

Damon Runyon Physician-Scientist Training Award Statement

Please note: The Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation will not modify the terms of this policy at the request of individual institutions. The policy has been approved by our Board of Directors, and we do not have the resources to negotiate separately with the many institutions that receive our support.

Physician-Scientist Training Award

Please contact the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation at awards@damonrunyon.org as soon as possible to accept or decline the award.

The **grantee Institution**, **Physician-Scientist Training Award recipient** and **Mentor** must sign the attached award acceptance form include the Awardee's ORCID iD (<https://orcid.org/register>) and return it to the Foundation within ten (10) working days following notification.

The Physician-Scientist Training Award recipient must email (kyra.richardson@damonrunyon.org)

- A brief paragraph describing in layman's terms how the project is relevant to cancer and to which specific types of cancer the work relates.
- Recipient's academic position
- List of all current and pending funding sources, including the amount, start and end dates, specific aims of each grant, and the degree of overlap with the Damon Runyon funded research project
- Two different, color, high-resolution digital photographs (at least 3x3 inches at 300 dpi) of the recipient in a clinical or laboratory setting, which may be used for fundraising purposes or to publicize the Foundation's outstanding programs.
- Completed Budget Form
- A personal statement, to include:
 - a biography (where awardee was born and raised, any relevant family history, where they attended college, etc.)
 - personal motivations for pursuing cancer research
 - other awards received, both scientific and non-scientific
 - outside interests (e.g. sports, clubs, hobbies) and community involvement
- A brief description of participation in any community-based educational mentorship initiatives or STEM outreach.
- If the awardee would like to have a media release announcing the award sent to a local and/or hometown newspaper, please include the name, address, phone number and email address of the newspaper

Percent Effort

The Scientist must commit at least 80% of their full-time professional effort to the conduct of research and career development activities during the entire course of the award. Clinical and other responsibilities may not exceed 20% effort.

Usage of Funds

At the beginning of each award year a budget is required. The \$460,000 award will be for a period of four years. Funding will be allocated to the awardee's institution each year for the support of the Physician-Scientist. **Pre-award and/or pre-award year spending is not allowed.** These funds may be used for stipend and/or research costs. With the recognition that very few other funding sources (if any) exist to support these developing physician-scientists, this award is structured to provide recipients with significant salary support and necessary research expenses, with the expectation that their institutions will provide an environment and additional support (such as benefits and institutional overhead) to ensure their success. In addition, the Foundation will retire **up to \$100,000 of any medical school debt** still owed by an award recipient.

No part of this grant can be used for indirect costs or institutional overhead.

The payment schedule will be as follows:

Year 1 - \$100,000

Year 2 - \$110,000

Year 3 - \$120,000

Year 4 - \$130,000

(Total \$460,000)

Relationship of Parties

Awards are made to the institutions to support the Physician-Scientist and the project set forth in their application. It is understood by all parties that this award in no way constitutes an employer-employee relationship between the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation and the recipient.

Independent Position

Physician-Scientists who transition to an assistant professorship appointment (or equivalent) during the award term, must terminate their award. Please notify the Foundation immediately of any change to your academic position.

Other Sources of Funding

Supplementation of stipend is permitted from either the host institution or mentor's grants, but not by any other fellowship or grant.

Physician-Scientists are permitted to obtain additional awards or grants to cover **research expenses only**. They are not permitted to hold any other award or grant that supplements their stipend. Physician-Scientists are required to seek approval from the Foundation before applying for any other award or grant. Budgetary overlap is not allowed. Therefore, it is critical that all current and pending grant support for your research be reported to the Foundation and the relationship of that support to the Damon Runyon funded project be explained.

No other physician-scientist career development award from a private source or federal government (e.g., K08 or K23) may be held concurrently with this award. Please notify the Foundation immediately of any additional funding you receive.

Debt Repayment Program

The Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation will retire up to \$100,000 of any qualifying medical school debt still owed by the awardee. **Note:** Qualified candidates must first apply to the NIH Loan Repayment Program in order to be eligible for loan repayment from Damon Runyon.

