Minority Research Training in Psychiatry

Through a five-year, $2.5 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) is seeking through the Program for Minority Research Training in Psychiatry (PMRTP) to increase the number of minority psychiatrists entering the field of psychiatric research.

The program provides medical students and psychiatric residents with funding for stipends, travel expenses, and tuition for an elective or summer experience in a research environment, with special attention paid to trainees' career development in research. In addition, stipends are available for a limited number of one- or two-year post-residency fellowships for minority psychiatrists.

Training takes place at research-oriented departments of psychiatry in major U.S. medical schools and other appropriate sites throughout the country. An individual at the site (the research "mentor") is responsible for overseeing the research training experience.

Administered by the APA's Office of Research, the program includes outreach efforts to identify minority medical students and residents who are potential researchers and to put them in touch with advisors who counsel them about careers in psychiatric research. Additional activities assist fellows and alumni in their research career development.

The director of the PMRTP is Harold Alan Pincus, M.D.; the project manager is Ernesto Guerra. An advisory committee of senior researchers and minority psychiatrists developed guidelines for applicants and criteria for selection. The members of this committee evaluate and select trainees, oversee the research training experiences, and play a role in evaluating the effectiveness of the program.

December 1 is the deadline for applications for residents seeking a year or more of training and for post-residency fellows. For medical students and other residents, applications are due three months before training is to begin. Summer medical students who will start their training by June 30 should submit their applications by April 1.

For more information about the PMRTP, call the toll-free number for the PMRTP, 1-800-852-1390, or 202-682-6225, or write to Dr. Pincus at the American Psychiatric Association, 1400 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005.