

III. Award Descriptions and Eligibility Requirements

The description and specific applicant eligibility requirements for each Dermatology Foundation research award are presented in this section. All Foundation awards are also subject to the general eligibility requirements presented in section II. **Candidates' application materials must clearly show they meet all eligibility requirements by commencement of award funding on or before July 1st.**

An applicant must apply for a specific award. The following pages provide a detailed description of the Dermatology Foundation's early career funding opportunities:

- A. Career Development Awards
- B. Fellowship
- C. Research Grants

A. Career Development Awards

The Foundation offers nine categories of highly-competitive career development awards (CDAs). **Career development awards may be renewed annually for up to a total of three years of funding.** Strong institutional commitment for an individual's career development is essential for a recipient of any career development award, and must be clearly explained in the Department Chair's form of support. Renewal of a career development award for a second and third year will depend on a recipient's ability to provide evidence of significant progress on the research project, demonstrated institutional commitment to career development, and progress toward obtaining other funding.

All CDAs offer an annual salary stipend of \$55,000 that can be supplemented from institutional sources so that salary received is commensurate with peers within the institution. A CDA recipient may seek simultaneous grant support from other agencies to provide for the non-salary components of the research being performed under the auspices of an award.

Please note the following important eligibility requirements for **all** DF Career Development Awards, which must be met at the time of funding (July 1):

- 1. Candidates with an M.D.; M.D., Ph.D.; or D.O. *must be no greater than 12 years beyond their terminal degree at the time of funding.***
- 2. Candidates with a Ph.D. *must be no greater than 8 years beyond their terminal degree at the time of funding.***
- 3. Junior faculty member in a department or division of dermatology with an ACGME-approved dermatology residency program, through Assistant Professor level.**

III. Award Descriptions and Eligibility Requirements (cont.)

A. Career Development Awards (cont.)

4. Anyone who is a prior or current principal investigator (PI) on a federal grant is not eligible to receive a DF career development award. The following two exceptions apply:

- CDA awardees may have effort on an NIH grant as long as he/she is not the senior PI who initiated the application and he/she does not have direct reporting responsibilities for this or prior federal awards. Total support from all federal grants must be less than 20% of their total effort during the term of the DF award.

OR

- The individual is the recipient of an NIH training grant or an equivalent grant from another granting agency.

Important Notes: An individual who receives a federal grant that eliminates their status as a “new investigator” is not eligible to maintain/receive a CDA. The Foundation utilizes the NIH definitions of “principal investigator” and “co- investigator” to administer this policy, as found in the Glossary of NIH Terms.

5. Research award recipients may not simultaneously hold a DF career development award and a grant. As a result, applicants applying for a new career development award may also apply for a grant though they cannot receive funding for both. Current CDA recipients applying for a second or third year of funding **cannot** also apply for a DF grant.

6. Strong institutional commitment for the individual’s career development.

The award-specific eligibility requirements for each DF career development award are presented below.

1. Physician Scientist Career Development Award

The Physician Scientist CDA supports the academic career of a physician scientist who is devoted to clinical dermatology, and assists in the transition from fellowship to established investigator. This award is intended for the academic investigator demonstrating significant creativity in clinically relevant research.

Applicant Eligibility:

- M.D.; M.D., Ph.D.; or D.O. degree
- Completed training in a U.S. dermatology residency program
- Appropriate initial training in relevant research (i.e., a two to three-year research fellowship or postdoctoral training)
- Clinically oriented investigator in the early stages of academic career
- Demonstrates a strong commitment to skin research

III. Award Descriptions and Eligibility Requirements (cont.)

A. Career Development Awards (cont.)

2. Public Health Career Development Award

The CDA supports the establishment and/or development of careers in public health. Research proposals may concern health care policy, epidemiological research, outcome studies, comparative effectiveness research, information system development, teledermatology, or other topics relating to public health.

Applicant Eligibility:

- M.D.; M.D., Ph.D.; Ph.D.; or D.O. degree
- MD applicants must have completed training in a U.S. dermatology residency program
- Formal relationship with a mentor who possesses recognized expertise in health policy or public health research
- Clinically-oriented investigator in the early stages of academic career

3. Clinical Career Development Award in Dermatologic Surgery

The dermatologic surgery career development award supports clinically relevant research projects that will further the practice of dermatologic surgery and develop the teaching, research and/or leadership abilities of dermatologic surgeons. These projects may include, but are not limited to, clinical research projects addressing severe dermatologic diseases requiring procedural interventions (including surgical, laser, and other physical interventions), patient safety, wound healing, clinical outcome measures, cosmetic dermatology, or the basic sciences.

Priority will be given to new applications from institutions that do not currently have a recipient of this award. The mentor and environment are critical ingredients of successful applications.

