Request for Proposals (RFP)
Hemostasis and Thrombosis Research Society (HTRS)
2017 HTRS Mentored Research Award (MRA) Program

- 2017 MRA Pre-proposals are due Wednesday, June 15, 2016 by 6:00 p.m. ET
- 2017 MRA Full Proposals (by invitation only) are due Monday, October 31, 2016 by 6:00 p.m. ET

About the 2017 HTRS Mentored Research Award Program

The 2017 HTRS Mentored Research Award (MRA) Program provides financial support for qualified fellows or junior attending/junior faculty to pursue clinical or basic science research in hemostasis and/or thrombosis under the guidance of an experienced mentor.

The goals of the HTRS MRA Program are to:

- Combat the shortage of skilled hematologists in North America by providing funding, mentorship, and career development support to early stage physician scientists pursuing academic research careers in benign hematology (or areas of medicine with a major component of benign hematology).

- Advance the science underlying the clinical management of hemostasis and thrombosis disorders by supporting new research to improve the health and well being of people living with these disorders.

The grant period for research projects funded through the 2017 MRA Program is two academic years, from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019. (The administrative program cycle for the 2017 MRA Program is July 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019.) The maximum MRA for 2017 is U.S. $162,000 ($81,000 per year for two years). This includes a maximum of $150,000 for research project costs ($75,000 per year) plus an additional maximum of $12,000 (8% of $150,000 or $6,000 per year) for recipient institution program management fees or indirect costs.
HTRS reserves the right to determine the number and category of grants awarded through the 2017 MRA Program (i.e. hemostasis vs. thrombosis, basic science vs. clinical) based on the number and quality of submitted proposals, the availability of grant funding to HTRS, and/or restrictions imposed by MRA Program supporters. Application for a 2017 HTRS MRA is a two-step process:

**Step 1: Pre-proposal Submission**

Applicants are required to submit a pre-proposal to be reviewed by the HTRS Scientific Review Committee. The deadline to submit 2017 MRA pre-proposals is **Wednesday, June 15, 2016 by 6:00 p.m. ET**. For complete pre-proposal preparation and submission instructions, see page 9 of this RFP.

Applicants whose pre-proposals are favorably reviewed will be invited to submit full proposals on or before **Monday, October 31, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. ET**. (See Step 2: Full Proposal Submission, below, for more information.)

Please be aware that invitations to submit full proposals will not be distributed until approximately three months following the pre-proposal submission deadline (in the third week in September) to allow adequate time for the pre-proposal review process over the summer months.

**Step 2: Full Proposal Submission (Invited Applicants Only)**

Applicants whose pre-proposals are favorably reviewed will be invited to submit full proposals on or before **Monday, October 31, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. ET**. For complete full proposal preparation and submission instructions, see page 11 of this RFP. (Please note that this deadline may be readjusted due to reviewers’ schedules; in this case, full proposal applicants will receive notification of the new due date via email.)

**Applicant Eligibility Requirements**

Eligible applicants must hold an MD or DO and be either:

a. **A fellow:**
   a. In training for a career in hemostasis and/or thrombosis
   OR
   b. In training for a career that will have a substantial component of, or overlap with, the disciplines of hemostasis and/or thrombosis

OR

b. **A junior attending or junior faculty:**
   a. Within seven years of completing training for a career in hemostasis and/or thrombosis as of July 1, 2017
   OR
   b. Within seven years of completing training for a career that will have a substantial component of, or overlap with, the disciplines of hemostasis and/or thrombosis as of July 1, 2017

Exceptions to the seven year requirement may be made for applicants who provide a legitimate explanation for being more than seven years out of fellowship, such as taking time off to raise children or the decision to move from another area of medicine to benign hematology). Applicants
who believe they may be exempt from the seven year requirement should email an explanation to htrs@bcw.edu so that a determination may be made as to eligibility before time is spent preparing a pre-proposal.

