Diversity Award Guidelines

The MD/PhD Student Conference Planning Committee is dedicated to making the event available for all MD/PhD students throughout the country. We believe having a more diverse population at the conference will benefit every student in training. Diversity Awards reimbursing registration costs are being offered. In years past, 10 awards were granted, but given the virtual conference of this year, we have increased the slots to 65.

Diverse students are broadly defined by the NIH as follows:

- **Individuals from racial and ethnic groups that have been shown by the National Science Foundation to be underrepresented in health-related sciences on a national basis.** The following racial and ethnic groups have been shown to be underrepresented in biomedical research: American Indians or Alaska Natives, Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders.

- **Individuals with disabilities,** who are defined as those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

- **Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds,** including those coming from a social, cultural, or educational environment that has recently, demonstrably and directly inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop a research career. Such environments may include rural or inner-city settings.

**Note:** Applications related to disadvantaged backgrounds are difficult to justify for students at the graduate level. Under extraordinary circumstances, the selection committee, at its discretion, may consider applications related to disadvantaged backgrounds. Such decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis and the student must supply supportive explanations and documentation. Additional information about diversity qualification can be found at: [https://researchtraining.nih.gov/resources/faq#867](https://researchtraining.nih.gov/resources/faq#867)

Recipients will be chosen on a competitive basis by a review committee. The key criterion for selection will be the quality of the research abstract submitted by the award applicant describing their recent scientific work. For incoming and 1st year MD/PhD students, abstracts can cover research completed as undergraduates or technicians, whereas more senior MD/PhD students should submit work based on graduate laboratory rotations or thesis work.

To apply, register and submit an abstract by Sept. 1st and select “Consideration for Diversity Award”. If selected, a 100% refund on registration cost will be granted. Applicants must complete the following:

1. Register and submit a research abstract. Indicate the diversity category for which you are eligible.
2. If desired, submit an explanation on why you qualify for a diversity award up to 2000 characters long.

Please do not hesitate to let us know if you have other further questions by contacting us at [MDPhDConference@ucdenver.edu](mailto:MDPhDConference@ucdenver.edu)