We are pleased to share with you that Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Simons Foundation are holding a joint national competition for grants to outstanding early career scientists as Faculty Scholars. This competition will strengthen the community of basic researchers and physician scientists who bring innovative approaches to the study of biological problems. Scholars will apply molecular, genetic, computational and theoretical approaches to fundamental problems in diverse areas of biology. Those conducting research at the interface of the biological and physical sciences are especially encouraged to apply as are physician scientists and others studying biological questions emerging from and applicable to global human health problems, including malaria, tuberculosis, HIV, and other diseases that disproportionately affect individuals living in low resource settings. We expect to appoint up to 70 Faculty Scholars. We strongly encourage applications from outstanding women and minorities under-represented in the biomedical and biological sciences.

Your institution is one of approximately 220 across the nation whose faculty members are eligible to participate in this open competition. There are no limits on the number of applicants or awardees from any eligible institution, and candidates apply directly without an institutional nomination. Nevertheless, we ask that you encourage appropriate scientists to participate. More information about the Faculty Scholars Program and this competition may be found on our website: www.hhmi.org/faculty-scholars.

In brief, candidates must meet the following eligibility criteria at the time of the application deadline:

- PhD and/or MD (or the equivalent).
- Tenured or tenure-track position as an assistant professor or higher academic rank at an eligible U.S. institution, or, if at an eligible institution that has no tenure track, an appointment that reflects a significant institutional commitment. Federal government employees are not eligible.
- More than 4, but no more than 10, years of post-training, professional experience. To meet this requirement, the applicant’s post-training, professional experience must have begun no earlier than June 1, 2005, and no later than July 1, 2011.
- Principal investigator or Co-Principal Investigator on at least one active, nationally competitive grant in the past two years with an initial term of two or more years. Career development grants qualify. Multi-investigator grants may qualify.

The deadline for submission of the candidate’s application material is July 28, 2015, at 3:00 p.m., Eastern Time. We recommend that candidates complete the eligibility section as early as possible. The review process will include evaluation of applications by distinguished scientists, leading to the selection of semi-finalists by April, 2016. Semi-finalists will have an opportunity to provide a one-page update and will be asked to submit a slide presentation with an audio recording. Finalists will be selected by July, 2016. Those selected to receive awards will be invited to a scientific symposium and orientation in November of 2016. Grants will begin in the fall of 2016.

We appreciate your help in distributing this announcement to colleagues at your institution.

With best regards,

Robert Tjian
President
Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Trevor Mundel
President of the Global Health Division
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Marian Carlson
Director of Life Sciences
Simons Foundation