**Additional Applicant Eligibility Requirements**

- Fellows/trainees are eligible for free membership for the duration of their fellowship and are required to activate their free membership at www.htrs.org no later than the pre-proposal deadline of **Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. ET** in order to be eligible for an award. Applicants who are junior faculty/junior attending are strongly encouraged (but not required) to become HTRS members prior to submitting an MRA pre-proposal.
- Fellows must be enrolled in accredited fellowship training programs in the United States or Canada. **Note to Canadian applicants**: Due to restrictions imposed by U.S. pharmaceutical companies supporting the MRA, HTRS may not be at liberty to fund Canadian fellows or junior attending/junior faculty in 2017. Interested Canadian applicants should email HTRS at htrs@bcw.edu prior to taking the time to submit a pre-proposal in order to inquire if they are eligible for funding.
- Junior attending/junior faculty applicants must hold a faculty position in a U.S. (or Canadian, if applicable) academic institution.
- Only applicants and mentors associated with non-commercial institutions are eligible. Applicants must declare their intent to pursue an academic career in hemostasis and/or thrombosis or an academic career that will have a substantial component of, or overlap with, the disciplines of hemostasis and/or thrombosis.
- U.S. or Canadian citizenship is not required, but awardees must work in the U.S. or Canada for the duration of the grant period.
- Awardees may be enrolled in a higher degree program during the tenure of the MRA as long as they demonstrate that they have sufficient time to conduct the research program proposed in their application. (Awardees are expected to devote at least half of their total time to research or research-related activities, and no less than 50% of their protected research time to the HTRS MRA project.
- Previous HTRS MRA or THSNA (Thrombosis and Hemostasis Societies of North America) MRA recipients are not eligible to apply.
- Applicants for any of the 2017 THSNA MRAs who meet the eligibility requirements may submit a pre-proposal for the 2017 HTRS MRA with the same institution/laboratory and the same mentor used for their THSNA MRA application; however, the project must be a different project with a different topic, aims, and methods.

**Mentor Eligibility Requirements and Letters of Support**

Applicants are required to select a primary mentor who is an experienced researcher (MD, DO, and/or PhD) in hemostasis and/or thrombosis. Mentors must agree to supervise the applicant and accept the conditions of the award. It is preferred that the applicant’s primary mentor be present at the same institution where the applicant proposes to do the majority of the proposed research.
The primary mentor must:

1. Work in hemostasis and/or thrombosis (i.e. directly involved in clinical and/or basic science research pertaining to patients with bleeding and/or thrombotic disorders)
   OR
2. Work in another area of medicine that has a substantial component of, or overlap with, hemostasis and/or thrombosis
   AND
3. Agree to become an HTRS member for the duration of the grant period if not a member already. The mentor must submit a membership application at www.htrs.org no later than the pre-proposal deadline of Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. ET.

In addition to securing a primary mentor with the above credentials, applicants may also select a co-mentor who provides additional medical or scientific expertise. Co-mentors are not required to be HTRS members and may be MDs, DOs, or PhDs. Applicants are not required to secure a co-mentor to be eligible for an award.

If the applicant is invited to submit a full proposal, formal letters of support are required from the primary mentor and the co-mentor (if applicable), as well as from the appropriate institutional official (department chair or division chief) indicating institutional commitment of sufficient time to permit the applicant to conduct the research. HTRS believes that young investigators need a substantial amount of protected time for research in order to have a quality learning experience and ensure project outcomes. Therefore, it is expected that HTRS MRA recipients shall devote at least half of their total time to research or research-related activities, and no less than 50% of their protected research time to the HTRS MRA project.

Project Eligibility Requirements

Eligible research projects should involve a substantial component of hemostasis and/or thrombosis. Examples include, but are not limited to, the study of hemophilia, deep vein thrombosis (DVT), or coagulation in sickle cell disease.

Eligible research projects include:

1. **Clinical projects**, including, for example, epidemiological or translational studies with or without a secondary component of laboratory work
   OR
2. **Basic science/laboratory projects**, including, for example, molecular biology, physiology, pharmacology, or translational studies where the primary emphasis is a laboratory component

Available Funding

The maximum MRA for 2017 is U.S. $162,000 ($81,000 per year for two years). This includes a maximum of $150,000 for research project costs ($75,000 per year) plus an additional maximum of $12,000 (8% of $150,000 or $6,000 per year) for recipient institution program management fees or indirect costs. (See below under Use of MRA Funds, 1st and 3rd bullets, regarding fringe benefits and institution program management fees/indirect costs.) An applicant’s two-year MRA project budget, including program management fees/indirect costs of up to $12,000, may not exceed and should be as close as possible to a grand total of U.S. $162,000.
Funding will be distributed in three payments: the first payment after the signing of the Grant Agreement contract, the second payment contingent upon the acceptance by HTRS of a formal Progress Report describing research conducted during the first year of the award, and the third payment contingent upon the acceptance of the Final Report after completion of the entire grant period. Instructions about required reports are communicated to successful applicants in award notification letters and/or Grant Agreement contracts.

