

## **The National Institutes of Health is Recruiting “Lasker Clinical Research Scholars”**

The National Institutes of Health, the nation’s premier agency for biomedical and behavioral research, in partnership with the Lasker Foundation, is pleased to announce the Lasker Clinical Research Scholars Program.

The Lasker program supports a small number of exceptional clinical researchers in the early stages of their careers to promote their development as independent investigators. This unique program provides Scholars with 5-7 years of support as an independent principal investigator in the NIH Intramural Research Program (IRP), followed by the opportunity for additional years of financial support, either at the NIH or at an extramural research institution.

The IRP is home to approximately 1,200 tenured and tenure-track investigators and 5,000 trainees. The environment encourages and supports innovative, high-impact research. IRP scientists focus primarily on their research with ample opportunities to mentor and train outstanding fellows at all levels. Lasker Scholars will be offered competitive salaries commensurate with experience and qualifications, and will be provided research space, supported personnel positions and a research operating budget. Scholars will have access to the NIH Clinical Center, the nation's largest hospital devoted entirely to clinical research.

The program honors the contributions of Mary and Albert Lasker to the National Institutes of Health and to the overall biomedical community. The Lasker Foundation will provide Scholars with the opportunity to participate in selected activities.

**Qualifications/eligibility:** Candidates must have an MD, MD/PhD, DO, DDS, DMD, RN/PhD, or equivalent clinical doctoral degree from an accredited domestic or foreign institution and must have a professional license to practice in the United States. The program is intended for investigators at the early stages of their careers, and at the time of application, candidates must be no more than 6 years from completion of their core residency training. Applicants generally will have completed or be completing a post-residency clinical fellowship and will have demonstrated significant patient-oriented research experience to qualify for a tenure-track level appointment. Applicants do not have to be US citizens or permanent residents, although selected Scholars must qualify for and maintain appropriate visa/residency status throughout the program.

The NIH and the Lasker Foundation recognize a unique and compelling need to promote diversity in the clinical research workforce to improve the nation's capacity to address and eliminate health disparities. The NIH encourages applications from talented researchers from diverse backgrounds underrepresented in biomedical research, including underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, persons with disabilities and women.

**How to apply:** Application details are provided in NIH RFA-OD-11-001, available at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-11-001.html>. The application will include a research proposal and submission of four letters of reference. A Letter of Intent is requested by March 4, 2011, and the deadline for a full application is April 4, 2011. Applicants must obtain a valid Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number in order to submit their application. Applicants will also need to register with the NIH eRA Commons. We recommend that applicants initiate these registration processes at least four weeks prior to the application due date.

**What to expect:** Applications will be reviewed for technical and scientific merit by a peer review group of extramural scientists, convened by the NIH Center for Scientific Review. The highest-rated candidates will then be reviewed by a panel of IRP senior investigators, to evaluate the appropriateness of the proposed research for the intramural research program. Selected candidates will be invited to the NIH campus for interviews and to present a seminar. The positions will be available starting in Fall, 2011. The NIH expects to make at least 3 Lasker Scholar awards in the first year of the program, ultimately reaching a steady-state of 20-30 active awardees.

Additional information is available at the Lasker Scholar website, <http://www.nih.gov/science/laskerscholar> .  
Questions regarding this recruitment effort may be directed to Charles R. Dearolf, Ph.D., Assistant Director for Intramural Research, email [LaskerScholar@nih.gov](mailto:LaskerScholar@nih.gov) .

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