Scientific Progress Reporting

Both the Physician-Scientist and mentor must submit signed annual progress reports due on the 15th day of the final month of each year of funding and signed final progress reports no later than 60 days after the completion of the award. In addition to written reports, Physician-Scientists will present oral progress reports during the second year of the award.

All reports are kept strictly confidential. The goal of the reports is three-fold. First, the reports serve as an auditing tool to monitor research progress and assure that the research is on target with the funded project. Second, the reports allow the Foundation to perform regular program evaluations including issues related to mentoring, areas of study, concurrent funding, networking opportunities, career development and award impact. Third, the reports provide an opportunity to identify specific parts of the Physician-Scientists' research (*e.g.*, fundamental advance, clinical trial development, patient-related anecdote, publications) that the Foundation may highlight in various media outlets. In fact, we would appreciate Investigators contacting us at any time to share such information.

Annual Progress Reports Instructions

The Physician-Scientist's annual report includes:

1. A completed questionnaire on the Physician-Scientist's progress, institutional commitment and mentorship.
2. A **summary of research** performed during the award year and evaluation of the results. The summary should be technical, but targeted to a general scientific audience. The summary should be sufficiently detailed such that the Physician-Scientist's research activities over the award year are clearly articulated. Figures and references can be included if appropriate. If the research differs from the originally funded proposal, please provide an explanation. The report must be signed by the Physician-Scientist and by the mentor(s) and should not exceed four pages.
3. A statement addressing where the Physician-Scientist is in advancing their research.
4. A one-paragraph **lay summary**, for the public, detailing the research performed over the award year.
5. A brief description of collaborations and partnerships related to the Damon Runyon-funded research, with either academic and/or industry scientists. Please identify your collaborator(s) and their academic/industrial affiliation(s).
6. A brief description of participation in any community-based educational mentorship initiatives or STEM outreach.
7. An up-to-date **NIH biosketch** including:
 - a. A bibliography of publications from the award year (please submit PDF copies of reprints).
 - b. An updated **list of current and pending funding**.
 - c. A list of conferences and seminars attended and presentations given during the award year.
 - d. Changes in the Physician-Scientist's responsibilities or title (tenure/promotion, leadership positions, consultant work, etc.).
8. Brief **comments on the most important accomplishment** over the past year. Also, please address any issues or concerns regarding career development, obstacles to success or mentoring of the Physician-Scientists to which the Foundation might respond.
9. A **budget** for the next year of funding.
10. A request for Open Access fee reimbursement, if applicable.
11. A completed **intellectual property disclosure** form.
12. Are there any **plans to share data**, either before or after its publication in a peer reviewed journal?
If so:
 - a. What type of data is it (genome/exome sequence, images, structures, statistical software or algorithms, etc.)?

- b. Where will it be shared (such as Figshare, Dataverse, Open Science Framework (OSF), Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) or Electron Microscopy Data Bank (EMDB))?
- c. Who will be in charge of preparing the data to share?
- d. What are the expected costs of preparing and sharing this data?

Mentor's Yearly Report:

A summary, **from the mentor**, assessing the Physician-Scientist's scientific progress and professional development not to exceed 2 pages.

Please email these items (with scanned copies of signed forms, where applicable) as attachments to kyla.richardson@damonrunyon.org.

Final Progress Report Instructions

The Physician-Scientist's final report includes:

1. A completed questionnaire on the Physician-Scientist's progress, institutional commitment and mentorship.
2. A **summary of research** performed during the award and evaluation of the results. The summary should be technical, but targeted to a general scientific audience. The summary should be sufficiently detailed such that the Physician-Scientist's research activities are clearly described. Figures and references can be included if appropriate. If the research differs from the originally funded proposal, please provide an explanation. The report must be signed by the Physician-Scientist and by the mentor(s) and should not exceed four pages.
3. A statement addressing where the Physician-Scientist is in advancing their research.
4. A one-paragraph **lay summary**, for the public, detailing the accomplishments over the term of the award, including how the research has impacted the cancer field.
5. A brief description of collaborations and partnerships related to the Damon Runyon-funded research, with either academic and/or industry scientists. Please identify your collaborator(s) and their academic/industrial affiliation(s).
6. A brief description of participation in any community-based educational mentorship initiatives or STEM outreach.
7. An up-to-date **NIH biosketch** including:
 - a. A bibliography of all publications resulting from the Physician-Scientist's research (please submit PDF copies of reprints).
 - b. An updated **list of current and pending funding**.
 - c. A list of conferences and seminars attended and presentations given during the award year.
 - d. Changes in the Physician-Scientist's responsibilities or title (tenure/promotion, leadership positions, consultant work, etc.).
8. A **statement indicating how the award made a difference in the Physician-Scientist's career and future direction**.
9. Brief **comments on the most important accomplishment** over the award term. Please address any issues or concerns regarding career development, obstacles to success or mentoring of physician-scientists to which the Foundation might respond.
10. A completed **intellectual property disclosure** form.
11. Are there any **plans to share data**, either before or after its publication in a peer reviewed journal?

If so:

 - a. What type of data is it (genome/exome sequence, images, structures, statistical software or algorithms, etc.)?
 - b. Where will it be shared (such as Figshare, Dataverse, Open Science Framework (OSF), Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) or Electron Microscopy Data Bank (EMDB))?
 - c. Who will be in charge of preparing the data to share?
 - d. What are the expected costs of preparing and sharing this data?

Mentor's Final Report:

Summarizes the Physician-Scientist's progress in becoming an independent cancer researcher.

Please email these items (with scanned copies of signed forms, where applicable) as attachments to kyra.richardson@damonrunyon.org.

Financial Reporting

The institution's financial officer must maintain a separate account for the Physician-Scientist and this account must be available for audit by representatives of the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation. None of the funds awarded can be used for indirect costs. **Pre-award and/or pre-award year spending is not allowed.** Reports of expenditures must be submitted to the Foundation within 60 days of the end of each award year. Upon termination or expiration of the award, a final report of expenditures with the refund of any unexpended balance must be submitted within 60 days.

Annual Financial Expenditure Report Preparation Guidelines:

- Please use the Foundation's form for the report (it is available on our website or can be requested from awards@damonrunyon.org).
 - No part of this award may be used for institutional overhead.
 - Any balance carried forward from the previous year should be denoted on the form where indicated.
 - Itemize supplies by category (please attach additional pages, if necessary).
 - Identify each item of equipment with an acquisition cost of more than \$1,500 by name, date of purchase and price. Please Note: Equipment purchased with Damon Runyon funds becomes the property of the Damon Runyon Awardee, not the Institution or Damon Runyon.
 - For travel, please provide the following details:
 - name and location of scientific meeting or conference attended
 - dates of meeting/conference
 - use of funds- restricted to registration fee, lodging, meals, transportation (if by train or plane, must be coach class ticket only).
-

Confidentiality Agreement:

Physician-Scientists may not enter into confidentiality agreements that prevent or delay them from publishing and/or presenting their Damon Runyon-supported research.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POLICY

Please note: The Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation will not modify the terms of this policy at the request of individual institutions. The policy has been approved by our Board of Directors, and we do not have the resources to negotiate separately with the many institutions that receive our support.

All research grants, fellowships and other awards made by the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation ("DRCRF") are subject to this policy. By accepting an award from DRCRF for a research project, the grantee and the institution(s) agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of this policy.

An essential part of DRCRF's mission is to accelerate the translation of scientific breakthroughs into new diagnostic tools and treatments for cancer, and DRCRF recognizes that discoveries having commercial application or value may arise out of research supported by DRCRF. It is DRCRF's intent that these discoveries are widely disseminated and become available for the public benefit at the earliest possible time. This policy sets forth DRCRF's rights with respect to discoveries funded, in whole or in part, by DRCRF that have commercial application or value.

For purposes of this policy, “Intellectual Property” is defined as any invention, data, material, method, product, process, program, discovery, improvement, copyrightable work (excluding scientific publications) or other work product resulting from the performance of any research funded, in whole or in part, by DRCRF.