MRAs are funded by medical education grants to HTRS from the U.S. pharmaceutical industry. Successful applicants are required to acknowledge the support of both HTRS and their award’s industry supporter in publications and presentations. Specific instructions for supporter acknowledgment are communicated to awardees in their award notification letters and/or Grant Agreement contracts.

HTRS reserves the right to postpone decisions regarding the 2017 MRA Program and/or cancel any or all 2017 MRAs prior to announcing awards based on the status of HTRS fundraising for the program.

Use of MRA Funds

MRA funds must be used to support costs associated with the proposed research projects, including, but not limited to:

- Full or partial support for salary and fringe benefits for the awardee or other key project personnel. Please note: Some MRA supporters will not cover fringe benefits in approved MRA budgets. Even so, HTRS asks all applicants to prepare their initial full proposal budgets to include fringe benefits. If an applicant is subsequently awarded an MRA from a supporter who will not cover fringe benefits, the awardee will then be asked for a revised project budget prior to the signing of the formal Grant Agreement.
- Equipment and supplies necessary to conduct the research project
- Program management fees (including lab or facility fees) or indirect costs as required by the recipient institution. The line item for these fees may not exceed $12,000 over two years (or $6,000 per year). An applicant’s two-year MRA project budget, including program management fees/indirect costs of up to $12,000, may not exceed and should be as close as possible to a grand total of U.S. $162,000. Please note: Some MRA supporters will not cover program management fees/indirect costs in approved MRA budgets. Even so, HTRS asks all applicants to prepare their initial full proposal budgets to include these costs. If an applicant is subsequently awarded an MRA from a supporter who will not cover program management fees/indirect costs, the awardee will then be asked for a revised project budget prior to the signing of the formal Grant Agreement.
- Registration, travel, and lodging fees for the awardee to attend a well-recognized national or international professional meeting during the duration of their project or in the year immediately following the project period to present the progress or results of their MRA-funded research. (MRA funds may not be used to cover registration, travel, or lodging expenses to attend professional meetings outside of the above mentioned meeting, unless specifically approved by HTRS in advance as essential to the awardee’s project outcome.)
Current and Pending Support Requirements

Invited MRA full proposal applicants must report all current and pending funding sources for their proposed projects in their full proposal narratives and budgets. Applicants are encouraged to apply to their institutional Office of Sponsored Research (OSR) for supplemental funds and support. However, in the event that additional funding becomes available to cover salary support or other research costs, applicants will be asked to provide documentation to HTRS that expenses supported by the MRA Program do not overlap. If the new funding covers all or substantially all of the costs of the project, any MRA grant funds that remain unused must be returned to HTRS. Specific details of this requirement are included in the Grant Agreement contract.

Statistical Support Requirements

All applicants are required to identify resources for obtaining statistical support for their research study design and implementation in their pre-proposals. Applicants without access to institutional or other local statistical support adequate for the project and/or within his/her project budget are strongly encouraged to request complimentary support from HTRS to develop their research study design and statistical plan, which is required for the full proposal. Such applicants must include the request and the detailed reasons for the request in their pre-proposals. Acceptable reasons include lack of institutional or other local statistical support adequate for the project and/or costs for such support are beyond project budget constraints, adding an undue burden.

If statistical support is requested from HTRS and the pre-proposal is favorably reviewed, a statistical consultant from Rho, Inc. will contact the applicant directly to assist in the preparation of their full proposal. Rho, Inc. (www.rhoworld.com/) was founded in 1984 to provide services in the design and conduct of research studies, processing and management of project data, and the statistical analysis and reporting of study results. Rho has one of the most highly educated biostatistics departments in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. With university origins and continuing academic ties, Rho’s biostatisticians are extensively trained in advanced methods of statistical analysis. Past MRA applicants have indicated that services provided by Rho, Inc. were of very high quality.

