



FLORIDA
CHAPTER

AMERICAN COLLEGE of CARDIOLOGY®



March 27, 2023

REQUEST FOR CANDIDATES – Stop Heart Disease “Early Career Researcher of the Year Award”

Dear Colleague:

In order to promote and support excellence in cardiovascular research in the State of Florida, the Florida Heart Research Foundation (FHRF) announces the 21st annual **Stop Heart Disease Early Career Researcher of the Year Award**. This prestigious **award**, now \$50,000, is given annually to the Florida researcher who is felt to have the broadest impact on the advancement of knowledge in the diagnosis and/or treatment of cardiovascular disease and is also in the early career stage of the cardiovascular research arena.

Last year, the Florida Heart Research Foundation presented its 20th annual award to Valentina Dargam, PhD student who is seeking a degree in Biomedical Engineering at Florida International University in Miami, Florida. The goal of her research is to develop low-cost, AI-based diagnostic techniques to assess risk of heart disease, particularly in underserved and vulnerable populations. Her current PhD work consists of correlating heart sounds and electrocardiogram signals to different types of structural heart disease in an animal model. She recently published an article identifying that the second heart sound can be used to detect the presence of aortic valve calcification. Her remaining PhD work consists of finding markers in both heart sounds and electrocardiogram signals that correlate to different stages of heart failure.

The Florida Heart Research Foundation will be assigning the next award in close collaboration with the Florida Chapter of the American College of Cardiology. **The actual award presentation will be made at the FCACC’s annual meeting in Orlando, August 4-6 at Disney’s Grand Floridian Resort.** For more information on the meeting or to register online, please visit <https://accfl.org/Annual-Meeting-Agenda>.

In order to qualify for the award, the researcher must:

- ♥ Be active in the arena of clinical and/or basic cardiovascular research and **MUST** be an early career investigator
- ♥ Be recommended for the award by a colleague(s)
- ♥ Be a resident of and conduct research in the State of Florida
- ♥ Be available and willing to accept the award at the annual meeting of the FCACC (expenses for registration for the annual meeting as well as attending the dinner are not included in the award)

Special consideration will be given to those areas of research that:

- ♥ Are felt to be particularly innovative
- ♥ Are unlikely to receive commercial support

All applicants are given serious consideration, even if previously applied and did not receive the award. Preference will be given to researchers in the early portion of their career in order to encourage advancement in the field.

Please submit the researcher’s name and curriculum vitae **no later than May 31st** to:

Tracy McLeod at tracym@floridaheart.org

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us. I can be reached at (305) 674-3020. Thank you for your interest in helping us in our mission: to stop heart disease through research, education, and prevention.

Sincerely,

Nancy R. Cavalie
Executive Director, Florida Heart Research Foundation

David Winchester, MD, MS, FACC
President, Florida Chapter ACC