1. Unless otherwise agreed, title to Intellectual Property will reside with the grantee institution pursuant to the grantee institution’s intellectual property policies.
2. The grantee institution will, at its own expense, use diligent efforts to obtain patent and/or copyright protection, as applicable, for the Intellectual Property and to grant licensees under such Intellectual Property to third parties to commercialize the discoveries disclosed or claimed in the Intellectual Property in a thorough and diligent manner.
3. The grantee institution will inform DRCRF in writing promptly upon the filing of any patent application constituting Intellectual Property and the execution of any license agreement under which rights to practice such Intellectual Property commercially are granted to a third party. In addition, the grantee institution will provide DRCRF, on an annual basis, a written report describing the status of all patent rights constituting Intellectual Property, information regarding any licenses to commercialize the discoveries disclosed or claimed in the Intellectual Property, including consideration received under such licenses, and status of efforts by any licensees to commercialize the discoveries.
4. DRCRF will be entitled to receive a portion of all consideration, in any form, received by the grantee institution that arise out of the licensing or other exploitation of Intellectual Property, after amounts are distributed to individual inventors (but not distributions to institutional departments or laboratories) in accordance with the grantee institution’s written policies. The portion of such consideration to which DRCRF will be entitled will be equal to the quotient obtained by dividing (a) the amount of the award made by DRCRF for the research that resulted in the Intellectual Property by (b) all direct costs provided by funding sources, including DRCRF, for the research that resulted in the Intellectual Property, but in no event will Damon Runyon’s portion exceed 50%. For clarity, costs associated with the recruiting of scientific staff, laboratory start-up costs and other infrastructure costs may not be included in the foregoing calculation.
5. The grantee institution will be entitled to credit the following against any amounts due to DRCRF under this policy:
 - (a) an amount equal to the product obtained by multiplying (a) the amount of the award made by DRCRF for the research that resulted in the Intellectual Property and (b) the grantee institution’s approved NIH indirect cost rate at the time the award was made; and
 - (b) the reasonable, out-of-pocket costs incurred by the grantee institution for the preparation, filing and prosecution of patent rights included in the Intellectual Property that have not been reimbursed by a third party.
6. DRCRF and the grantee institution will negotiate in good faith and execute a royalty-sharing agreement consistent with the terms of this policy promptly following the filing of any patent application constituting Intellectual Property, and before any rights are granted to a third party to commercialize the discoveries disclosed or claimed in the Intellectual Property.
7. All information of a confidential nature disclosed to DRCRF pursuant to this policy will be maintained in confidence by DRCRF and will not be disclosed to any third party without the prior written consent of the grantee institution.

Publicity

Media coverage is to the advantage of both the host institution and the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation. In media releases resulting from projects supported by the Foundation, identify yourself as “Name of Awardee, Damon Runyon Physician-Scientist.” Please notify the Foundation as soon as possible of all media releases. The Foundation is willing and able to assist in any publicity related to the award.

Publications/Presentations/Website

Publications (including abstracts of presentations at scientific or clinical meetings) resulting from projects supported by the Foundation must carry the following acknowledgment: “Name of Awardee is a Damon Runyon Physician-Scientist supported (in part) by the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation (PST-____).” Awardees should identify themselves as Damon Runyon Physician-Scientists when presenting their work at scientific conferences or accepting professional honors or awards, and on their websites.

Public Access Policy

Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation (“Damon Runyon”) funds biomedical research in order to better understand the causes of cancer and to advance its prevention, diagnosis and treatment. The main output of this research is new knowledge. To ensure this knowledge can be accessed, read, applied, and built upon in fulfillment of our goals, Damon Runyon expects its researchers to disseminate their findings, including publishing in peer-reviewed journals.

In addition, it is a condition of Damon Runyon funding that all peer-reviewed articles supported in whole or in part by its grants must be made available in the PubMed Central online archive. PubMed Central is a database of full-text biomedical journal articles available online without a fee, hosted by the National Library of Medicine in the National Institutes of Health. Once posted in PubMed Central, results of research become more accessible, prominent, and integrated, making it easier for scientists worldwide to pursue biomedical research. It also makes this information accessible to Damon Runyon and its donors, as well as patients, clinicians, educators, students and others.