HTRS believes that introducing young investigators to a structured process for approaching statistical planning will better prepare them to carry their research forward to additional competitive funding (e.g. NIH) and help them develop other project plans and grant applications in the future. Rho, Inc. services to applicants include guidance for: establishing study goals and objectives/hypotheses, identifying appropriate study design (clinical trial, epidemiologic, cross-sectional, longitudinal, single center, multi-center); deciding on the type and amount of data to collect; determining appropriate sample size; and methods for analyzing data and reporting results.

Presentation Requirements for MRA Awardees

Awardees are required to make a good faith effort during the duration of the project or in the year immediately following the grant period to present information about the project’s research progress or outcomes at a well-recognized national or international professional meeting. The awardee is encouraged to select the HTRS Scientific Symposium as the meeting of choice to fulfill this requirement, with the Thrombosis and Hemostasis Societies of North America (THSNA) Summit as a second choice. Funds to support conference registration fees, travel, and lodging for this meeting should be figured into the total MRA grant budget. Instructions for acknowledging HTRS and the grant’s industry supporter in any presentations will be included in the successful applicant’s notification letter and/or Grant Agreement contract.
Other Conditions and Responsibilities

Submission of a 2017 MRA pre-proposal and invited full proposal implies acceptance of the following conditions by the applicant, the recipient institution, and mentor and co-mentor:

1. **Focus of the MRA Award.** The principal focus of the MRA is to enable the successful applicant to further his/her experience in performing clinical or basic science research in hematology and/or thrombosis. HTRS believes that young investigators need a substantial amount of protected time for research in order to have a quality learning experience and ensure project outcomes. Therefore, it is expected that HTRS MRA recipients shall devote at least half of their total time to research or research-related activities, and no less than 50% of their protected research time to the HTRS MRA project.

2. **Required Grant Agreement.** Upon notification of an MRA award, awardees are responsible for providing HTRS with the name and contact information of the appropriate financial or legal representative at the recipient institution who should receive the Grant Agreement contract. The awardee, his/her primary mentor and co-mentor, the recipient institution’s representative, and an HTRS representative are required to sign a Grant Agreement contract prepared by HTRS before award funds are dispersed.

3. **Change in Status.** The awardee is responsible for providing HTRS with written notice of any change in status related to their project or career path at any time during the course of the project period. Change in status notification letters are subject to review and approval by HTRS. While most change requests are negotiable, it should be noted that a change in career direction from an academic research institution to commercial industry, for example, is not permitted per MRA eligibility requirements and will result in the awardee returning the balance of his/her MRA funding to HTRS. The exact conditions and instructions for submitting a change in status report are outlined in the Grant Agreement contract.

4. **Award Administration.** The day-to-day administration of MRA award funds is the responsibility of the recipient institution’s Office of Sponsored Research (OSR) or hospital research department. As such, the recipient institution issues award funds as outlined in the approved project budget according to its own procedures and payment schedules. Funds are not sent to awardees directly.

5. **Rights of Human Subjects and Required IRB Approval Letter.** The recipient institution is responsible for protecting the rights and welfare of all human subjects participating in the MRA-funded research activity. Awardees requesting MRA funds for research involving human subjects are required to submit written evidence of Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval to HTRS before funding can be awarded and supply HTRS with written documentation of continuing IRB review and approval annually thereafter during the grant period. Written evidence of IRB approval will be appended to the fully executed Grant Agreement contract.

6. **Animal Studies and Required Certification Letter.** Awardees whose research projects involve animal studies must provide written certification to HTRS stating that their recipient institution agrees to adhere to the Animal Welfare Act, the National Research Council Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, the standards for laboratories established by the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International, and any other appropriate U.S. Department of Agriculture or National Institutes of Health regulations and standards related to animal studies. Written certification of compliance will be appended to the fully executed Grant Agreement contract.
7. **Acknowledgment of HTRS and Pharmaceutical Company Support**: Any publications, abstracts/posters, or presentations resulting from the awardee’s MRA-funded research must acknowledge both the support of HTRS and the appropriate pharmaceutical industry supporter as outlined in the applicant’s award notification letter and/or the fully executed Grant Agreement contract. Awardees are required to provide HTRS with a copy of any publications, abstracts, or presentations resulting from their MRA-funded research during and after the grant period with the appropriate acknowledgments listed.

