

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
THE MILTON S. HERSEY MEDICAL CENTER

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Finkelstein Memorial Student Research Award

Application Deadline: Noon-March 28, 2013

Background

The Finkelstein Award was initiated in 1974 in memory of Judy S. Finkelstein. The purpose of the Award is to encourage basic and clinical research and professional commitment in the study of rheumatologic and immunologic disorders. The Finkelstein Memorial Student Research Award is offered to medical and graduate students at Penn State's College of Medicine performing research on immunologic or rheumatologic disease. Applications to the program will be reviewed for scientific merit by the Finkelstein Advisory Committee. Contingent on the receipt of meritorious applications, two awards of up to \$2000 each will be made.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants to this program must be enrolled as a medical student, a graduate student or an MD/ PhD student at the Penn State College of Medicine. Previous recipients of the Finkelstein Research Award are not eligible to apply.

Program Guidelines

The research project must involve basic, clinical, translational, health services or population-based research related to the etiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, treatment, cure or prevention of rheumatologic or immunologic diseases. Projects involving the study of autoimmunity and or autoimmune diseases are especially encouraged.

The student must identify a Research Mentor who is a faculty member at Penn State College of Medicine to provide advice and assistance in the conduct of the proposed research.

The award may be used to support a student stipend and/or other expenses directly related to the conduct of the proposed research.

Students who are interested in applying and who have not selected a project should consult with faculty members who have expertise in the areas of research noted above. For advice and assistance, students may also contact Nancy Olsen, MD, Professor of Medicine and Chief, Division of Rheumatology (x5834; nolsen@hmc.psu.edu), Lisa Scalzi, MD, MS, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Division, Pediatric Rheumatology (x1846; lscalzi@hmc.psu.edu), Zia Rahman, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Immunology (x287896; zrahman@hmc.psu.edu), or Michael Verderame, PhD, Professor of Medicine and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies (x8892; mverderame@psu.edu).

Awardees must agree to meet with a representative of the Finkelstein family at a mutually convenient time and to submit a summary progress report to the Penn State College of Medicine Research Development Office at the conclusion of the project.

Application Process

Applications for the Finkelstein Memorial Student Research Award must include:

- 1) A Cover Page listing a) Title of Project; b) Student's name, contact information including HMC mailing address, an email address and phone number; and c) name and department of the faculty sponsor for the project and his or her HMC telephone and email address.
- 2) A Table of Contents including page numbers.
- 3) Abstract – Briefly summarize the objective, specific aims, and the relatedness and significance of the project with respect to immunology and/or rheumatology.
- 4) Research plan: (2-4 Pages)
 - a) Background (with a maximum of 10 references)
 - b) Expected time period for conducting the research
 - c) Hypothesis to be tested
 - d) Specific Aims/Objectives
 - e) Methods
 - f) Performance site
 - g) Data sources
 - h) Human Subjects/Vertebrate Animals – describe involvement, if any, If IRB or IACUC approval is required, clarify status of the application (approved, pending, or under development)
 - i) Patient selection/study population issues
 - j) Biostatistical issues, including power analyses
 - k) Describe the student's role in the project and how the idea originated
- 5) A one-page budget and budget justification page.

Please note:

There are two options for accepting an award. **Option one** is to take the award as a stipend which will be paid as an IRS 1099 taxable award. Option two, non-taxable, is to choose to have the award paid to the department or lab of your mentor for supplies and materials for the project. For **option 2**, the budget would be prepared showing the cost of these supplies, animals, etc.

- 6) A current resume or biosketch from the student

7) A letter of support and an NIH biosketch from the student's Mentor for the project. The letter should describe the Mentor's expectations regarding the contributions that the student will make to the project.

Applications that do not follow the above format may be returned without review.

Applications should be submitted electronically as a single PDF file to researchdevelopment@hmc.psu.edu on or before, Noon, March 28, 2013.

Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by the Finkelstein Advisory Committee with respect to both responsiveness to the program guidelines and scientific and technical merit. Proposals will be selected for award on the basis of merit. Applicants will be notified regarding the status of their application on or about April 15, 2013 and awards will be made effective on or about May 1, 2013.

Questions regarding the application process should be directed to Dianne Jones in Research Development (C1630, x6949; researchdevelopment@hmc.psu.edu)