HARRY WEAVER NEUROSCIENCE SCHOLAR AWARDS

Harry Weaver, Ph.D., known worldwide for his contribution to neurosciences and multiple sclerosis research, was the Society's Director of Research from 1966-1977. Throughout his tenure with the Society and throughout his career, Dr. Weaver continued to encourage young investigators to enter and pursue MS research, and to broaden our understanding of basic and clinical aspects of MS. In recognition of Dr. Weaver's contribution to the neurosciences and MS research, and to his dedication to young researchers, the Society named this prestigious award in his honor.

GENERAL

A limited number of awards will be offered to highly qualified candidates who have concluded their research training and begun academic careers as independent investigators in an area related to multiple sclerosis. The awards are designed to provide salary and grant support for a five year period, thus permitting the awardee to establish competence in his/her chosen research area. Application must be made jointly by a candidate and the institution in which an appointment is held.

In order to submit a proposal for research support, investigators must first register with our apply online site (www.mssocietyapplyonline.org) and complete a pre-application. Staff of the Research Programs Department will review the pre-application to determine whether the research plan is appropriate and relevant to our goals.

ELIGIBILITY

Previous Training and Experience: Candidates are eligible who hold a doctoral degree (M.D., Ph.D. or equivalent) and have received sufficient research training at the postdoctoral level to be capable of independent research. Individuals who have already conducted independent research for more than five years after postdoctoral training are ineligible.

Sponsoring Institution: Candidates must hold or have been offered an academic appointment at the assistant professor (or equivalent) level at an approved university, professional school or research institute in the United States at the initiation of the award.

Citizenship: U.S. citizenship is not required.

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

Timing: The Society utilizes a Web-based facility for the submission of Weaver Award applications. All applicants are required to use this facility for the completion of their proposals. In order to submit a proposal for research support, investigators must first register with our apply online site (www.mssocietyapplyonline.org) and complete a pre-application. Staff of the Research Programs Department will review the pre-application to determine whether the research plan is appropriate and relevant to our goals. The completed application, including all requisite supporting documents, must be received by the Society by the deadline date in August in order to be considered for review.

Concurrent Applications and Awards: An applicant for a Weaver Award is not allowed to dual submit an application to the Society's regular research grant program at the same deadline date. However, at any time during the award's funding period, a Weaver awardee may submit an application to, and receive support from, the Society's research grant program provided there is no overlap of the research projects.

Review Group and Criteria: Each application will be reviewed by the Society's Advisory Committee on Fellowships. The committee will assess the applicant's qualifications and commitment to multiple sclerosis, the suitability of the institutional setting, and the scientific merit of the proposed research.

TITLE

Recipients of an award will be known as "Harry Weaver Neuroscience Scholars" of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. This title will be used in publications, programs or other announcements in which an awardee's name appears during his/her tenure of an award. They are expected to hold simultaneously an academic title as determined by the nature of their institutional appointment.

CONDITIONS OF AWARD

Research Program: The applicant is expected to spend at least 75% of the working time on fundamental or clinical research, the remainder being reserved for patient care, teaching, or service. His/her research program is expected to concern one or more aspects of multiple sclerosis-related investigation. This may be in areas such as epidemiology, genetics, neurochemistry, neurobiology, neurophysiology, virology, immunology, or pharmacology, or patient management, care and rehabilitation, and may be carried out on MS patients, on animal models of MS, or on other model systems.

Relationship between Candidate and Sponsoring Institution: The candidate is personally responsible for conduct of the research program, while the institution, except in unusual circumstances, serves as the official recipient of the award, both salary and grant. The candidate will not in any sense be an employee of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society but rather of the institution. It is expected that the institution will develop plans for continuing the candidate's appointment and for continued salary support beyond the award. Included in the application must be a letter from the chair of the department expressing the department's commitment to the candidate in terms of laboratory space, time to conduct the research, and salary support.

Tykeson Conference on MS for National MS Society Fellows and Faculty Awardees: Through a generous contribution from Mr. Donald Tykeson (active volunteer and member of the Society's National Board of Directors), the National MS Society will hold a meeting of all Society fellows and faculty awardees on alternate years. All Society fellows and faculty awardees whose awards are active at the time of the conference are required to attend at the Society's expense. The goal of this meeting is to improve the sharing of research information among the Society awardees, develop a sense of community among our investigators, strengthen their commitment to MS, and establish new collaborations among these investigators.

