

## Overview of the Michelson Prizes for Human Immunology and Vaccine Research

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### KEY DATES

- Pre-application portal opens December 13, 2017
- Pre-applications due February 12, 2018, 5:00 pm EST
- Finalists notified by March 5, 2018
- Full application portal opens March 5, 2018.
- Full applications due April 2, 2018, 5:00 pm EST
- Notice of award May 17, 2018
- Conference on Convergence of Human Immunology and Vaccine Research, June 27, 2018
- Award start date July 1, 2018
- Award cycle is July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

### Two awards, each totaling USD \$150,000

The Michelson Medical Research Foundation (MMRF) together with the Human Vaccines Project have established the Michelson Prizes for Human Immunology and Vaccine Research. The \$20 million initiative, funded by the MMRF and administered by the Human Vaccines Project, aims to support young investigators applying innovative research concepts and disruptive technologies to significantly advance the development of future vaccines and therapies to defeat major global diseases. While the Michelson Prizes are focused on research outcomes in the fields of human immunology and vaccinology, applicants from the full spectrum of related disciplines, including clinical research, biomedicine, artificial intelligence/machine learning, engineering, and nanotechnology are encouraged to apply. Proposals will be reviewed and winners selected by a distinguished committee of internationally-recognized research scientists.

### Award Information

The Michelson Prizes for Human Immunology and Vaccine Research are intended to support individuals early in their careers who possess novel ideas and who have significant potential to execute these ideas to affect transformative change in the fields of human immunology and vaccine science. The intent of the Michelson Prizes is to recognize creative and innovative ideas, and the central feature of the awards is the applicant's demonstrated ability to go beyond conventional thinking in their field and the groundbreaking contribution that the applicant can make toward advancing human immunology and vaccine research. The applicant should clearly articulate a vision that challenges current dogma and demonstrates an ability to look beyond tradition and convention with the scientific research that is proposed in the application.

***Experience in human immunology or vaccine research is not required***; however, the application must focus on human immunology or vaccine research, and the applicant must maintain a 50% dedication of his/her full-time professional effort during the award period to the research funded by this award. Individuals from other disciplines who will apply novel concepts to human immunology and vaccine research are also encouraged to apply.

The applicant is expected to assemble a research team that will provide the necessary expertise and collaborative efforts toward accomplishing the research goals proposed in the application.

### **Eligibility Information**

The applicant must be under the age of 35 at the time of pre-application submission (February 12, 2018). Early career independent investigators, postdoctoral fellows, clinical fellows (including residents and interns), and other researchers currently in training positions are eligible for this award. An eligible applicant, regardless of ethnicity, nationality or citizenship status, must be employed by or affiliated with, an eligible organization. Examples of eligible organizations include academia, biotechnology companies, foundations, government and non-governmental organizations, and research institutes. Individuals from such organizations, including organizations based outside of the US, are eligible to apply. Each applicant may submit only one Michelson Prize application per year. Note: The Michelson Prizes for Human Immunology and Vaccine Research will be awarded to individuals, not institutions.

### **Research Conditions**

The allocation of award funds for the conduct of the Michelson Prizes for Human Immunology and Vaccine Research is under the control of the awardee and may be used flexibly for items such as equipment, consumable supplies, travel to scientific meetings, and laboratory personnel working with the awardee.

It is the responsibility of the awardee, in conjunction with their institution, to ensure that all academic and research activities funded by this award and carried out in or outside the US comply with the laws or regulations of the US and/or of the foreign country in which the academic and/or research activities are conducted.

**Research Involving Human Anatomical Substances, Human Subjects, or Human Cadavers:** Research involving new and ongoing research with human anatomical substances, human subjects, or human cadavers must be reviewed and approved by the applicant's local Human Research Protection Office (HRPO), Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Ethics Committee (EC). Local IRB/EC approval at the time of submission is **not** required.

**Research Involving Animals:** Research involving new and ongoing research with animals must be reviewed and approved by applicant's local Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of record. IACUC approval at the time of submission is **not** required.

Specific documents related to the use of human subjects, human anatomical substances, human cadavers and/or animals in the proposed research will be requested **if the applicant is selected for funding**.

The MMRF and the Human Vaccines Project intend that information, data, and research resources generated under awards funded by these prizes be made available to the research community and to the public at large in a timely manner via standard means of scientific communication, including

publications and presentations in scientific forums. The MMRF and the Human Vaccines Project will not retain any rights to published results or patents that result from research funded by these prizes.

The MMRF and the Human Vaccines Project reserve the right to discontinue award funds if the recipient terminates or suspends their employment or association with their research institution, or terminates or suspends their research activities for any reason (e.g. graduates, leaves the laboratory, leave of absence, etc.).

Award recipients are required to submit a progress report and accounting of the use of funds prior to the conclusion of the award funding cycle, which is June 30, 2019. Any publications or works created by the award recipient must acknowledge support from the Michelson Prizes for Human Immunology and Vaccine Research as follows: Author X and/or this research was supported by the Michelson Prizes for Human Immunology and Vaccine Research. Copies of journal articles and other publications that result from this research prize should be sent to the Human Vaccines Project (contact person will be provided).

### **Application and Submission Information**

Submission is a two-step process requiring both *pre-application* and *full application* as indicated below. The submission process should be started early to avoid missing deadlines. **All communications, including the invitation to submit a full application, will be made through email.**

#### **How to Submit an Online Pre-application**

- Fill out the Michelson Prizes for Human Immunology and Vaccine Research pre-application form on the Human Vaccines Project's website: [www.humanvaccinesproject.org/michelsonprizes](http://www.humanvaccinesproject.org/michelsonprizes)
- Pre-applications must consist of the on-line Michelson Prize pre-application form along with a completed and uploaded biographical sketch form.
- Pre-applications forms must be submitted no later than February 12, 2018, 5:00 pm ET

#### **Full Application Form and Content**

- Based on pre-application submissions, select candidates will be notified that they have been chosen for invitation to submit full applications via email by March 5, 2018.
- Invited applicants will be given access to a password-protected portal to complete and submit a full application package.
- Full applications are due April 2, 2018 5:00 pm EST

## **Application Review**

All applications will be evaluated by highly qualified scientists and clinicians in a two-tier review process. The first tier of review will use a screening committee to select pre-applications deemed as having high innovation and feasibility. Each pre- and full application will be evaluated for its own merit, independent of other applications. The second tier consists of the review of full applications by a larger review committee comprised of leading scientists from academia and industry in the fields of human immunology and vaccinology, that will make final recommendations for funding. All review processes are conducted confidentially to maintain the integrity of the merit-based selection process. The review committee does not provide critiques or written comments of pre-applications or full applications not chosen for funding.

## **Award Announcement**

Applicants will be notified of their selection no later than May 17, 2018. The award period commences on July 1, 2018, and ends on June 30, 2019.

**Oral Presentation** at the *Conference on Convergence of Human Immunology and Vaccine Research*.

Award recipients must agree to attend the conference on the Convergence of Human Immunology and Vaccine Research hosted at [The Michelson Center for Convergent Bioscience](#) at the [University of Southern California](#). The conference will be held in late June 2018, and awardees will be expected to give an oral presentation of their awarded program at this conference. The specific dates of the conference will be determined in early 2018.

For further questions, please email: [michelsonprizes@humanvaccinesproject.org](mailto:michelsonprizes@humanvaccinesproject.org)