8. **Required Reports**. Per the fully executed Grant Agreement contract, awardees are required to submit two formal reports using templates provided by HTRS: 1) a Progress Report after the first year of MRA-funded research, and 2) a Final Report within three months of the completion of the grant period. HTRS is required to share these reports with pharmaceutical company supporters. As such, awardees should prepare their reports to include supporter acknowledgment as outlined in their Grant Agreement contracts. Required reports must also include a list of any publications, abstracts/posters or presentations resulting from the MRA-funded research, with copies of publications, abstracts or presentations appended. Awardees accept primary responsibility for understanding when reports are due and for following submission instructions provided by HTRS.

   a. **Progress Report**: This report consists of two parts: a narrative report of progress made during the first year of MRA-funded research and a financial report outlining first year expenses as prepared by the recipient institution’s OSR or hospital research department. Both reports must be submitted using the required templates provided by HTRS and provided to the awardee and recipient institution upon full execution of the Grant Agreement contract. The second payment of the Grant is contingent upon: 1) satisfactory progress having been made during the first year, as determined by HTRS, per the hypotheses and aims outlined in the original application, and 2) acceptance by HTRS of first year expenses as submitted by the recipient institution’s OSR or hospital research department, compared to the approved project budget. Unless other arrangements are made in advance, HTRS reserves the right to delay or withhold the second payment if: 1) the Progress Report is not submitted by the deadline listed in the Grant Agreement contract, or 2) evidence of satisfactory progress has not been made.

   b. **Final Report**: This report consists of two parts: a narrative report of progress made over the entire grant period and a financial report outlining expenses incurred during the entire grant period. Both reports must be submitted using the required templates provided by HTRS and provided to the awardee and recipient institution upon full execution of the Grant Agreement contract. The third and final payment of the Grant is contingent upon: 1) satisfactory progress having been made during the tenure of the grant as determined by HTRS, per the hypotheses and aims outlined in the original application; and 2) acceptance by HTRS of project expenses submitted by the recipient institution’s OSR or hospital research department, as compared to the most current approved version of the project budget. Unless other arrangements are made in advance, HTRS reserves the right to delay or withhold funds for the third and final payment if: 1) the Final Report is not submitted by the deadline listed in the Grant Agreement contract, or 2) evidence of satisfactory progress has not been made.
Preparing a Pre-proposal

Pre-proposals are a required first step in the MRA submission process. Applicants are required to follow all formatting instructions and incorporate both the application form and the pre-proposal narrative (described below) into one PDF document and submit it to htrs@bcw.edu on or before Wednesday, June 15, 2016 by 6:00 p.m. ET.

Components of a Complete Pre-proposal

1. Application Form

Applicants are required to complete the Application Form available in writable PDF format at www.htrs.org. Applications that do not include this required form will not be reviewed.

2. Pre-proposal Narrative (3 pages maximum, excluding references)

Although every effort is made to match reviewers’ expertise to the type of proposal submitted, please prepare your narrative with the assumption that a general hematologist may review your application (as opposed to a specialist in basic or laboratory science, for example).

The three-page narrative should address the following points. Reviewers will use these points as guidelines to assess: 1) the overall quality of the proposed project, and 2) the potential of the project to further the applicant’s career in hemostasis and/or thrombosis.

   a. Statement of a sincere commitment to an academic career in benign hematology and the relevance of the proposed research to the applicant’s stated career goals. Applicants who are not training or working primarily as hematologists, but whose careers in other disciplines have a substantial component of, or overlap with, the disciplines of hemostasis and/or thrombosis (e.g. obstetricians/gynecologists) should describe not only the relevance of the proposed research to their career, but also how the disciplines of hemostasis and/or thrombosis overlap with, and have substantial relevance to, their career.

   b. Brief description of the primary mentor and co-mentor’s qualifications and the appropriateness of the research environment. A clear explanation of the applicant’s role vs. the role of the primary mentor and co-mentor in the research concept, design, and implementation. If relevant, specify the specific parts of the project to be carried out by the applicant as opposed to the primary mentor and co-mentor.