Term and Amount of the Award: The award includes both salary and research support, for a non-renewable five-year period paid through the sponsoring institution. The principal investigator and the grantee institution will each be advised by letter of the duration and amount of the award and will be provided with a budget that reflects the approved expenditures for each grant year. Payment of subsequent years is dependent upon a) availability of funds; and b) receipt, review, and approval by the Society of annual financial and research progress reports.

a) **Salary:** The candidate must spend at least 20% of his or her time working on the research award in order to request salary support. Up to 75% of annual salary support may be requested (but in no case exceed $75,000 in the first year), with a 3% annual increase in each of the remaining 4 years. The total salary may be supplemented by funds from other sources (but not from private practice) to a level commensurate with the current pay scale of the sponsoring institution.

   Salary Cap: The Society will not pay pro-rated salaries that exceed **$199,700**.

   Funds that were originally awarded for salary support of awardee may not be rebudgeted and used for any other purpose, e.g. to support salary of laboratory personnel. If funds are freed as a result of salary support from another resource, these released funds must be returned to the Society.

   Fringe benefits will be paid by the Society at the rate current in the sponsoring institution, on that part of the salary contributed by the Society.

b) **Research Support:** The maximal direct costs that may be requested in the grant budget of the award is $30,000 in the first year, increasing incrementally each year up to $40,000 in the last year. The research budget may include laboratory personnel costs (excluding applicant's salary which is requested separately), fringe benefits at the rate current in the sponsoring institution and proportional to that part of the salary contributed by the Society, patient costs directly relevant to the research and not obtainable from other sources, equipment and consumable supplies (including any type of laboratory supplies and purchase and maintenance of experimental animals), limited travel funds and occasionally other costs. The grantee institution holds title to equipment purchased with award funds.

Postdoctoral Research Associates may be supported by this award, using the salary scale below. The current annual salary for postdoctoral associates is determined by the number of FULL years of relevant postdoctoral experience at the time of the application. Relevant experience may include research experience, internship, or residency. No departure from the established salary schedule will be allowable. Fringe benefits are not allowed on postdoctoral stipends. A biographical sketch must be included for any postdoctoral associate listed on awards.

Salary Scale for Postdoctoral Research Associates

Full Years of Relevant Postdoctoral Experience	Salary
Less than 1	$39,264
1	$41,364
2	$44,340
3	$46,092
4	$47,820
5	$49,884
6	$51,582
7 or more	$54,180

Expenses for domestic or foreign travel may be charged to a grant only when included in the application and within the amount specifically approved in the grant.

Funds from the award may not be used to pay for secretarial, purchasing, accounting, financial record keeping, laundry and maintenance services. Funds may not be used to offset any tuition or other similar fees. Office equipment, computers and supplies and books and journals may not be purchased with award funds unless specifically requested in the application and approved in the budget of the award. Dues to organizations such as federations or societies will not be allowed as charges against award funds. No funds shall be budgeted as "contingency funds" except by special arrangement with the Society.

c) **General Information:**

Indirect Costs - At a level of up to 10%, indirect costs will be paid by the Society on the direct costs of the grant except that indirect costs are not allowed in connection with funds requested or expended for: (a) patient costs, or (b) purchase, modification, or installation of equipment.

Rebudgeting - "Research Support" funds may be rebudgeted among budget categories, without prior approval from the Society. However, purchase of equipment costing more than $500 or increasing the amount budgeted for travel requires prior written approval from the Society. Rebudgeting of "Salary" funds that were originally budgeted for the awardee's salary is not allowable. Requests to the Society for supplementation of the grant award are discouraged.

Change of Institution - The transfer of an award from one institution to another along with transfer of awardee cannot be made without prior approval in writing by the Society. A new application face sheet and budget request will be required from, and must be approved by, the new institution. For research involving human subjects and/or animals, written approval from the new institution's Institutional Review Board and/or the Animal Care and Use Committee must be received prior to initiation of payment. In addition, the original institution must submit an acceptable report of expenditures and return all unexpended funds to the Society before a final transfer can be made. No interruption of financial support should be involved if the request to transfer the award is received by the Society at least 90 days prior to the anticipated date of transfer and the financial report is submitted from the original institution prior to the transfer date.

An award may not be transferred to a different individual at the original institution.

Unexpended Funds: Any unexpended funds remaining at the end of each award year may be carried over to the next year. Unexpended funds remaining at the termination of the award must be returned to the Society.