Applicant Eligibility:

- M.D.; M.D., Ph.D.; or D.O. degree
- Completed training in a U.S. dermatology residency program
- Completed at least one-year post-residency surgical training in the U.S. at the time of funding
- Under the mentorship of an experienced faculty member (e.g., a dermatologic surgeon, a dermatologist, or a basic or clinical investigator with experience and expertise of relevance to the proposed project)

III. Award Descriptions and Eligibility Requirements (cont.)

A. Career Development Awards (cont.)

4. Dermatopathology Research Career Development Award

The Dermatopathology CDA supports the academic career development of future intellectual leaders who demonstrate a strong commitment to advance the fields of dermatopathology and dermatology through research and/or education.

Applicant Eligibility:

- M.D.; M.D., Ph.D.; or D.O. degree
- Completed training in a U.S. dermatology or pathology residency program and a U.S. fellowship program in dermatopathology
- Under the mentorship of an experienced investigator(s)
- Mentor must have an academic appointment in dermatology or another program at the sponsoring institution that is approved by the dermatology chair
- Demonstrates a strong commitment to skin research that can advance the field of dermatopathology

5. Medical Dermatology Career Development Award

This CDA provides funding for future intellectual leaders, educators, and clinical scholars in that aspect of the specialty that addresses severe dermatologic disease. The award fosters the careers of young dermatologists who will become the future role models and mentors for physicians diagnosing and treating complex skin disease.

The Medical Dermatology CDA was designed for an individual who desires a patient orientation in his/her academic career, but whose interests are not a good fit within the NIH K-23/24 or K08 grant mechanism. Such a person will select a focus of interest in which they intend to become an expert. The career plans, required in the research proposal, will detail the ways in which the applicant, aided by the mentor, will acquire expertise in an area of focus. The proposed career plans may be hypothesis driven research, or may systematically analyze natural history, response to therapies or outcomes of a complex, severe disease. The applicant's mentor and mentorship program are important selection criteria.

Applicant Eligibility:

- M.D.; M.D., Ph.D.; or D.O. degree
- Completed training in a U.S. dermatology residency program
- Under the mentorship of an experienced medical dermatologist

III. Award Descriptions and Eligibility Requirements (cont.)

A. Career Development Awards (cont.)

6. Pediatric Dermatology Career Development Award

The Pediatric Dermatology Career Development Award supports future intellectual leaders, educators, clinical scholars, and/or translational investigators in aspects of the specialty that relate to dermatologic diseases in infants and children.

Applicant Eligibility:

- M.D.; M.D., Ph.D.; or D.O. degree
- Completed training in a U.S. dermatology residency program and a U.S. fellowship program in pediatric dermatology
- Demonstrates a strong commitment to skin research that can advance the field of pediatric dermatology
- Under the mentorship of an experienced educator, clinician or laboratory-based investigator
- Mentor must have an academic appointment in dermatology or another program that is approved by the dermatology chair

7. Women's Health Career Development Award

This award is intended to focus on women's health issues where further research is needed. Funding is available for research in the areas of women's health issues, which range from disorders that affect primarily women, such as lupus and scleroderma, to the effects of hormones and environmental factors on the skin and cutaneous aging.

Applicant Eligibility:

- M.D.; M.D., Ph.D.; Ph.D.; or D.O. degree
- Appropriate initial training in biomedical research (i.e., two to three-year fellowship or postdoctoral training)
- Proposed research focuses on women's health issue (see above)
- Junior investigator in the early stages of academic career
- Demonstrates a strong commitment to skin research

III. Award Descriptions and Eligibility Requirements (cont.)

A. Career Development Awards (cont.)

8. Science of Human Appearance Career Development Award

This career development award (CDA) provides annual salary support for the career development of individuals who wish to understand the cell and molecular mechanisms of altered human appearance or of therapeutic interventions. This CDA recognizes the specialty's sizeable increase in focus on human appearance and the paucity of high quality research in the area. This award is intended to support research addressing human appearance issues caused by aging and/or environmental factors.

Funding is available for research involving the cell and molecular mechanisms of human appearance including those mechanisms involved in hyper or hypo-pigmentation, aging, photoaging, or dry skin NOT related to disease or congenital defects. Funding can also be used to study cell and molecular mechanisms involved in therapeutic interventions such as non/minimally-invasive devices, peels, fillers, antioxidants, retinoids, and other topical and systemic agents. Research focusing on skin cancer or actinic keratosis is not suitable for this award category.

The research proposal is expected to be hypothesis-driven. The successful applicant will likely make cell and molecular or biophysical measurements on altered human skin in relation to normal skin. This CDA will not support clinical trials. However, it will support mechanism of action research on devices and agents such as those mentioned above.