Damon Runyon award recipients are required to deposit an electronic copy of their final peer-reviewed manuscripts in PubMed Central immediately upon acceptance for journal publication and take the steps necessary to link that manuscript to the appropriate Damon Runyon grant. The manuscript is to be made publicly available in PubMed Central no later than 12 months after the official date of journal publication.

It is the responsibility of the awardee to ensure journal articles are deposited into PubMed Central. As a member of the Health Research Alliance (HRA), Damon Runyon has adopted the procedures established by HRA which has partnered with the National Library of Medicine (NLM) to enable HRA member-funded awardees to deposit their publications into PubMed Central with an embargo no longer than 12 months. The first step involves linking award information to the awardee profile in the HRA Open system. Please refer to the [HRA Open User Guide for Awardees](#) and follow the instructions provided.

Damon Runyon award recipients must acknowledge Damon Runyon support in every article arising from such funding. The acknowledgement statement must include the applicable Damon Runyon grant number. This will enable Damon Runyon to link the published outputs of research to the support it has provided.

Damon Runyon also encourages award recipients to publish in peer-reviewed open access journals with a policy of immediate availability of the published version without restriction, and permits use of non-salary/stipend grant funds to pay associated publication fees.

Open Access Fee Reimbursement Policy

Damon Runyon encourages and enables our scientists to publish in open access journals, which facilitates more rapid dissemination and broad use of their publications. To do so, **we have established an annual fund of \$25,000 that is available on a first-come, first-served basis to current awardees to pay fees incurred by publishing in open access journals.**

- The publication must be based on Damon Runyon-funded research.

- Publications resulting from projects supported by the Foundation must carry the following acknowledgment: “Name of Awardee is a Damon Runyon Physician-Scientist supported by the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation (PST-____).”
- Requests must be submitted within 6 months of the publication date and within 18 months of the award end date.
- There is an annual \$5,000 reimbursement cap for each Damon Runyon Awardee. Reimbursements will only be given to the Awardee. Damon Runyon will not reimburse collaborators, sponsors, mentors, or institutions.
- Scientists should submit a written request with 1) a copy of the invoice or receipt for publication fees from the journal, 2) PDF copy of the accepted publication, and 3) active URL link to the publication.

All requests will be reviewed. If approved and there is money remaining in the fund, the Foundation will reimburse you for these fees.

Medical School Loan Repayment Program for Physician-Scientists

The Damon Runyon Physician-Scientist Training Award is designed to encourage more physicians to pursue research careers. As part of this award program, the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation (the “Foundation”) will pay up to \$100,000 of outstanding medical school loans of Damon Runyon Physician-Scientist Training Award recipients pursuant to the below policy.

Note: Qualified candidates must first apply to the NIH Loan Repayment Program in order to be eligible for loan repayment from Damon Runyon.

Qualifying loans: Debt incurred for tuition and direct educational expenses during medical school and any interest thereon. (Loans for general items or living expenses [e.g., housing, transportation, and consumables] do not qualify for this program.) Loans must be from a government entity, academic institution, or commercial or chartered lending institution. Qualifying medical school loans, which have been combined or refinanced with non-qualifying loans, will be partially eligible based on the ratio of eligible and ineligible expenses included.

Eligibility and amount of support: Up to \$100,000 debt will be paid in the aggregate over the four-year award period not to exceed \$25,000 in any one-year period, if the following conditions are met:

- (i) Participants in this program must submit documentation regarding the loans (e.g., receipts and supporting documents for tuition and directly related expenses, loan agreements, and payment information) to the Foundation within one month of acceptance of a Physician-Scientist Training Award to determine whether they qualify for this program. Documentation of loan status and payment information must be provided to the Foundation annually, no later than one month prior to the award renewal date, as a condition of continued participation.
- (ii) Participants enrolled in NIH-sponsored loan repayment programs or any other debt relief programs must disclose the details of such agreements to the Foundation.
- (iii) Participants must agree to refund all amounts paid under this loan repayment program if they terminate the Physician-Scientist Training Award prior to completion of the four-year term.

