



February 6, 2020

REQUEST FOR CANDIDATES – Stop Heart Disease 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 18th annual **Stop Heart Disease Researcher of the Year Award**. This prestigious \$25,000 **award** 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.

Last year, the Florida Heart Research Foundation presented its 17th annual award to Monica Aggarwal, MD, Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine in the University of Florida Division of Cardiovascular Medicine. Serving as the Director of Integrative Cardiology and Prevention at the University of Florida, Dr. Aggarwal focuses on promoting food as the foundation of healing and for its medicinal value. In her clinic, she emphasizes plant-based nutrition and often performs multiple mind-body techniques with her patients, including yoga and meditation. Funding from this award will be used to do the next stage of an immersion where she will assess the mechanism of why lifestyle changes improve cardiovascular parameters by assessing the microbiome, stress hormones and inflammatory markers. Dr. Aggarwal has published in major medical journals such as Journal of American College of Cardiology and American Journal of Medicine.

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 21-23, 2020 at Disney's Contemporary Resort.** For more information on the meeting or to register online, please visit www.accfl.org.

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

- ♥ Be active in the arena of clinical and/or basic cardiovascular research
- ♥ Have reported the results of her/his work in the peer review arena of scientific meetings and/or publications
- ♥ 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 15th** to:

Tracy McLeod at tracym@floridaheart.org

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions on this request. I can be reached at (305) 674-3020. Thank you for your interest in stopping heart disease through research, education and prevention.

Sincerely,

Nancy R. Cavalie
Executive Director, Florida Heart Research Foundation

David Perloff, MD, FACC
President, Florida Chapter, ACC