

## Minority Resident Hematology Award Program Application Guidance

The following guidance is provided to assist individuals who are considering submitting an application for the Minority Resident Hematology Award Program (MRAP).

### General Principles for the MRHAP Applicant

It is important to understand the various components of the application process so that you can build a strong application. Your application should address your specific interest in hematology in your personal statement, and reflect your understanding of your proposed project in your project description. Reviewers will consider these and the other items listed below when scoring your application.

#### A. Program Overview

The American Society of Hematology (ASH) created the Minority Recruitment Initiative (MRI) in 2003 to increase the number of underrepresented minorities in hematology. The

#### Connecting with a Potential Mentor

The first step in the application process is to identify a research mentor. You can do this on your own as long as the individual you identify is an ASH member

## Developing your Proposal

The proposal is an important component of the application, and requires meeting your mentor in person if they are at your institution or over the phone if they are at an outside institution. Your mentor will help you identify a specific project. It is critical that you have a good understanding of your proposed project, and that the project can be completed within a 12 month time frame. The research proposal should be hypothesis based, and MUST be written in your own words.

## B. Review Process Criteria Reviewers use to Score Applications

### 1. Research/Academic Potential

- a. Does the applicant have a track record of performing well academically as evidenced by their GPA, publications, and/or presentation experience?
- b. Does the applicant have a history of previous research experience, notably with a hematology related focus?

### 2. Leadership/Service

- a. Does the applicant have evidence of leadership or service experience as evidenced by leadership roles in organizations or volunteering?

### 3. Research Mentor/Proposed Project

- a. Is the project clearly described, including the hypothesis to be tested, the experiments to be performed if laboratory based, the expected outcomes, and the methods of data analysis?
- b. Does the applicant have a clear role on the proposed project?
- c. Can the project be completed within a year with a minimum commitment of 320-480 hours (total of 8-12 forty-hour weeks over a year)?
- d. Is IRB approval (approval to conduct research on human subjects) required, and, if so, has this been obtained yet? It is important to indicate the date of IRB approval.
- e. Is there clear evidence applicant will be meeting regularly with the research mentor (i.e., weekly meetings etc.)?
- f. Is the proposal well written and edited for typographical, grammatical, and spelling errors?

### 4. Commitment to Hematology/Career Goals

- a. Does the applicant have an interest in hematology clearly articulated in their personal statement?
- b. Does the applicant indicate an interest in a potential career as a hematologist or in a hematology related field?

### 5. Timeline/Research Schedule

- a. How does the applicant plan to integrate their research project with their clinical rotations over the course of the year?

### 6. Strong Letters of Recommendation

- a. Choose letter writers who know you and who can speak to your strengths as an applicant

C. Making the Most of Your MRHAP Experience

As with any successful research project, planning is essential to optimize the time you will spend working with your mentor during your MRHAP