

## Research Insider – March 2020 Edition

American Heart Association <email@heartemail.org>

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To: Lidya Sanchez <sanchelb@njms.rutgers.edu>



# RESEARCH

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### **AHA RESEARCH INSIDER: MARCH 2020 EDITION**

*Important information for AHA Awardees, Applicants, Peer Reviewers, and Fiscal & Grant Officers*



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### **Henrietta B. and Frederick H. Bugher Foundation and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association Centers of Excellence in Hemorrhagic Stroke Research**

**Letters of Intent due Thursday, July 16, 2020**

**Full Applications due Thursday, August 27, 2020**

The Henrietta B. and Frederick H. Bugher Foundation and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association announce a Request for Applications (RFA) for the Centers of Excellence in Hemorrhagic Stroke Research comprising at least three (3) Centers and one (1) Centralized Training Center within this Network.

A leading AHA priority is to fund research that increases the understanding of the etiology, pathophysiology, treatment and prevention of cardiovascular diseases and stroke. This RFA describes a collaborative network of basic, clinical and population researchers from different disciplines whose collective efforts will enhance the understanding of the etiology, biological pathways and modifiable risk factors associated with hemorrhagic stroke (HS) and will lead to innovative and breakthrough discoveries for the prevention and treatment of HS.

Visit the [Bugher Foundation](#) web page for more information and a link to the RFA.

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**American Heart Association and Enduring Hearts  
Research Awards in Pediatric Heart Transplantation  
Letters of Intent due Monday, June 1, 2020**

The American Heart Association (AHA) and Enduring Hearts (EH) share common priorities and interests in investing in biomedical research. Together, the AHA and EH have established this jointly funded request for applications (RFA) for the AHA/EH Research Awards in Pediatric Heart Transplantation.

These awards will support investigators who are **actively conducting research directly related to improving the life expectancy and quality of life of Pediatric Heart Transplant Recipients**. This funding opportunity will further these areas of focus by offering competitive research grants in basic, clinical, population, and/or translational research **via Collaborative Sciences Awards**.

**A letter of intent (limited to five pages) is required to ensure responsiveness to the novel, collaborative nature of this program.** The responsiveness to the research priorities listed in the RFA, plus the novel relationship and proposed collaboration of investigators from at least two different disciplines, will be given the most weight in evaluating the LOI to determine which teams will be invited to submit full applications.

View the Letter of Intent Instructions, and full program details on the **AHA and Enduring Hearts Research Awards in Pediatric Heart Transplantation** web page.

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**Cardio-Oncology is Next SFRN Topic**

**Letter of Intent Deadline: Tuesday, October 12, 2020**

**Full Proposal Deadline: Tuesday, December 8, 2020**

The next AHA Strategically Focused Research Network will focus on cardio-oncology. Awards will begin in 2021. In this video, American Heart Association CEO Nancy Brown shares the emerging area of cardio-oncology and how the AHA plans to change these outcomes with a \$15 million commitment to this research: [Unlocking the Cancer-Heart Disease Link](#). News and application information will be posted on at [professional.heart.org/SFRN](http://professional.heart.org/SFRN).

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**Learn About AHA Funding Opportunities**

Join live webinars to learn about the AHA research funding opportunities available to you.

**Tuesday, March 31, 2020**  
**9-10 am CT / 10-11 am ET**  
Audio: 1-866-240-1897

**Tuesday, March 31, 2020**  
**2-3 pm CT / 3-4 pm ET**  
Audio: 1-866-240-1897

Video link: [join the meeting](#)  
 Access code: 742 822 500  
 Password: EAt9qX7E

Video link: [join the meeting](#)  
 Access code: 740 442 334  
 Password: mtMB3946

## Application Information

### ProposalCentral to Replace Grants@Heart

Last month, we announced that the AHA will replace Grants@Heart with ProposalCentral to manage research applications, peer review, and awards. ProposalCentral is a popular grants management system that many researchers are already familiar with. It is an e-grantmaking website shared by many government, non-profit, and private granting organizations. It integrates with the ORCID system, which provides a persistent digital identifier ( ORCID) that researchers will own and control.