Extension of Term of Award - An awardee may request extension of the term of the award without commitment of further funds. Otherwise, funds unexpended on the termination date are to be returned to the Society. A request for an extension must include: (1) the amount of money to be carried into the extension period; (2) a statement of why the funds were not used in the original award period; (3) a statement of how the funds will be used during the extension; and (4) a report of the research progress and budget for the previous year, on forms provided by the Society.

d) **Early Termination of the Award:** Whenever an awardee or the institution elects to terminate an award on a date prior to that indicated in the letter of award, the Society must be notified immediately in writing of the action taken and of the date involved. The revocation of an award may not require return of funds previously expended. Grounds for revocation of a Weaver award will be deemed to exist: (1) if the sponsoring institution requests in writing that the award be terminated because of unsatisfactory performance of the awardee or termination of the academic appointment; (2) if the awardee requests in writing that the award be terminated for any reason; (3) if the awardee changes any aspect of the award from that which was originally approved by the Society, including the department, the institution and/or the specific aims of the research studies, without prior notification and approval by the Society; (4) if the awardee changes the focus of his/her research studies such that the work is no longer in an MS-related research area or if the progress is considered unsatisfactory after evaluation of a progress report; (5) when annual reports of progress are not received from the awardee within one month of the end of each award anniversary year; (6) if the institution fails to submit a satisfactory expenditure report; or (7) for a cause established by due process of law; or as a consequence of an institutional review committee's determination of fraud or malfeasance.

e) **Vacations:** Vacations and absences will be subject to institutional policy.

f) **Military Service:** The Society will consider reinstating an award which is interrupted by military service, provided the request is made (1) within three months of the awardee's discharge from military service, and (2) not more than three years after entering the armed forces or public health services.

g) **Maternity/Paternity Leaves:** The Society will consider an unfunded extension of term or interruption and subsequent reinstatement of an award due to maternity/paternity leave.

ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES

Annual Financial Reports: A brief account of the expenses made under both the salary and grant sections of the award must be submitted to the Society before each anniversary date during the term of an award. Any unexpended funds remaining at the end of each award year may be carried over to the next year. Forms and instructions for this report will be sent with the annual progress report by 30 days before the anniversary date of the award.

Final Financial Reports: A full account of all expenses made for a Weaver award is due within 90 days of the termination of the award. Any unexpended funds remaining at the end of the award must be returned to the Society. The form for this report will be sent with the final progress report and must be forwarded by the awardee to the financial officer of the awardee's institution. These forms are self-explanatory.

Bonded Financial Officer: The Society requires that the financial officer administering grant funds to be bonded. Unless otherwise indicated in the application, it is understood that such officials are bonded as a prerequisite to assumption of office.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Over the term of the award, the Society requires several different types of progress reports from recipients:

1) **Annual Progress Reports:** A report of research progress is due before each anniversary date during the term of the award along with a copy of the current approval letter from the IRB and/or IACUC. Approximately one month before the end of a funding cycle, the Society will email forms and detailed instructions for completing the progress report. Attached to the completed report should be reprints or pdf files of all published reports as well as preprints of submitted manuscripts, which include research results obtained under the award.

   All progress reports are considered privileged communications and their distribution is limited to the reviewing consultants and research staff of the Society.

   Award payments to the institution will be discontinued after each twelve-month period pending receipt of such reports, unless the Society receives prior notification of an acceptable reason for the delay of such reports. When such reports become overdue by three months, the Weaver award will be terminated automatically as of the date when the report was due. Grants so terminated will not be reactivated.

2) **Final Progress Report:** A final report of research progress is required within 15 days after termination of the award. This should cover the entire period of the award. Approximately one month prior to termination of award, the Society will provide forms and instructions for completing the progress report. All progress reports are considered privileged communications and their distribution is limited to the reviewing consultants and research staff of the Society.

3) **A Status Report:** The Society periodically (every 4-5 years) conducts surveys of its past awardees to assess their career output since their training. To assist the Society in keeping track of our former trainees, we request that the Society be notified of changes in their professional status, professional address, and email address.

PUBLICATIONS AND REPRINTS

The responsibility for publication lies with the awardee. The results of any work supported by an award from the Society may be published without review by the Society. Therefore, responsibility for direction of the work is not to be ascribed to the Society.

As soon as a manuscript is accepted for publication, a copy of it, with the name of the journal and the expected date of publication, should be sent by mail or FAX (212-986-7981) to the Senior Director of Research Information, Research Programs Department. These manuscripts will be treated as privileged communications. As soon as an article is published, a reprint or pdf file should be sent to the Senior Director of Research Information, Research Programs Department. In addition, if a press release from the institution is being prepared for distribution, a confidential copy of the press release should be FAXed in advance to the Society's Senior Director of Research Information.

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society must be acknowledged in all dissemination materials (e.g., publications, scientific exhibits, scientific presentations, press releases, etc.) related to research supported in full or in part by the Society. The following acknowledgment, or its equivalent, should be used:

Harry Weaver Neuroscience Scholar of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society
and
"This investigation was supported (in part) by an award from the
National Multiple Sclerosis Society."