

## **School of Medicine Receives Prestigious Hughes Grant**

Lynne Williams, medical school information  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The University of Nevada School of Medicine is one of only 35 institutions throughout the nation to receive a grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) "to enrich science education in local schools and help attract a broad range of students to biomedical careers."

The School of Medicine's recruitment office applied for the grant and received \$400,000, which will provide four-year funding for its High School Scholars, Summer of Discovery and Teacher Seminars programs -- three programs that met the HHMI criteria of teacher professional development, student activities, and science curriculum development. More than 200 institutions were invited to compete for the awards.

"With their wonderful scientists and research facilities, these institutions have proven to be an invaluable resource to schools," said Purnell W. Choppin, president of HHMI. This brings to nearly \$150 million the grants awarded by HHMI to help improve science education at the elementary and secondary school level.

"We are very proud of the programs developed by our Office of Recruitment," says Dean Robert M. Daugherty. "They encourage under-represented minorities to consider careers in science and medicine, they bring science teachers to our school where they learn ways of improving their science curriculum with the latest information and technology, and they strive to re-ignite a fascination with science in students from grades 7 through 10. We are especially pleased that HHMI recognizes the contributions of these programs."

For further information about these awards and HHMI, visit their web site at :

<http://www.hhmi.org/precollege99/link.html>.

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*A special Web site with additional information on the new grants is available to the public at [www.hhmi.org/precollege99](http://www.hhmi.org/precollege99). Prior to the release date, reporters may view the site at [www.hhmi.org/preview/precollege99](http://www.hhmi.org/preview/precollege99); please do not publish this URL.*

**Howard Hughes Medical Institute Awards \$12.7 Million  
In Grants to Biomedical Research Institutions**

*Nearly \$150 Million Awarded Since 1988 to Improve Precollege Science Education*

CHEVY CHASE, Md., July 15, 1999 – Thirty-five biomedical research institutions in 25 states will receive \$12.7 million in grants from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) to enrich science education in local schools and help attract a broad range of students to biomedical careers. A list of the award recipients is attached.

This brings to nearly \$150 million the grants awarded by HHMI to help improve science education at the elementary and secondary school level.

The four-year awards will fund a variety of innovative programs for students and teachers, such as computer-networked DNA laboratories, partnerships between working scientists and science teachers, and mentoring programs that encourage rural and inner city youngsters to explore the biomedical sciences.

Ranging from \$225,000 to \$500,000, the new grants bring to \$23 million the total awarded by HHMI since 1994 through this precollege science education initiative, which focuses on the unique – and often underutilized – resources of medical schools and other biomedical research institutions. The grants help the institutions to develop partnerships with neighboring schools and share their specialized labs and highly trained researchers with the community.

“With their wonderful scientists and research facilities, these institutions have proven to be an invaluable resource to schools,” said Purnell W. Choppin, HHMI’s president. “They have helped large numbers of students and teachers to learn first-hand about the remarkable advances occurring in the biological sciences. With this second round of awards, we continue to encourage collaboration among researchers, science educators, students and families, and to expand the opportunities for teachers and students to conduct research alongside real scientists.”

(over)

The new awards support programs of three kinds:

- Teacher professional development.
- Student activities.
- Projects such as curriculum development, involving students, teachers and others.

More than 200 institutions were invited to compete for the awards. The successful proposals typically feature close ties with local schools and community partners. Many focus on underserved populations such as inner city youth, under-represented minorities and rural residents; some target the science education curriculum of entire school systems or states.

“These awards highlight the revolution in the use of technology, particularly the Web, to supplement hands-on experiences for teachers and students,” said Joseph G. Perpich, HHMI’s vice president for grants and special programs. “Students and teachers alike are benefiting from projects that will network teachers with scientists and provide access to extensive genetic databases and other curricular resources.”

Since 1988, HHMI has awarded \$149.5 million for precollege science education through several programs, including \$23 million for this and a previous round of grants to biomedical research institutions, and \$19 million for efforts at museums, zoos, botanical gardens and aquaria. HHMI also has awarded \$97 million for precollege outreach programs at colleges and universities, \$6.5 million for science education activities in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, and \$4 million for the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation’s summer institutes for high school biology teachers.

These precollege efforts are part of the Institute’s larger grants program – the biggest private initiative in U.S. history to enhance the quality of science education. Since 1988, HHMI has granted \$709 million, primarily for science education from preschool through postgraduate training. For more information see [www.hhmi.org/grants](http://www.hhmi.org/grants).

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The Howard Hughes Medical Institute is a medical research organization that employs scientists in cell biology, genetics, immunology, neuroscience and structural biology. Hughes investigators conduct medical research in HHMI laboratories at 71 outstanding academic medical centers and universities nationwide. Through its complementary grants program, HHMI supports science education in the United States and a select group of researchers abroad.

**Reporters with questions should contact HHMI’s Jennifer Donovan in HHMI’s communications office, phone: (301) 215-8859; fax: 301/215-8863; email [donovanj@hhmi.org](mailto:donovanj@hhmi.org).**

**Other inquires should be directed to the precollege grants program staff at (301) 215-8873.**

### HHMI Precollege Science Education: 1999 Grants

<u>Institution</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u>Award Amount</u>
Baylor College of Medicine	Houston, TX	\$325,000
Boston University School of Medicine	Boston, MA	\$350,000
Carnegie Institution of Washington	Washington, DC	\$450,000
Cleveland Clinic Foundation	Cleveland, OH	\$425,000
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory	Cold Spring Harbor, NY	\$500,000
Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons	New York, NY	\$350,000
Creighton University School of Medicine	Omaha, NE	\$225,000
Fox Chase Cancer Center	Philadelphia, PA	\$325,000
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center	Seattle, WA	\$475,000
Harvard Medical School	Boston, MA	\$300,000
Massachusetts General Hospital	Boston, MA	\$300,000
Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation	Oklahoma City, OK	\$375,000
Pennsylvania State University Hershey Medical Center	Hershey, PA	\$300,000
Rockefeller University	New York, NY	\$350,000
Rush-Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center	Chicago, IL	\$350,000
University of Alabama at Birmingham	Birmingham, AL	\$325,000
University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine	La Jolla, CA	\$400,000
University of California-Los Angeles	Los Angeles, CA	\$475,000
University of California-San Francisco	San Francisco, CA	\$475,000
University of Chicago	Chicago, IL	\$325,000
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine	Cincinnati, OH	\$300,000
University of Kentucky	Lexington, KY	\$350,000
University of Massachusetts Worcester	Worcester, MA	\$300,000
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-New Jersey Medical School	Newark, NJ	\$350,000
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities	Minneapolis, MN	\$300,000
University of Mississippi School of Medicine	Jackson, MS	\$425,000
University of Nevada School of Medicine	Reno, NV	\$400,000
University of South Dakota School of Medicine	Sioux Falls, SD	\$425,000

University of Utah School of Medicine	Salt Lake City, UT	\$400,000
University of Washington School of Medicine	Seattle, WA	\$500,000
University of Wisconsin Medical School	Madison, WI	\$300,000
Wake Forest University School of Medicine	Winston-Salem, NC	\$300,000
Washington University School of Medicine	St. Louis, MO	\$325,000
West Virginia University, Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center	Morgantown, WV	\$300,000
Yale University School of Medicine	New Haven, CT	\$300,000

**TOTAL**

**\$12,675,000**