

To: Oregon Academic Department Chairs/Institute Directors/Mentors

Date: May 1, 2012

Re: Medical Research Foundation Letters of Support for an Early Clinical Investigator Grant

The Medical Research Foundation (MRF) awards grants specifically to support research in Oregon. Early Clinical Investigator (ECI) awards are intended to further the development of young investigators who interact with human subjects and who are interested in a career in clinical research. Clinical research is defined as research conducted with human subjects or on material of human origin such as tissues, specimens and/or clinical, cognitive, or behavioral data. Research on animal models will be considered only if there is obvious relevance to human health/disease and the animal studies have a high probability of leading to research on human subjects or specimens.

The principal investigator must be a post-doctoral trainee or fellow with specific plans for a career in clinical research.

The letter of support from the department chair/institute director that accompanies an ECI MRF grant application is essential and should comment on the commitment of the department/division and the training program to the applicant's plans for the development of a career in human investigation and on the availability of time to perform the proposed project. The letter should also discuss any additional support for the applicant, such as core research facilities, laboratory space, etc. This letter should be sent separately from the application to [mrfsupport@ohsu.edu](mailto:mrfsupport@ohsu.edu) by the appropriate submission deadline.

The letter of support from the mentor should comment on the applicant's qualifications and career plans. The mentor should address his or her track record as a mentor, current funding and the research facilities available to the applicant. The mentor should also describe in some detail the proposed training program. The mentor should also complete and submit the ECI Mentor Form. Both documents should be sent separately from the application to [mrfsupport@ohsu.edu](mailto:mrfsupport@ohsu.edu) by the appropriate submission deadline.

For general questions about the MRF or application process, please contact [mrfsupport@ohsu.edu](mailto:mrfsupport@ohsu.edu).