The applicant is required to spend sufficient time to carry the project to completion. The career plans, required in the research proposal, will detail the ways in which the applicant, aided by one or more mentors, will acquire expertise in the science of human skin appearance. The applicant's mentor and mentorship program are very important selection criteria.

Applicant Eligibility:

- M.D.; M.D., Ph.D.; Ph.D.; or D.O. degree
- M.D. applicant must have completed a U.S. dermatology residency program
- Ph.D. applicant must have completed at least 2 years post-doctoral training
- M.D. applicant must have a strong laboratory collaborator. Ph.D. must have a strong connection with an M.D. conducting appearance work
- High level of interest in the science of human skin appearance

III. Award Descriptions and Eligibility Requirements (cont.)

A. Career Development Awards (cont.)

9. Research Career Development Award

This award assists an individual in the transition from fellowship to established investigator. It provides career development support in skin research for a junior investigator.

Applicant Eligibility:

- M.D.; M.D., Ph.D.; Ph.D.; or D.O. degree
- Appropriate initial training in biomedical research (i.e., two to three-year fellowship or postdoctoral training)
- Junior investigator in the early stages of his/her career
- Demonstrates a strong commitment to skin research

III. Award Descriptions and Eligibility Requirements (cont.)

B. Fellowship

The Dermatology Foundation offers a fellowship that is intended to advance the research careers of individuals in the early stages of career development. Each awarded fellowship provides an annual salary stipend and is not intended for faculty. The award may only be supplemented by department funds, NIH training grants, mentors' R01/P01 grants, and other granting agencies providing support equivalent to a training grant. Award funds cannot be used for payment of indirect costs.

In certain cases (i.e., importance of project or unusual merit in execution) consideration may be given for one additional year of support. To apply for a second year of support, the applicant must submit a new application package for competitive renewal. A second-year application should clearly set forth any changes in experimental direction or methods, and include a detailed progress report covering work already accomplished. A request for a second year of funding is unusual and will be judged scientifically on an equal basis with requests for new support. In addition, the second-year application will be subject to the institution's quota for new fellowship applications.

Dermatologist Investigator Research Fellowship

This fellowship supports dermatologists who desire research training and have a commitment to an academic career in medical and surgical dermatology.

Consideration will also be given to individuals with substantial training in other areas who are entering into skin research. Applicants may NOT apply simultaneously for this award and a Foundation grant.

Award Amount:

\$30,000 salary stipend for one year

Applicant Eligibility:

- M.D.; M.D., Ph.D.; or D.O. degree
- Completed training in a 3-year U.S dermatology residency program OR completed one year of 4-year U.S. dermatology residency program and will be in lab or research year during award period
- Assistant Professor or above is not eligible
- Must devote 75% of time to cutaneous research
- Mentor has an academic appointment in dermatology or another program at the sponsoring institution that is approved by the dermatology chair
- May only receive simultaneous salary support from department funds, NIH training grants, mentors' R01/P01 grants, and other granting agencies providing support equivalent to a training grant

III. Award Descriptions and Eligibility Requirements (cont.)

C. Research Grants

Dermatology Foundation grants are annual awards of \$20,000. They provide funding that enables recipients to initiate a research project. All grants require the submission of a budget that details the planned use of award funds, and a research/development proposal. Award funds may not be used for the payment of indirect costs, salary, or travel for the principal investigator. ***M.D.; M.D., Ph.D.; and D.O. applicants must be no greater than 12 years beyond their terminal degree at the time of funding. Ph.D. candidates must be no greater than 8 years beyond their terminal degree.***

1. Patient Directed Investigation Grant

The Patient Directed Investigation Grant exists to support translational studies that have the potential to benefit patients directly. Such studies may concern medical dermatology, dermatologic surgery, procedural dermatology, pediatric dermatology, or other aspects of the specialty that impact patient care. Funding is intended to enhance the career development of patient-oriented clinical investigators in the early stages of their career development. Applications will be judged by the Medical and Scientific Committee's panel of recognized experts in applied medical, surgical, procedural, and pediatric dermatology. It is the expectation that the recipients of this award will be the future clinical leaders in dermatology, helping to shape the future of the specialty. Recipients may apply for a second year of funding on a competitive basis.

Applicant Eligibility:

- M.D.; M.D., Ph.D.; or D.O. degree
- Completed training in U.S. dermatology residency program
- Clinical investigator in the early stages of academic career
- Project not funded from other sources

2. Research Grant

The Foundation's Research Grants provide financial support for research projects in dermatology and cutaneous biology that benefit the dermatology community at large.

Applicant Eligibility:

- M.D.; M.D., Ph.D.; Ph.D.; or D.O. degree
- Investigator in the early stages of academic career
- Project not funded from other sources
- NOT available to residents unless in a research year of a 4-year program defined by no more than 20% of time devoted to clinical responsibilities