Payments: For each year of eligibility, the Foundation will pay directly to each lender an amount representing the total payments owed by the participant for all qualifying loans for that year up to an aggregate maximum of \$25,000 (“Annual Debt Payments”). If the participant has qualifying loans with annual payments in excess of \$25,000, the Foundation, in its discretion, will determine which loans it will pay.

Consolidated loans: Participants must submit the loan agreement for consolidated loans as well as loan agreements for each of the underlying loans.

Leave without pay: Loan repayments will not be made during leaves of absence unless written permission is granted by the Foundation.

Obligations not qualifying for repayment: (i) Loans not obtained from a government entity, academic institution, or a commercial or other chartered lending institution such as loans from friends, relatives, or other individuals. (ii) Delinquent loans, loans in default, loans not current in their payment schedule, or loans already repaid. (iii) Late fees, penalty fees, additional interest charges, or collection costs.

Reimbursement for increased income tax liabilities: Loan repayments made to lenders represent taxable income to program participants. This income will be reported annually to the IRS and may result in an increase in participants' Federal, State, and Local tax liabilities. To offset tax liability increases, the Foundation will approximate the added liability using the applicable tax rates each year and pay this amount directly to the participant at the time of each repayment ("Additional Tax Payment"). For purposes of the foregoing, the assumed tax rate shall be determined by the Foundation, in its sole discretion, and may or may not equal the tax rate that actually applies to the participant.

Payback Agreement: If a participant in this program terminates their Physician-Scientist Training Award prior to the end of the award term, the Foundation shall, in its sole discretion, be entitled to require repayment by the participant of all Annual Debt Payments and Additional Tax Payments. The Foundation reserves the right to waive this payback requirement if the participant continues to conduct cancer research after early termination of the Physician-Scientist Training Award. This payback will be paid over the same period of time and in the same amounts as the initial payments by the Foundation.

Termination

Upon early termination of a Physician-Scientist Training Award, the Foundation should be notified immediately. A final report of expenditures must be submitted within 60 days, along with the refund of any unexpended balance. Progress reports are also required within 60 days (follow instructions for "Physician-Scientist's Final Report").

Medical and Family Emergency Leave Policy

The Damon Runyon Foundation will allow up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave for illness or a family emergency consistent with their institution's policy. The Foundation must be notified in advance of the leave. The scientist's Damon Runyon Award will be extended to compensate for the time on leave. For example, if an unpaid leave of absence for 3 months is taken, the award will be extended for 3 months in the award year the leave is taken.

Please contact your Institution's Human Resources Department to find information on Short-Term Disability, State Paid Family and Medical Leave, and/or other resources.

Parental Leave Policy

The Damon Runyon Foundation will allow up to 12 weeks of paid parental leave for birth/adoptive parents consistent with their institution's policy. The Foundation must be notified in advance of the leave.

Dependent Child Allowance

The Foundation also provides a Dependent Child Allowance of \$1,000 per child per year. (There is no allowance for a spouse.) Eligible Physician-Scientists must submit a dependent child allowance form and a copy of the birth or adoption certificate for each child.

Sharing Award Information

The Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation (“Damon Runyon”) is committed to transparency and sharing information about the scientists and research that it funds. This sharing may include providing award information on its website and to third parties that are aligned with the Foundation’s mission (such as the Health Research Alliance (HRA)). The following examples of grant information may be used by Damon Runyon freely: awardee name and degrees, institution, project title, award start date and duration, award amount, lay abstract, Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID).

Updating Information

The Foundation requests the most current information pertaining to change of address or position of the Physician-Scientist, mentor and executive or fiscal officers of the institution in order to maintain an up-to-date database.

Modifications to the Award

Should the Physician-Scientist wish to discontinue the project, leave the designated institution, or modify any agreement of the award letter, they must seek approval from the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation in advance. **Failure to comply with this requirement may result in immediate termination of the award and may jeopardize any future awards to the grantee institution by the Foundation.**

11/2025