Junior Faculty Awards annually beginning with the 2019 grant cycle. The funding level of the two-year Junior Faculty Award will be \$200,000 USD (\$100,000 per year, inclusive of 5% indirect costs). The two- year funding period is scheduled to extend from May 2019 – April 2021.

## RESEARCH FOCUS AND CLINICAL RELEVANCE

In keeping with the Foundation’s mission, the Program supports all areas of basic and translational research in eating disorders. Obesity research is outside the scope of this program. Proposals are encouraged that address current roadblocks to progress in the eating disorder field and include, but are not limited to, the interrogation of the genetics and associated molecular pathways that are specifically relevant to eating disorder pathology, the development of clinically-relevant mammalian animal models and systems biology approaches that address disease complexity and heterogeneity. Animal model research should be limited to mammals and exploratory clinical trials may be considered.

To advance our understanding of the underlying biology of eating disorders while maintaining relevance to human pathobiology and treatment, proposals will be required to provide support documentation

taking the clinical perspective of the proposal into consideration. For example, such documentation will support the relevance of preclinical animal models to the human disease and assessing the appropriateness of proposed neural circuitry or cell-based studies for addressing disease-related questions. These recommended changes in the Program are designed keep the relevance of proposed projects sharply focused on eating disorders.

## **PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

The Hilda and Preston Davis Foundation works with The Medical Foundation at Health Resources in Action (HRiA), to select the most qualified applicants and awardees. HRiA is a nonprofit organization in Boston that advances public health and medical research. The Medical Foundation supports both gender and ethnic diversity across all of its grant programs.

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS for JUNIOR FACULTY**

**Junior Faculty must meet the following eligibility requirements by the Funding Start Date:**

1. Hold a Ph.D., M.D., or comparable degree and work at a non-profit academic, medical or research institutions in the United States;
2. Applicants must have a full-time independent faculty appointment and their first faculty appointment must have been received no more than five (5) years prior to the award's funding start date. The first independent faculty appointment is the first faculty appointment after completing either postdoctoral fellowship training (for PhDs) or an ACGME-certified subspecialty training program, or equivalent (for MDs and MD, PhDs);
3. Must be independent and have institutional commitment, confirmed through a letter from the Department or Division Chair (see below);
4. Research must have clinical perspective, confirmed through a Letter of Support for the project from a clinician with proven experience and qualifications for treating eating disorders (see below);
5. Must have less than \$500k total federal or non-federal funding in direct costs at the time of funding (see below);
6. There are no institutional limitations on the number of applicants who may submit applications;
7. United States citizenship is not required; visa documentation is not required.

## **DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION CHAIR'S LETTER**

Letter must confirm:

- The Junior Faculty Applicant is independent as demonstrated by having their own laboratory space, start-up package, and documentation of institutional commitment.
- Although it is expected that a national search will have been conducted for this position, candidates may have been promoted within their current institutions. If the Applicant was promoted internally, the Chair must clarify why a national search was not conducted.
- How the institution will contribute to the Applicant's research and career.
- See additional detail in the Instructions for Application Submission.

## **CLINICIAN'S LETTER OF SUPPORT or COLLABORATION**

A letter of collaboration or support is required from a qualified clinician and/or clinical advisor that is experienced in the treatment of eating disorders must accompany the application in support of the clinical relevance of the project to eating disorders and their treatment. The letter should also indicate the recommender's relevant clinical background and expertise or experience in treating eating disorders.

- A letter of collaboration or support is required from a qualified clinician and/or clinical advisor experienced in the treatment of eating disorder.
- The letter must outline the clinician's support of the project and its clinical relevance to eating disorders and their treatment.
- See additional detail in the Instructions for Application Submission.

## CLOSED, CURRENT, PENDING, AND POST-AWARD FUNDING

### Applicants are **ineligible**:

- If, at the time of application, they have combined federal and non-federal funding totaling \$500,000 or more in direct costs in either of the first year of the two-year Award. This figure refers to external funding only and not an Applicant's start-up package, other intramural support or the Davis Foundation Award.
- If they were previously or are currently a Principal Investigator or Co-P.I. on a Pioneer Award, New Innovator Award or similar large awards from federal agencies or national foundations.
- If Applicants are **notified on or prior to the start of funding** that they have been successful in securing federal or non-federal grant support which, when combined with other support, totals \$500,000 or more in direct costs in either of the two years of the Davis Foundation Award, applications to the Program will **be ineligible** to receive the Award.

### Applicants are **eligible**:

- If they have pending R01s or other large applications to the NIH and other agencies, they **are eligible** to submit proposals for this Davis Foundation Award.
- If Applicants are notified of funding **after** the start of funding, awardees will not necessarily need to relinquish the Davis Foundation Award. **It is the responsibility of all applicants to contact The Medical Foundation as soon as any new funding is received.**

## SELECTION CRITERIA for JUNIOR FACULTY

The Scientific Review Committee uses the following criteria to evaluate proposals:

- **Applicant's** demonstrated competency and potential for an independent research career that will contribute to the investigation of eating disorders;
- Letter confirming Independence and Institutional Commitment from Department or Division Chair;
- Letter(s) of Project Support from a clinician or clinical advisor with proven experience and qualifications for treating eating disorders, that supports the clinical relevance of the proposed work specific to eating disorders and their treatment;
- Strength of publications and/or experience relevant to the field of study;
- **Research Proposal:**
  - Hypothesis and Research Aims that are clearly stated, based on sound precedents, and supported by relevant literature and preliminary data (if applicable).
  - Objectives that are well thought out, realistic, and technically feasible.
  - Research methodology, data collection, and data analyses that are realistic and appropriate to the proposal's aims.
  - Quality and originality of the research project.
  - Qualifications of the applicant and relevant prior research experience.