The AHA will stop using Grants@Heart at the end of April and start using ProposalCentral in May. Your information in Grants@Heart will be transferred to ProposalCentral. If you don't already have an ORCID ID, you could register for one now at <https://orcid.org/register>. Profile and publication information in ORCID can be used in ProposalCentral, so updating this information in advance is useful. Otherwise, there is nothing you need to do now. Watch this space for information as it develops.

### Want a Sneak Peak at ProposalCentral?

We are in search of Grants@Heart users to volunteer for focus groups or to provide feedback on FAQs and instructions to help users transition to the new system. If you are willing to participate, please send your name and the roles you have in Grants@Heart (fiscal officer, applicant, awardee, peer reviewer) to [Belinda.Orland@heart.org](mailto:Belinda.Orland@heart.org).

Program	Letter of Intent Deadline (if applicable)	Proposal Deadline	Start Date
AHA Predoctoral Fellowship		Wed, Sept 9, 2020	Jan 1, 2021
AHA Postdoctoral Fellowship		Thurs, Sept 10, 2020	Jan 1, 2021
Institutional Undergraduate Student Training Program		Tues, Sept 15, 2020	Jan 1, 2021
Merit Award	Required by Thurs, Oct 1, 2020	Invited Applicants: Tues, Nov 10, 2020	April 1, 2021
Established Investigator Award	Required by Wed, Oct 14, 2020	Invited Applicants: Thurs, Jan 14, 2021	April 1, 2021
Career Development Award		Thurs, Dec 3, 2020	April 1, 2021
AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)	Thurs, Oct. 22, 2019	Thurs, Dec 3, 2020	April 1, 2021
Innovative Project Award	Required by Tues, Nov 3, 2020	Invited Applicants: Tues, Feb 2, 2021	July 1, 2021

Transformational Project Award		Tues, Feb 16, 2021	July 1, 2021
Collaborative Sciences Award	Required by Thurs, Jan 7, 2021	Invited Applicants: Tues, March 16, 2021	July 1, 2021
<b>Strategically Focused Research Funding Opportunities</b>			
AHA and Enduring Hearts Research Awards in Pediatric Heart Transplantation	Required by Mon, June 1, 2020	Invited Applicants: Tues., Sept. 1, 2020	Jan 1, 2021
American Stroke Association- Bugher Foundation Centers of Excellence in Hemorrhagic Stroke	Thurs, July 16, 2020	Thurs, Aug 27, 2020	Jan 1, 2021
AHA and Children's Heart Foundation Congenital Heart Defects Research Awards		Tues, Sept 22, 2020	Jan 1, 2021
Cardio-Oncology Strategically Focused Research Network	Tues, Oct 13, 2020	Tues, Dec 8, 2020	April 1, 2021

**Contact Us**

AHA research staff is available Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Central Time to assist with the application process and to answer questions. Contact us by emailing [apply@heart.org](mailto:apply@heart.org) or by calling 214-360-6107, option 1. We will reply as quickly as possible.

## Lifelong Learning

**Creating Your Style of Leadership Webinar**

**Tuesday, March 17, 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm ET**

**Guest Speaker: Bernie Dennis, Dennis Associates, LLC**

To grow and develop as a leader, you need to define your leadership style. Explore how character, vision, voice, teamwork and innovation drive the most effective leaders and how these five attributes layered on top of a person's strengths and circumstance define their leadership style. This session will provide you with a view of the skills necessary to lead a high performing organization or team.

Bernie Dennis is the owner/founder of Dennis Associates LLC, a Management Consulting Organization, focused on communications and leadership programs in the technology industry. Bernie is an executive coach and communications advisor. He has co-developed Oracle Corporation's Executive Leadership Program. He has collaborated with some of the nation's most admired thought leaders on the topic of leadership, including faculty at Carnegie Mellon University and George Mason University.

Register Here

Limited spaces are available. Registration will close on March 10, 2020 or when space is filled.