   c. Significance and relevance of the project. Potential of the project to generate new knowledge and lead to further funding opportunities and additional research projects.

   d. Rationale and aims/objectives of the proposed research.

   e. The research plan. Please provide a clear description of how research will proceed.

   f. Statistical plan and/or considerations. Statistical considerations and feasibility for the project must be addressed in the pre-proposal, if only preliminarily. If applicable, preliminary data should be included.

   g. Plan for obtaining statistical support. All applicants are required to identify resources for obtaining statistical support for their research study design and implementation in their pre-proposals. Applicants without access to institutional or other local statistical support adequate for the project and/or within his/her project budget are strongly encouraged to request complimentary support from HTRS to develop their research study design and statistical plan, which is required for the full
proposal. Such applicants must include the request and the detailed reasons for the request in their pre-proposals. Acceptable reasons include lack of institutional or other local statistical support adequate for the project (please explain why) and/or costs for such support are beyond project budget constraints, adding an undue burden. (If statistical support is requested from HTRS and the pre-proposal is favorably reviewed, a statistical consultant from Rho, Inc. will contact the applicant directly to assist in the preparation of their full proposal.)

Pre-proposal Formatting Instructions for the Narrative

If the applicant has questions related to the formatting instructions below, please contact HTRS at htrs@bcw.edu no later than Wednesday, June 8, 2016 by 6:00 p.m. ET, one week in advance of the pre-proposal deadline. Submitted pre-proposals will be deemed ineligible if instructions are not followed.

1. Limit the pre-proposal narrative to a maximum of three pages, excluding references.
2. Pre-proposal narrative references:
   a. May be listed separately from the narrative but should not exceed two additional pages
   b. Must be relevant
   c. Must be listed in the order in which they appear in the pre-proposal
   d. Must list more than just the first author
   e. Must have applicant’s name bolded and mentors’ names underscored
3. Use a basic font such as Times New Roman (no less than 11 points) and 1-inch page margins for the narrative and references.
4. Single or double spacing is acceptable.
5. Only generic names of products/services are allowed; names of brand names and specific companies should not be used.

Pre-proposal Review

Pre-proposals submitted on or before Wednesday, June 15, 2016 by 6:00 p.m. ET will be reviewed by the HTRS Scientific Review Committee. Although every effort is made to match reviewers’ expertise to the type of proposal submitted, please prepare your pre-proposal with the assumption that a general hematologist may review your application (as opposed to a specialist in basic or laboratory science, for example). Any reviewer with a direct conflict of interest (such as serving as a current mentor or co-mentor to one of the applicants) is recused from the entire review process. Any reviewer with an indirect conflict of interest (such as a close personal or professional relationship with any applicant, or previous involvement in any applicant’s proposed project) is recused from reviewing the specific application in question.

The HTRS Scientific Review Committee performs the best possible pre-proposal review based on data submitted by each applicant. The Committee’s goal is to invite only the most competitive pre-proposals to the full proposal round to be considered for the limited pool of MRA grant funding.

Pre-proposal Review Timeline

The HTRS Scientific Review Committee completes a thorough review of all submitted pre-proposals. If the pre-proposal is favorably reviewed by the Committee, the applicant will be informed within approximately three months from the pre-proposal submission deadline (in the third week in September) that a full proposal is requested to allow adequate time for the pre-proposal review process over the summer months.)
Preparing a Full Proposal

Applicants are invited to submit full proposals by the HTRS Scientific Review Committee as a result of successful pre-proposal submission and review. Invited applicants are required to follow all formatting instructions and incorporate all components of the full proposal (described below) into one PDF document and submit it to htrs@bcw.edu on or before Monday, October 31, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. ET.

Please note that this deadline may be readjusted due to reviewers’ schedules; in this case, full proposal applicants will receive notification of the new due date via email.

Components of Complete Full Proposal

1. Application Form

Invited full proposal applicants are required to update and re-submit their pre-proposal Application Form as part of their full proposal. Applicants should be sure to update the application date on the bottom of the form before re-submitting. (If you no longer have access to your previously submitted Application Form, please request a blank form from htrs@bcw.edu.) Applications that do not include this required form will not be reviewed.

