AHA Funding Opportunities

Susan K. Frazier, PhD, RN
Associate Professor
University of Kentucky
Chair, AHA Outcomes, Qualitative, Therapeutic Clinical Trials Study Section
Spring 2012

What kind of research does AHA support?

Research broadly related to:

- Cardiovascular function
- Cardiovascular disease
- Cerebrovascular disease and stroke
- Epidemiology and cardiovascular public health
- Prevention of cardiovascular disease

- National awards
- Affiliate awards
  * Western States
  * Southwest
  * Founders
  * Greater Southeast
  * Mid-Atlantic
  * Great Rivers
  * Midwest

Career stages supported by AHA

All AHA research programs are geared toward basic, clinical, and population scientists

Programs may be divided into two types:

Programs focused on ***training*** scientists broadly interested in cardiovascular disease and stroke: Predoctoral Fellowship, Postdoctoral Fellowship, Clinical Research Program, and Fellow-to-Faculty Transition Award.

Programs focused on supporting ***investigator-initiated*** research: Beginning Grant-in-Aid, Grant-in-Aid, Scientist Development Grant, Innovative Research Grant

Predoctoral Fellowship Program

To help students initiate careers in cardiovascular research by providing research assistance and training.

- Post baccalaureate, pre-doctoral M.D., Ph.D., D.O., D.V.M. or equivalent students seeking research training with a sponsor/mentor prior to embarking on a research career.

- Full-time students working towards their degrees.

Offered by all 7 Affiliates
1 - 2 years of stipend support
$22,000 - $26,000 per year

Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

To help trainees initiate careers in cardiovascular and stroke research while obtaining significant research results.

- Supports individuals before they are ready for independent research. M.D., Ph.D., D.O., D.V.M. or equivalent at activation

- Most affiliates limit the number of years of postdoctoral research training at the time of award activation.

- 2 years of stipend support, comparable with NIH sliding scale
- Offered by all 7 Affiliates

Fellow-to-Faculty Transition Award

Provides funding for trainees with outstanding potential for careers as physician-scientists in cardiovascular or stroke research during career development from the completion of research training through the early years of the first faculty/staff position.

- 5-year award
- M.D., M.D./PhD., D.O. or equivalent doctoral degree
- Supports beginning physician-scientists for 1-3 years of research training @ $65,000 per year
- As well as the initial years of first faculty/staff or equivalent appointment @ $132,000 per year

National Center program only

Clinical Research Program

- Encourage early career investigators who have *appropriate* and *supportive mentoring* relationships

- High quality introductory and pilot clinical studies that will guide future strategies for reducing cardiovascular disease and stroke

- Foster new research in clinical and translational science, and encourage community and population-based studies

  - 2-year award offered by all seven affiliates
  - Awards range from $55,000 - $77,000 per year, depending on the affiliate

Beginning Grant-In-Aid

Promotes the independent status of promising beginning scientists

Up to and including the rank of assistant professor or equivalent

- BGIA is a 2-year award
- Offered by Great Rivers, Mid-Atlantic, Southwest and Western States Affiliates
- Awards range from $66,000 - $77,000 per year

Scientist Development Grant

Supports highly promising beginning scientists in their progress toward independence by encouraging and adequately funding research projects that can ***bridge the gap between completion of research training and readiness for successful competition as an independent investigator***

Founders Affiliate - 3 years @ $77,000 per year
Midwest Affiliate - 3 years @ $71,500 per year
National Program - 4 years @ $77,000 per year

Innovative Research Grant

Supports highly innovative, high-risk, high-reward research that could ultimately lead to critical discoveries or major advancements that will accelerate the field of cardiovascular and stroke research.

National Research Program
2-year award @ $75,000 per year

Established Investigator Award

To support mid-career investigators with unusual promise and an established record of accomplishment

Demonstrated commitment to cardiovascular or cerebrovascular science as indicated by prior publication history and scientific accomplishments

Candidate career is expected to be in a rapid growth phase

- National Research Program award
- May be held only once, $500,000 over 5 years

Grant-in-Aid

To encourage and adequately fund innovative and meritorious research projects from independent investigators

Offered by all 7 affiliates
Award amounts range from $66,00 - $77,000 per year
2-year award; 3-year award in Founders Affiliate

Focused Research Program Partnerships

AHA/ASA/American Academy of Neurology Foundation Lawrence M. Brass, M.D., Stroke Research *Postdoctoral* Fellowship Award

Supports an individual interested in embarking on an academic career in vascular neurology or stroke.

AHA/Myocarditis Foundation *Postdoctoral* Fellowship Award

Supports an investigator proposing innovative basic, clinical or translational research projects relevant to the etiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis, treatment epidemiology and/or prevention of myocarditis.

AHA/CCF Pediatric Cardiomyopathy Research Award

The award supports basic, clinical, population or translational research relevant to the causes or treatment of pediatric cardiomyopathy (dilated, hypertrophic, restrictive, arrhythmogenic, right ventricular) in children under 18 years old.

Who reviews my application?