## Current and Past AHA Awardees

## **American Heart Association's 2020 Merit Award Winners Aiming to disrupt cardiovascular research status quo through transformational scientific discoveries**

The American Heart Association recently announced its 2020 Merit Award recipients: Junichi Sadoshima, M.D., Ph.D., professor and chair of cell biology and molecular medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, and Louise D. McCullough, M.D., Ph.D., professor and chair of neurology at McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. Each researcher will receive \$1 million in funding over the next five years to fuel highly promising, novel research that has the potential to move cardiovascular science forward.



Sadoshima's research addresses the major public health problem that many people who have a heart attack or stroke die from heart failure or other complications within a few years after their first event. He and his colleagues are studying how inhibiting a previously uncharacterized type of cell death in the heart might prevent weakening of the heart and brain after a heart attack or stroke.

"Just like we replace broken or worn-out parts in our cars to make them run better, our cells discard old or broken materials every day through a process called autophagy. While autophagy is a fundamentally important mechanism to maintain the function in the heart, the process can sometimes go awry and actually promote cellular suicide. This cell death triggered by excessive autophagy is termed autosis," Sadoshima said. "Our goal with this award is to develop treatment to make the heart stronger when patients have a heart attack or stroke by understanding how autosis is stimulated and how it kills heart and brain cells."

Sadoshima said focusing on this previously uncharacterized form of cell death in the heart may have a significant impact on the future treatment of patients with reduced blood supply to the heart and brain.



McCullough's research also looks at a big public health issue, stroke, in a new way.

"It has been known for some time that health problems that occur during pregnancy, such as a mother's high blood pressure, obesity or diabetes, can cause changes leading to obesity and hypertension in the child she's carrying. Initially, it was thought that a lot of this was genetic but there also are epigenetic factors — outside factors that can change the genes to increase risk," McCullough said.

Prior research led McCullough and her colleagues to believe the mother's microbiome, the collection of microorganisms that reside in the gastrointestinal tract and are passed during childbirth to the child, might modify genes and increase later stroke risk in offspring. The health of the microbiome tends to change with age, becoming more likely to cause inflammation.

"We're studying whether a mother's unhealthy microbiome can be manipulated and improved with diet or supplements, perhaps, to reduce stroke risk in her offspring," she said. "If successful, these findings could have huge health ramifications for many generations to come."

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## **The American Heart Association and The Children's Heart Foundation Award \$1.3M in New Congenital Heart Defect Research Grants**

Research to better understand and treat the number one birth defect in the United States, congenital heart defects (CHDs), is getting a boost thanks to a joint \$1.3 million commitment from the American Heart Association and The Children's Heart Foundation, the nation's leading organization dedicated to funding congenital heart defect research. The latest awards fund eight

research projects focused on better understanding, identifying, and treating CHDs.

This is the seventh round of the co-funded Congenital Heart Defect Research Awards program. The American Heart Association and The Children's Heart Foundation have pledged a total of \$14.3 million to fund CHD research over the next several years.

The grants have been awarded to:

- **Colleen Witzenburg, PhD, MS at the University of Wisconsin, Madison** for her work in predicting long-term heart and pulmonary artery growth in congenital heart disease
- **Jason Boehme, MD, BS at the University of California, San Francisco** for his work in metabolic reprogramming in pulmonary vascular disease
- **Parth Mukund Patel, MD, BS, BA at Massachusetts General Hospital** for his work on achieving tolerance in NHP heart transplant recipients with donor exosomes
- **Audrey Dionne, MD at Boston Children's Hospital** for her work predicting arrhythmogenic risk in post-operative congenital heart disease patients
- **Margaret Rose Ferrari BS, MS at the University of Colorado, Denver** for her work with tissue engineered contractile Fontan circuit for single ventricle patients
- **Devin Marisa Parker, MS at Dartmouth College** for her work on healthcare utilization and the quantifying the burden of care as it relates to the first U.S. population-based estimates of congenital heart disease
- **Hee Cheol Cho, PhD at Emory University** for his work on hardware-free cardiac pacing for congenital heart block patients
- **David Kalfa, MD, PHD at Columbia University** for his work on in-vitro and in-vivo mechanical stability and growth of a bio-hybrid heart valve