2. Career Goals Statement (2 pages maximum)

The Career Goals Statement should address the following points. Reviewers will use these points as guidelines to assess: 1) the ability of the applicant to conduct the proposed research, and 2) the potential of the applicant to build a successful career in hemostasis and/or thrombosis.

   a. Statement of a sincere commitment to an academic career in hemostasis and/or thrombosis and/or an academic career with a major component of, or overlap with, hemostasis and/or thrombosis
   b. Description of the applicant’s background and preparation for the proposed research
   c. Future career plans and the relevance of the proposed research to stated career goals. Applicants who are not in training or working primarily as hematologists, but whose careers are in other disciplines that have a substantial component of, or overlap with the disciplines of hemostasis and/or thrombosis (e.g. obstetricians/gynecologists), must include not only the relevance of their proposed research to their career, but also how the disciplines of hemostasis and/or thrombosis overlap with, and have substantial relevance to, their career.

3. Project Narrative (10 pages maximum, excluding references)

Although every effort is made to match reviewers’ expertise to the type of proposal submitted, please prepare your narrative with the assumption that a general hematologist may review your application (as opposed to a specialist in basic or laboratory science, for example).

The Project Narrative should address the following points. Reviewers will use these points as guidelines to assess the full proposal narrative.

   a. A brief description of the qualifications of the mentor, co-mentor, and the research environment as they pertain to the project.
b. A clear explanation of the applicant’s role vs. the role of the primary mentor and co-mentor in the research concept, design, and implementation of the study. If relevant, specify the specific parts of the project to be carried out by the applicant as opposed to the primary mentor and/or co-mentor.

c. Significance and relevance of the project, including the potential of the project to generate new knowledge and lead to further funding opportunities and additional research projects.

d. A clear statement of the hypothesis and specific aims/objectives for the proposed research, including a description of how those aims/objectives will be reached.

e. Experimental design and methodology, including potential limitations and a description of future studies to be pursued if specific aims are accomplished. The project design should be appropriate to test proposed hypotheses. Project methods should support proposed aims.

f. Statistical plan and feasibility analysis, with patient or sample numbers and statistical methods identified. Preliminary data, if any, should be included. A plan for obtaining statistical support if the applicant is selected for the MRA should also be addressed.

g. If the research proposal requires additional funds, the narrative should describe the source of this funding (obtained or applied for) and should include a brief discussion of alternatives if funding is not secured.

h. Human subject or animal protections should be appropriately described, if applicable.

4. Project Budget

The following expenses are permitted by HTRS as part of the project budget, which may not exceed (and should preferably be equal to) a total of $162,000. Full proposal applicants are required to use the budget template provided by HTRS. Please provide a narrative explanation of each line item requested.

a. Salary and fringe benefits for the awardee proportional to his/her percent effort on the project. Please note: Some MRA supporters will not cover fringe benefits in approved MRA budgets. Even so, HTRS asks all applicants to prepare their initial full proposal budgets to include fringe benefits. If an applicant is subsequently awarded an MRA from a supporter who will not cover fringe benefits, the awardee will then be asked for a revised project budget prior to the signing of the formal Grant Agreement.

b. Salary and fringe benefits for key personnel required to implement the research project. Please note: Some MRA supporters will not cover fringe benefits in approved MRA budgets. Even so, HTRS asks all applicants to prepare their initial full proposal budgets to include fringe benefits. If an applicant is subsequently awarded an MRA from a supporter who will not cover fringe benefits, the awardee will then be asked for a revised project budget prior to the signing of the formal Grant Agreement.

c. Equipment and supplies necessary to fulfill the project’s specific aims

d. Program management fees or indirect costs for the recipient institution. Program management fees may include lab or facility fees or costs associated with the recipient institution’s management/administration of the grant such as staff time, which should be explained in detail (e.g. 150 hours x $80/hour = $12,000). If the recipient institution has a federally approved indirect cost rate, this may be applied, but should be briefly explained. Program management fees/indirect costs for the entire project budget may not exceed $12,000, or $6,000 per year, and must be included as part of the complete $162,000 project budget. Please do not add an additional $12,000 for project management/indirect costs on top of the $162,000 maximum, as this will exceed the amount permissible for MRA project budgets. Please note: Some MRA supporters will not cover program management fees/indirect costs in approved MRA budgets. Even so, HTRS asks all applicants to prepare their initial full proposal budgets to include these costs. If an applicant is subsequently awarded an MRA from a supporter who will not cover program management fees/indirect costs, the awardee will then be asked for a revised project budget prior to the signing of the formal Grant Agreement.
e. Travel expenses directly related to presenting MRA-funded research or implementing the proposed research. Successful applicants are required to make a good faith effort to present their research findings at a well-recognized national or international professional meeting during the duration of their project or in the year immediately following the project period. Conference registration, travel, and lodging fees should be written into the project budget for this purpose.

