Fellowship Incentive Program for SoM Graduate Students

Overview
The Oregon Health & Science University Office of Graduate Studies in the School of Medicine is piloting a one year program designed to encourage graduate students to develop and submit competitive applications for individual fellowships. The Fellowship Incentive Program aims to recognize the work students put into the application process and encourage more students to apply for these prestigious opportunities.

Rationale and Goal
The ability to write successful grant proposals is an important skill for success in many careers – it demonstrates logical thinking, clear writing, understanding of a manageable scope of work, and helps students articulate their personal and professional goals. Although OHSU students have received fellowships from a variety of programs including the NSF GRFP, NIH NRSA, and the American Heart Association, many graduate students who are eligible and competitive for fellowships do not apply. We are piloting an incentive plan to encourage students to submit individual fellowships, in the hopes that 1) more graduate students will engage in the fellowship application process, gaining valuable professional skills in the process; and 2) create a culture of application that encourages more graduate students to apply to fellowship programs. As part of the pilot program, information regarding skill development and tracking of outcomes will be collected. These data will be used to assess whether to implement a permanent Fellowship Incentive Program for students in the School of Medicine.

Program Description
The Office of Graduate Studies will provide a monetary incentive for students to apply for individual fellowships funded by extramural agencies or foundations. Graduate students who apply for an individual fellowship (e.g. NSF Individual, NIH NRSA, or other programs that meet requirements outlined below) will be awarded $300. To qualify for this award, the application must be reviewed prior to submission by the student’s program director, who must provide a written letter of support to the Assistant Dean testifying that the application is considered to be competitive. After submission of the grant application, the student will provide a PDF of the application and other supporting documents to graduate studies office. The incentive reward will be authorized when the student provides evidence that the application has been received by the granting agency. The $300 may be awarded only once per student. A total of 40 awards are available during the pilot FY 17 fiscal year.

Additional Academic Support
To support successful applications, the Office of Graduate Studies will provide the following workshops and clinics:
- NSF GRFP Bootcamp (scheduled, Fall 2016)
- NRSA Bootcamp (scheduled, Fall 2016)
- Proposal Review Clinic (to be offered in the Winter and Spring)
Eligibility & Process
This plan is available to students in any graduate program discipline in which extramural individual fellowship funding is available. To be eligible, the student must 1) be enrolled in a graduate program within the SoM, and 2) be in good academic standing. Students may only receive one incentive per year.

Eligible fellowship programs must 1) be rigorously reviewed, 2) provide a stipend that is equal to or greater than the NIH PhD stipend level for at least one year, and 3) be external to OHSU (i.e. not an internal T32 training grant).

To receive the incentive the following materials are required:
- A letter from the student’s program director verifying that the director has reviewed the application, confirms that it is well written, and believes that it is competitive.
- Documentation that the fellowship stipend is equal to or greater than the NIH PhD stipend level.
- A PDF of the complete application.
- Verification of receipt of the application by the funding agency (submission confirmation email or a screen shot of successfully submitted application page).

Materials must be submitted to Jackie Wirz (wirzj@ohsu.edu) before June 30th, 2017.

Successful incentive recipients will be required to provide an anonymized copy of their fellowship to the Career and Professional Development Center and participate in a fellowship boot camp or proposal review clinic in future years.

Questions
For questions concerning the program, eligible fellowships, or other matters, please contact Jackie Wirz at wirzj@ohsu.edu