Investigators who are conducting research on congenital heart defects to advance knowledge for prevention and treatment are encouraged to submit applications for the next round of funding. For more about the American Heart Association and The Children's Heart Foundation Congenital Heart Defects Research Awards, including deadlines for submitting proposals, please visit [www.professional.heart.org/CHDResearchAwards](http://www.professional.heart.org/CHDResearchAwards)

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### **Help Shape the AHA's Legacy of Excellence: Become a Peer Reviewer / Recommend Lay Stakeholders**

Your AHA funding was made possible in part because of volunteer peer reviewers who evaluated your proposal. Please consider doing the same for the next class of awardees. AHA seeks reviewers with a wide array of [scientific expertise](#) and non-science lay stakeholders to review a variety of traditional and specialty program applications. Questions? Contact us at [peerreview@heart.org](mailto:peerreview@heart.org).

### **Please Nominate Lay Reviewers**

Do you know someone without formal science or medical training who has been touched by heart disease or stroke as a survivor, family member, caregiver, or advocate who might wish to add a voice to the research projects AHA funds? Many AHA peer review study sections include lay reviewers who assist with assessing potential impact on the AHA mission. Potential lay reviewers may contact [Elizabeth.Cooper@heart.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Cooper@heart.org) or [Angela.McCarty@heart.org](mailto:Angela.McCarty@heart.org).

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### **Open Data and Public Access Policy Reminders**

The AHA requires Principal Investigators to create and maintain a data sharing plan in our research system that is in compliance with our [Open Data Policy](#). Exceptions exist for some programs and specific awards that received approval to opt-out. Please make sure that you are depositing your data into the AHA-approved repository(ies) as stipulated in your data sharing plan.

All recipients of awards that began January 2015 and after must ensure any signed publication agreement is consistent with the AHA's [Public Access Policy](#), which stipulates that awardees reserve all author rights necessary to comply with the policy and deposit all publications resulting from AHA funding into PubMed Central within 12 months of publication.



Step-by-step instructions for demonstrating compliance with both policies described above are available [here](#). Questions regarding these policies may be directed to [Rachel McEnany](#).

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### How to Attribute your AHA Award

As stipulated in the AHA Awardee Agreement, awardees should acknowledge the American Heart Association and include the full AHA award ID and awardee's last name, e.g. 16POST1234567 (Smith), wherever the publication or presentation allows. If more than one AHA award supported the published research, then each Award should be cited separately. More details on publication attribution can be found in the "Publication" section of the [AHA Award Guide](#).

#### Is Your Membership Active?

A condition of recent AHA awards is that you maintain AHA Professional Membership throughout the term of your funding. Your membership might require renewal. Don't risk having your award payments held:

[Renew today!](#)

## Submit Your Science



Since AHA Awards are made possible through voluntary contributions by the public, research results should be made available to the public promptly, either by presentation to scientific societies or publication in **reputable** scientific journals.

To protect the credibility of published research, authors are encouraged to publish papers arising from AHA-funded research in reputable journals. The NIH has issued a [statement](#) and guidance on how to select reputable journals and avoid predatory journals.

We encourage you to submit abstracts to AHA's Scientific Sessions and Journals. AHA award funds may be used to pay abstract submission fees and AHA Professional Membership.

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### Basic Cardiovascular Sciences (BCVS) 2020 Scientific Sessions

July 27-30, 2020

Chicago Hilton, Chicago, IL

Submit your science! <https://professional.heart.org/bcvssessions>

#BCVS20

## Register Today

## Vascular Discovery: From Genes to Medicine 2020

Formerly ATVB|PVD Scientific Sessions

**May 5-7, 2020**

Hilton Chicago, Chicago, IL

**Register now!** <http://professional.heart.org/vasculardiscoverysessions>  
#VascularDiscovery20

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## Quality of Care and Outcomes Research (QCOR) 2020 Scientific Sessions

**May 15-16, 2020**

Hyatt Regency Reston, Reston, VA

**Register now!** <http://professional.heart.org/qcorsessions>  
#QCOR20

**Late-Breaking Abstract Submission is Open Until March 11th!**



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American Heart Association  
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7272 Greenville Ave. Dallas, TX 75231