f. Patient care costs if required for the study and not covered by third-party payments

g. Human subjects payments

h. Consultant costs for statistical or data management support

5. **Letter of support from the proposed primary mentor and the co-mentor (if applicable),** addressed to the HTRS Scientific Review Committee, outlining:

   a. The strengths of the applicant and any challenges that the applicant may face as an MRA awardee
   b. The research facilities and resources available to the applicant
   c. The proportion of time the applicant will spend on research, in light of course work, clinical duties, and any teaching responsibilities. (Awardees are expected to devote at least half of their total time to research or research-related activities, and no less than 50% of their protected research time to the HTRS MRA project.)
   d. A clear explanation of the applicant’s role vs. the primary mentor and co-mentor’s roles in the research project’s concept, design, and implementation. If relevant, specify the specific parts of the project to be carried out by the applicant, as opposed to the primary mentor and co-mentor
   e. The nature of the week-to-week interactions between the applicant and the primary mentor/co-mentor

6. **Letter of support** addressed to the HTRS Scientific Review Committee, from the current department chairperson or division chief supporting the applicant’s potential and committing institutional support for the project

7. A copy of the **applicant’s current NIH Biosketch**

8. A copy of the **current NIH Biosketch** for the primary mentor and co-mentor (if applicable)

### Full Proposal Formatting Instructions for the Career Goals Statement and Project Narrative

If the applicant has questions related to the formatting instructions below, please contact HTRS at htrs@bcw.edu no later than **Monday, October 24, 2016 by 6:00 p.m. ET**, one week in advance of the full proposal deadline. **Submitted full proposals will be deemed ineligible if instructions are not followed.**

1. Limit the careers goals statement to a maximum of two pages.
2. Limit the project narrative to a maximum of ten pages, excluding references.
3. Project narrative references:
   a. May be listed separately from the narrative but should not exceed two additional pages
   b. Must be relevant
   c. Must be listed in the order in which they appear in the full proposal
   d. Must list more than just the first author
   e. Must have applicant’s name bolded and mentors’ names underscored
4. Use a basic font such as Times New Roman (no less than 11 points) and 1-inch page margins for the career goals statement, narrative and references.
5. Single or double spacing is acceptable.
6. Only generic names of products/services are allowed; names of brand names and specific companies should not be used.
Full Proposal Review Process

Invited full proposals submitted on or before Monday, October 31, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. ET will be reviewed by the HTRS Scientific Review Committee. Although every effort is made to match reviewers’ expertise to the type of proposal submitted, please prepare your full proposal with the assumption that a general hematologist may review your application (as opposed to a specialist in basic or laboratory science, for example). Any reviewer with a direct conflict of interest (such as serving as a current mentor or co-mentor to one of the applicants) is recused from the entire review process. Any reviewer with an indirect conflict of interest (such as a close personal or professional relationship with any applicant, or previous involvement in any applicant’s proposed project) is recused from reviewing the specific application in question.

The HTRS Scientific Review Committee performs the best possible full proposal review based on data submitted by each applicant. The Committee's goal is to select the most competitive proposals for funding. HTRS regrets that due to the limited funding available, we are unable to award grants to all applicants.

Final funding approval is granted by the HTRS Board of Directors.

Announcement of Awardees

The announcement of 2017 HTRS MRA awardees will be made no later than January 2017 for grant projects beginning on July 1, 2017 and running through June 30, 2019. (The administrative program cycle for the 2017 MRA Program is July 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019.) Award funds will be disbursed within 30 days of the date of execution of the legal Grant Agreement contract between HTRS and the recipient institution.

Questions

Questions about the HTRS MRA Program should be directed to HTRS at htrs@bcw.edu or (414) 937-6569.