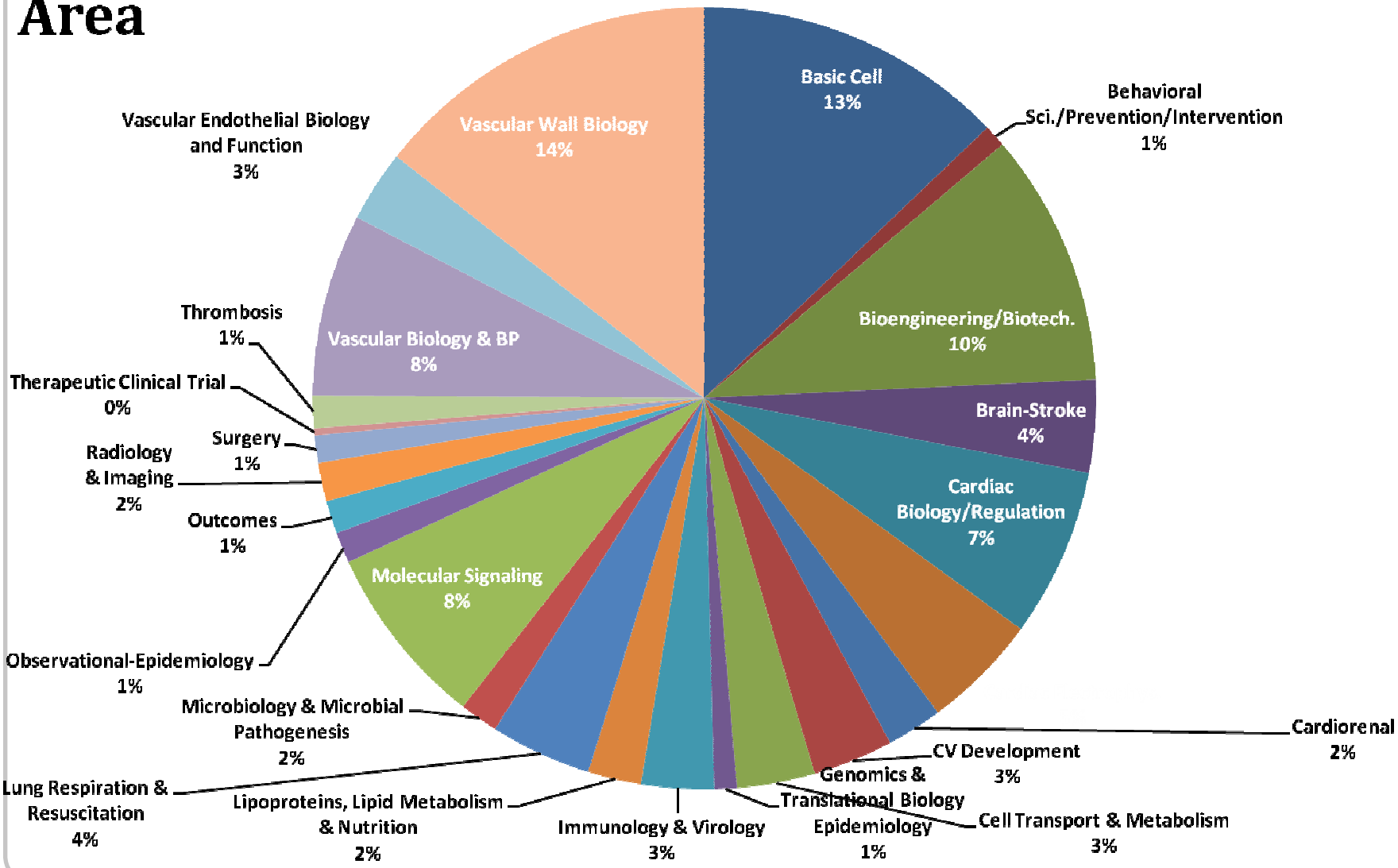
- New this year: Separate basic, population, and clinical study sections
- Planned sections: 60 basic, 17 clinical, 4 population*
- Closest matching yet of reviewers' specific expertise to applications

* The numbers of sections may change based on final application volume

Reviewer Qualifications

- Minimum Assistant Professor career level
- Nationally recognized competence in one or more fields of biomedical research
- Prior peer review experience of extramural grant applications at the regional or national level
- Current or recent independent peer reviewed funding, typically at the national level
- Consistent record of peer reviewed publications within the past 5 years

Percentage of 2010-11 Awards by Science Area



2010-11 New Awards

Research Type	Total Applications n (%)	Funded n (%)	Success Rate
BASIC	4140 (84%)	859 (88%)	21%
CLINICAL	641 (13%)	93 (9%)	14%
POPULATION	144 (3%)	27 (3%)	19%
Totals	**4925**	**979**	**20%**

2010-11	New Awards		Total Reviewed	Success Rate
Undergraduate Fellowship	45	$260,000	70	64%
Medical Student Research Fellowship	5	$74,500	8	62.5%
Predoctoral Fellowship	260	$11,714,856	967	27.8%
Postdoctoral Fellowship	274	$24,031,928	1,355	20%
* Fellow-to-Faculty Transition Award	11	$6,322,000	33	33%
Beginning Grant-in-Aid	51	$7,068,029	413	12%
Scientist Development Grant	150	$45,610,655	794	19%
Clinical Research Program	35	$4,091,271	176	12%
Established Investigator Award	Re-established for 2012			
Grant-in-Aid	129	$20,228,429	926	14%
* Innovative Research Grant	19	$2,841,907	183	10%
	979	**$122,243,575**	**4,925**	19.87%

* Pilot program red = early career

Address Common Issues with Applications

- Original, clear specific aims that are independent
  - Innovative
- Clear theoretical support for the proposed study
- Preliminary support for the proposed study
  - Literature review
  - Preliminary data
- Well described training plan
- EXCELLENT mentor and/or co-investigators and collaborators

- Well articulated methods
  - Sample inclusion and exclusion
  - Setting description, numbers of potential participants
  - Measures
    - Validity, reliability, precision, sensitivity, COV
    - Scoring, range of scores, meaning of scores
  - Procedure including time line for measurement of all variables
  - Data analysis with description of analyses for each specific aim
  - Limitations and how these were minimized

Where to begin?

my.americanheart.org/
funding opportunities