**Proposal for a Gladstone Postdoc Travel Award**

Travel to scientific meetings is integral to the training and career advancement of postdocs. The Gladstone Postdoctoral Advisory Committee (GPAC) proposes to introduce a postdoc travel award to give postdocs the opportunity to attend scientific conferences without relying solely on their PI’s for funding. We have modeled this proposed award around what is currently offered to UCSF postdocs (maximum of $1500 for domestic travel, $2000 for international travel, available once during each postdoc’s career). Importantly, this is an award that Gladstone postdocs are unfortunately ineligible to receive from UCSF.

Our proposal contains a “trial run” for 2012, and a permanent plan for beyond this, assuming new funds to support this can be raised by development. This proposal has been written by GPAC, and reflects feedback and support from Virginia Saifer and Shaundra Bason in Development, Vice President of Strategy Michael Penn, and the three Institute Directors, Lennart Mucke, Warner Greene, and Deepak Srivastava. Before implementation, we plan to share this proposal with all Gladstone investigators. A draft of the application document is also attached to this document.

**How this award will benefit Gladstone:**

* This award will increase the number of conferences that Gladstone postdocs attend, increasing the visibility of Gladstone science.
* This award will reduce the monetary burden on Gladstone PIs for funding postdoc travel.
* This award would enhance the competitive advantage for Gladstone scientists when recruiting and retaining the best postdocs.
* This award may be attractive to donors who want to support education and training. In addition, the award could be named in recognition of a donor.

**Budget:**

In the “trial phase” for 2012, we propose to offer up to 6 travel awards ($1500 each, max of $9000 for 2012) to the Postdoc recipients of the Gladstone Scientific Excellence award. GPAC has saved at least $24,000 this year from the journal club budget by moving to the bi-weekly schedule, and we propose to reallocate some of this money for the 2012 award. The permanent implementation of this award would require new funds raised by Development. Based on conversations with the Directors we propose to offer ~10 awards per year, requiring ~$15,000-20,000 annually.

**Criteria for Award selection:**

GPAC will review applications and recommend awardees, which the Directors will approve. Award recipients will be chosen based on the following criteria:

* The award selection will be based on service and good citizenship, rather than scientific achievement, as the Scientific Excellence awards already recognize this
* Applicants will need to have presented at RIPS or Journal Club
* For reimbursement, awardees must have presented their work at the meeting and attended the entire meeting

**The J. David Postdoctoral Scholar Travel Awards Application Instruction and Form**

Please fill out the below application and submit via email to jleviathan@gladstone.ucsf.edu. The Gladstone Postdoctoral Advisory Committee (GPAC) will review applications and recommend awardees, and Institute Directors will make final approvals. Award recipients will be chosen based on the following criteria:

* The award selection will be based mainly on service and good citizenship to Gladstone
* Applicants will need to have presented at a Gladstone sponsored seminar (ie: RIPS or Journal Club) at least once prior to applying Applicants must be presenting at the meeting, and attend the entire meeting
* For reimbursement, awardees must have presented their work at a scientific meeting, and attended the entire meeting

**Application Procedure**

Please fill out the application form below and attach a statement (not to exceed 250 words) describing your service to the Gladstone community. Activities such as seminars, clubs, and outreach activities should be highlighted in your statement. Applications should be submitted by September 1 of each year. GPAC will inform awardees by November 1st. The award can be used for any travel-related costs such as airfare, hotel, conference registration, etc. Supporting documentation of these costs, as well as receipt of conference attendance will be required at the time of reimbursement, which will be processed through the Gladstone travel office.

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PI support:

Please have your PI sign this application, indicating their support for your application:

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