



Michael Smith Foundation for
Health Research

Program Announcements from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research

Note: clarifications have been made to the original version of this announcement. See italicized sections under Career Investigators and Research Units.

The Board of Directors of the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, at its meeting on April 2, 2009, made a number of decisions about its programs, based on funding available and the strategic planning process which is due for completion in summer 2009.

These decisions are summarized below.

Please note that MSFHR will contact each award holder to request documentation (e.g. budget information) as appropriate and provide notification letters with individual award details by mid April 2009.

Personnel Programs

Research Trainees

All trainees currently funded will continue to receive funding as per their award letters and for the full duration of their current award period.

There will be a **new trainee award** competition in early spring 2009 for junior graduate students, senior graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, with awards to commence October 2009.



Michael Smith Foundation for
Health Research

Career Investigators

Scholar and senior scholar award recipients will have their awards extended up to September 30, 2010 or to the end of their original award term, whichever is sooner. ***If further funding becomes available, awards originally extending beyond September 30, 2010 will be further extended (to the extent possible based on available funding and up to a maximum of the term specified in the award letter).***

A detailed progress report continues to be required three years after commencement of the award, with continuation of funding for the subsequent years conditional upon satisfactory assessment of the report. The Foundation hopes to be able to announce an open competition for new awards later in 2009; this competition would be contingent on the outcome of our strategic planning process and additional funding to the Foundation. ***MSFHR will ensure that applicants' eligibility will not be affected by the 2008 postponement of competitions. Applicants who would have been eligible for a fall 2008 competition, will remain eligible for the next career investigator competition.***

Future Personnel Awards Categories

MSFHR anticipates announcing a limited number of new awards in summer 2009 as an outcome of its strategic planning process. Examples of potential new awards include health professional fellows and scholars, and commercialization fellows.



Michael Smith Foundation for
Health Research

Infrastructure Programs

Institutional Awards

These awards were previously extended to September 30, 2009. They now will be extended to March 31, 2010, when funding will cease. The Foundation hopes to be able to hold an open competition for new awards later in 2009, with awards effective in April 2010; this competition, which would have reconfigured guidelines, is contingent on the outcome of our strategic planning process and additional funding to the Foundation.

Networking Awards

The current group of **Health of Population Networks (HoPN)** will be extended by six months to March 31, 2010, when funding will cease. The Foundation hopes to announce a new network program, open to new and previous applicants, for the fall of 2009, with funding to commence in April 2010. The introduction of the new program, which would have reconfigured guidelines, is contingent on the outcome of the strategic planning process and additional funding to the Foundation.

Technology /Methodology Platform awards that are currently ongoing will be extended at the same award level until September 2010. Further funding of platforms thereafter is contingent on the outcome of the strategic planning process and the availability of additional funding to the Foundation.



Michael Smith Foundation for
Health Research

Research Unit Awards

Research units funded in July 2003 and July 2004: Funding will be extended to March 31, 2010, when funding will cease. The Foundation hopes to hold a new competition in late 2009, open to new applicants and previous award holders. The competition will have reconfigured guidelines and a strong emphasis on the translational components of research, with funding to commence April 2010 contingent upon the availability of additional funding to the Foundation.

Research units funded in July 2006 and July 2007: Funding will be extended through to the end of their original award term or March 31, 2011 (whichever is sooner), when funding will cease. *The Foundation hopes to hold new competitions in late 2009 and 2010, open to new applicants as well as current and previous award holders. These competitions will have reconfigured guidelines and a strong emphasis on the translational components of research, with funding to commence in April 2010 and April 2011 respectively, contingent upon the availability of additional funding to the Foundation.*

Team start-up awards and team planning awards that are currently ongoing will be extended through to the end of their original award term. There will be no new awards in these existing programs.

As an outcome of its strategic planning process, the Foundation anticipates implementing a new **start-up award program** with reconfigured guidelines that will provide a single award for the development of a new research unit, network or research platform. This is contingent upon the availability of additional funding to the Foundation.



Michael Smith Foundation for
Health Research

All of the above – existing as well as anticipated new programs – will depend upon the availability of additional funding; specific details about existing awards will be included in individual award letters.

In making the above decisions, the Board of MSFHR faced difficult choices. The Foundation will continue to work closely with government to secure an annualized base of funding that will allow us to make long-term commitments with greater confidence and security. The Foundation also recognizes the need to continue to implement outcome measures that reflect return on investment and that, in turn, help justify the continuation of support for any particular program.