



D O R I S D U K E
C H A R I T A B L E F O U N D A T I O N

Medical Research Program

Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Announces Bridge Grants

New York, NY, March 19, 2008 – We are very pleased to announce a new Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Medical Research Program funding mechanism that is targeted to Clinical Scientist Development Award (CSDA) grantees applying for their first NIH R01 grants. The CSDA Bridge Grants will provide \$135,000 for 12- to 18-months for eligible CSDAs who have received competitive scores on their first proposals to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for independent research project grants but were not funded due to the severely constrained paylines at NIH. Funds can be used flexibly to support research as well as career development.

With success rates for first-time submissions alarmingly low – as low as 9% in some institutes – many applicants for NIH funding must revise their proposals and resubmit revisions for another round of review — a process that can often take a full year of turn-around time. It is at this critical transition to independence that even the most promising young physician-scientists may become discouraged, leading them to reevaluate the challenges of conducting clinical research and to consider altered career paths. By bridging the gap created by the tight NIH budget, the goal of this program is to allow the continued productivity of CSDA investigators as they strengthen their proposals for resubmission for NIH funding. Ultimately we aim to encourage and support the continued advancement of our grantees in their development as young physician-scientists despite the challenging climate of current NIH funding.

Eligible CSDAs have been invited to apply for the bridge awards by September 1, 2008; applications will be reviewed by outside experts, and we expect to award up to four Bridge Grants this year. For more information about this award, visit www.ddcf.org/mrp-bridge.

With best regards,

Elaine K. Gallin, Ph.D.
Program Director for Medical Research