

The 2022 Michelson Prizes: Next Generation Grants

Prizes of US\$150,000 each for Human Immunology and Vaccine Research

Applications Due: June 26, 2022

Prizes Awarded: December 2022

Overview: The Michelson Medical Research Foundation (MMRF), together with the Human Vaccines Project, established the Michelson Prizes: Next Generation Grants in 2017. This \$20 million initiative supports research proposals from young investigators who are using disruptive research concepts and inventive processes to significantly advance the development of vaccines and immunotherapies for major global diseases.

The 2022 Michelson Prizes is accepting applications related to **Human Immunology and Vaccine Research**, including research aimed at tackling the current roadblocks in human vaccine development and expanding our limited understanding of key immune processes that are fundamental to successful vaccine and immunotherapy development (e.g., immune memory, immune receptor recognition, tissue-specific responses, host-microbe interactions, underlying genetic mechanisms, genetic susceptibility, etc.).

The Michelson Prizes are intended to support individuals early in their careers who possess novel ideas and who have significant potential to execute these ideas to affect transformative change in their respective fields. Research should incorporate multiplexed and non-traditional approaches from outside the fields of immunology and vaccinology and demonstrate a high degree of novelty and creative thinking. The successful applicants will clearly articulate a vision that challenges current dogma and demonstrates an ability to look beyond convention to make a lasting impact on vaccine and immunotherapy research.

Eligibility Information: Applicants must be 35 or younger at the time of application submission. Early career independent investigators, postdoctoral fellows, clinical fellows (including residents and interns), and other researchers currently in training positions are eligible for these awards. Eligible applicants must be employed by, or affiliated with, an eligible organization. Examples of eligible organizations include academia, biotechnology companies, foundations, government and non-governmental organizations, and research institutes.

While the Michelson Prizes are focused on research outcomes in the fields of vaccine and immunotherapy discovery, applicants from the full spectrum of related disciplines, including clinical research, biochemistry, molecular biology, protein engineering, computer science, artificial intelligence/machine learning, biophysics, nanotechnology, microbiome, tropical medicine, environmental health, etc., are encouraged to apply.

Selection Process: Applicants must submit a 2-page description of their research proposal that will be judged based primarily on innovation and the ability to bring new insight and approaches to immunology and vaccine-based research. Applications are reviewed by a distinguished committee of internationally-recognized research scientists. Short-listed candidates will be invited to submit supplemental information to support the selection committee in making its final selection.