## **NOTIFICATION TO APPLICANTS**

The Davis Foundation Awards Program is a two-stage proposal process. All applicants will be notified of status in November 2018 and invited applicants will receive instruction to submit a Full Proposal. Funding is scheduled to begin May 1, 2019.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Download and review the following items: [Hria.org/tmf/DavisJunior](http://Hria.org/tmf/DavisJunior)

- **Terms of the Award** - information on use of the grant funds, payment schedule, reporting schedule and other Award Recipient and Institutional requirements.
- **Frequently Asked Questions**
- **Application Forms**

**Continue to the following page for Application Submission Instructions**

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION SUBMISSION

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## SECTION I: ONLINE APPLICATION

Begin a **New** Online Application: [https://www.grantrequest.com/SID\\_738?SA=SNA&FID=35133](https://www.grantrequest.com/SID_738?SA=SNA&FID=35133)

Return to a **Saved** Online Application: [https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID\\_738?SA=AM](https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_738?SA=AM)

**The following sections are required within the Online Application:**

- Institution's Tax ID Number
- Eligibility Quiz
- Applicant Data: Institution, Contact, and Educational background information
- Research Project: Project Title, Keywords, Project Summary, Non-technical Summary, Clinical Relevance
- Letters: Please see Section II below.
- Attachments: Please see Section III below.

## SECTION II: LETTERS OF SUPPORT

**Two letters are required and must be submitted through the online system.** They must be from 1) Department Chair and 2) Clinician/Clinical Advisor.

It is the responsibility of the Applicant to obtain these letters from their Recommenders prior to the Online Application deadline. **Members of the Review Committees give considerable weight to these letters.** Please notify your Recommenders early on in the application process to allow them sufficient time to prepare your letter. Only the requested letters are allowed. Updated letters submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

### **1. Instructions for Department or Division Chair's Letter:** (maximum of four pages):

- This letter (forwarded to the Applicant for upload) must address the applicant's qualifications to conduct the proposed research independently as well as note the space and equipment available for the completion of the project.
- If the Applicant was promoted internally, the Chair must clarify why a national search was not conducted.

### **2. Instructions for Clinician's Letter of Support/Collaboration (maximum of four pages):**

A letter of collaboration or support is required from a qualified clinician and/or clinical advisor that is experienced in the treatment of eating disorders must accompany the application in support of the clinical relevance of the project to eating disorders and their treatment. The letter should also indicate

the recommender's relevant clinical background and expertise or experience in treating eating disorders.

- This letter (forwarded to the applicant for upload) and should describe the Clinician's association with the Applicant/project as well as the Clinician's own relevant clinical background and expertise or experience in treating eating disorders.
- Address the applicant's proposed project in terms of clinical relevance and ensure that the proposed work has taken the clinical perspective into consideration.

### **SECTION III: PDF ATTACHMENT**

**Items A-E must be combined into ONE PDF for upload to the Online Application.**

Please add page numbers prior to upload.

#### **A. Application Face Sheet:**

The Face Sheet must be completed and signed by the Applicant and the Authorized Institutional Representative administratively responsible for the oversight of the project. Once all signatures have been obtained, the Face Sheet should be scanned and used as page 1 of the PDF. Download the Face Sheet Template here: [Hria.org/tmf/DavisJunior](http://Hria.org/tmf/DavisJunior)

#### **B. Initial Research Proposal (maximum of 2 pages, excluding references cited):**

Outline succinctly how the proposed research project will address the program's research focus.

**Within the 2-page limit, include these sections:**

- 1) Significance, Impact and Clinical Relevance to Eating Disorders
- 2) Specific Aims;
- 3) Preliminary data (if available);
- 4) Research design, experimental methods and analytical plan

Research Proposal Format:

- The Principal Investigator's full name should be included at the top right of the page. The name is permitted in the margin as long as it does not exceed the standard paper size.
- Arial 11 font and size must be used in the text of the research proposal section.
- Use single spacing within paragraphs, double spacing between paragraphs, and at least one-half inch margins on all four sides.
- Any figures, graphs, tables or pictures must be included within the research proposal page-limit. For these visuals, the minimum font-size is Arial 8.
- Appendices are not permitted.

#### **C. Applicant's Biosketch (use the latest NIH biosketch). Maximum 5 pages.**

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*Out of fairness to applicants who adhere to the Guidelines, applications that do not conform to the stated application procedures or that contain more than the specified number of pages or materials will be rejected.*

#### **Contact Information:**

The Medical Foundation at HRiA

[grants@hria.org](mailto:grants@hria.org)