

Graduate Student Awards: Q & A with Past Winners

APA Division 38 Health Psychology
(Society for Health Psychology)

Ali A. Weinstein, Ph.D.

George Mason University
Moderator

Helen Murray

Drexel University
Past Winner

Michael Bernstein, Ph.D.

Brown University
Past Winner

SfHP Graduate Student Research Awards

- SfHP sponsors five graduate student awards each year
- Each award is for \$1500
- Four of the awards are given to projects that cover any topic in health psychology
- One of the awards is for research addressing health disparities
 - Difference in the incidence, prevalence, mortality or burden of diseases and other adverse health conditions that exist among specific population groups

SfHP Graduate Student Research Awards

- Proposals must be received by January 15
- Eligibility
 - Full-time students enrolled in any degree-conferring graduate program in psychology
 - Graduate program does not have to specifically be a health psychology program
 - Students must be current members of SfHP (Division 38)
- Proposals are submitted online. Details can be found here:
<https://societyforhealthpsychology.org/councils-committees/student-council/graduate-student-research-awards-program/>

Components of the Research Grant

- **Specific Aims (about 1 page)**
 - **What are the research goals?**
 - **What are the specific hypotheses?**
- **Background (about 2 pages)**
 - **Brief literature review of the area**
 - **What has past research shown?**
 - **What gaps exist in the existing literature that this research addresses?**

Components of the Research Plan

- **Methods (about 3 pages)**
 - **Inclusion and exclusion criteria**
 - **Proposed sample**
 - **Measures/Instrumentation**
 - **Procedures**
 - **Data analytic plan**
 - **Anticipated limitations**

Components of the Research Plan

- **References**

- **All references must be formatted according to APA style**

- **Formatting**

- **12-point font and 1” margins must be used.**

Additional Parts of the Application

- **Cover Letter**

- **Indicate that you are a member of SfHP**
- **How does your research address a topic area within health psychology**

- **Budget**

- **An example budget is available on the website**

Additional Parts of the Application

- **Biographical Sketch**
 - **Follow NIH biosketch guidelines for the pre-doctoral fellowships**
- **Letter of Recommendation from Faculty Sponsor**
 - **Verify that proposed research is the student's project**
 - **Student will function as the principal investigator for the research**

Review Process

- All applications are sent to two independent reviewers
- The HRC tries to match the expertise of the reviewers as close as possible to topic of the grant application
 - Important to remember that there might be reviewers who are not specific experts in your topic area so be sure to write your grant with this perspective in mind

APA Division 38 Student Research Award

Rating Form

Student Name:

Title (please type first few words):

Rater Name:

Does the budget rationale appear appropriate for this proposal? Yes or No
If NO, please provide feedback on your concerns regarding the budget:

For each of the following dimensions, please rate this submission on a scale of 1 (poor) to 10 (outstanding)

1=poor; 3=serious issues; 5=fair; 7=good, acceptable to receive award; 8 and up, very worthy of award

___ Theory or rationale for the study

___ Methodological adequacy (design, sampling, analyses)

___ Comprehensibility and clarity of writing

___ Originality/Innovation»

___ Significance and contribution to the Health Psychology literature

___ Strength of applicant (based on letter of recommendation and applicant's biosketch)

___ **OVERALL RATING (1=poor to 10=outstanding)**

Please note:

- 1. This number does NOT have to be the average of the others.**
- 2. The final decision will be based on this number.**

Specific Comments Regarding Strengths and Weaknesses: (Note that we will include these comments, from "anonymous" reviewers, in letters of notification. Please be constructive as feedback can be especially helpful to students who are not selected for awards).