Call for Nominations for the Office of Disease Prevention Early-Stage Investigator Award

Deadline for Submissions: November 15, 2016

Winner Notified: January 15, 2017

The Office of Disease Prevention (ODP) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) invites submissions for the ODP Early-Stage Investigator Award. This inaugural award will recognize early-career prevention scientists who have not competed successfully for a substantial NIH-supported research project, but who have already made substantial, outstanding research contributions to their respective fields and are poised to become future leaders in prevention research.

At the time of the submission due date, the candidate must meet NIH’s definition of an early-stage investigator, including not having previously competed successfully for a substantial NIH-supported research project and being within ten years of completing a terminal research degree. Federal government employees, including fellows and contractors, are not eligible for this award. Nominees should have demonstrated 1) innovative and significant research accomplishments in areas relevant to the ODP’s mission; 2) evidence of highly collaborative research projects, especially those bridging disciplines or fields to offer new paradigms of thinking in disease prevention research, and 3) evidence of a strong trajectory of career development and leadership. Priority will be given to nominees conducting research in any of the 10 most common causes of death in the United States, namely:

- Tobacco
- Overweight/obesity
- Poor diet
- Physical inactivity
- Alcohol misuse
- Exposure to microbial agents and/or toxic agents
- Motor vehicle accidents
- Injury and violence
- Risky sexual behavior
- Substance abuse

The other priority areas include:

- Methods and measurement research
- Health disparities
- Disease screening

The letter of nomination should be written by a mentor or colleague familiar with the nominee’s work.
The award winner will be invited, with all travel expenses covered, to give a presentation at the NIH directly preceding The Robert S. Gordon, Jr. Lecture in Epidemiology on Wednesday May 3, 2017. The awardee will also be offered an opportunity for professional networking with NIH program directors and scientists before the lecture, and will be highlighted on the ODP website.

Submissions should include:

1. Nominee’s name, title, affiliation, and date of the terminal degree (nominee must be within 10 years of receipt of the terminal degree)
2. Nominee’s CV (NIH biosketch or similar)
3. Letter of nomination from a mentor or colleague (1000 words or less) addressing the nominee’s innovative contribution to the field of prevention research, cross-cutting and collaborative nature of his/her research, trajectory of career development, and leadership strength. The strongest letters will show evidence of a long-term significance and impact of the nominee’s research.
4. Two letters of endorsement from other mentors or colleagues. Letters of endorsement may be less encompassing than the letter of nomination, but should address similar themes.
5. A PDF of a key, peer-reviewed article published in the past 12-month period, which is first-authored by the nominee. If in press, please provide a Word version of the accepted paper and the letter of acceptance from journal.

Contact Stephanie George, Senior Epidemiologist, if you have any questions. Send submissions to stephanie.george@nih.gov no later than 9 a.m. Eastern time on November 15, 2017.